



News from Masonville Cove Environmental Education Campus

An urban wildlife refuge partnership

A Monthly Newsletter

DECEMBER 2017

Volume 5 Issue 12

December Open Hours

The Conservation Area is open to the public:

Mon-Fri
9am-4pm

Sat
9am-1pm

Closed on
Sundays & for
Holiday-12/22-25 & 12/30



FREE Programming for Families.

Se habla español. To reserve your spot, email events@masonvillecove.org or call 410-246-0669 x100.

Sat, 12/16 9:30-12pm, Holiday Ornament Making followed by a Guided Nature Walk-[Pre Register, please](#)

Wed, 12/27 1-2pm Guided Nature Walk: Animal Tracks

Other [FREE] Opportunities to Connect with Nature

For more information or to pre-register; or call 410-246-0669, x100.

Tues, 12/12 10am-12pm MC Stewards-Trail Maintenance

Wed, 12/20 9:30am-11:30am Citizen Science- Scientific Monitoring-hands on learning about wildlife and water quality

MCEEC Contact Information

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Email:
For inquiries related to educational programs,
info@masonvillecove.org

For inquiries related to volunteering,
friends@masonvillecove.org

Thinking about Landscapes that support Wildlife Year Around

Aesthetics for our properties are changing. For decades a well-manicured lawn bordered by tightly trimmed shrubs and the odd shade tree was the gold standard for landscaping our parks and homes.

Nowadays there is greater awareness that we share the planet with millions of other species. Our yards are opportunities to provide habitat that supports birds and pollinators. Even in their shriveled winter state, fallen leaves and standing stems are places for butterflies and moths to overwinter.

Leaving these leaves and plants provides a spot for beneficial insects to overwinter. Further, the dried seed heads of your coneflowers, black-eyed susans and goldenrods are fabulous food sources

for migrating and overwintering birds. Leaf litter provides shelter for overwintering butterflies such as the Fritillaries and Baltimore checkerspot. In the spring those overwintering butterflies and moths lay eggs that develop into caterpillars. According to Dr. Doug Tallamy, an entomologist at the University of Delaware, over 90%



of North American bird species raise their young on insects, mostly caterpillars.

Fallen leaves also provide free mulch and fertilizer for your plantings. Next spring these partially decomposed leaves will benefit plants by adding plant nutrients and improving soil water retention.

So rake those leaves onto garden beds and around trees and leave seed heads standing or bundled in order to support wildlife and next year's garden. You can tidy up during those warm days in early spring after the creatures become active again.

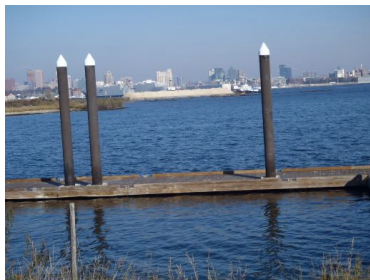
Other Reading:

*Habitat Network The Value of a Messy Garden (<http://content.yardmap.org/learn/wildlife-value-of-a-messy-garden/>)

*National Wildlife Federation.What to do with fallen leaves. <http://blog.nwf.org/2014/11/what-to-do-with-fallen-leaves/>

Save the Date for Volunteer Training -Saturday 9am-12pm, January 20

Make volunteering at Masonville Cove part of your new year's resolve to give back to your community and to wildlife in Baltimore. There will be a 3 hour orientation and volunteer training at the Education Building for adults interested in volunteering. Watch for more information in the January MCEEC Newsletter.



Scenes at Masonville Cove: Barge hauling sandy cargo on the Patapsco River near the Cove; Living Classroom's Skipjack Sigsbee underway and headed to Masonville Cove for a Land-Sea program; Raccoon tracks along the shoreline; Kids exploring oyster shell crate at the pier during Oyster Recovery Partnership program.

November Programming Focused on the Maritime Heritage of the Chesapeake Bay

Living Classroom Foundation's skipjack Sigsbee, a working remnant of the Bay's sailing fleet dating from 1901, was sited several times at Masonville Cove during November. She was part of the LandSea environmental education programs that brought Baltimore City students to Masonville Cove for field trips. Part of the time students were on Sigsbee experiencing the ship and learning about shipboard life. The other part of the day was spent on land learning about the local watershed and about oysters. Bryan Gomes, Education Program Manager for the Oyster Recovery Partnership, lead a fascinating program focused on oysters at Masonville Cove as part of the land-based learning. In addition, Bryan offered a special Saturday program, Oyster Games, for elementary and middle school aged children, including trying their hand at oyster tonging. A couple of the students were doing background research for their project about the 19th century Oyster Wars on the Chesapeake Bay.



Be part of the launch of INSPIRE on Wednesday 12/6 from 4:15-6pm

The replacement of Bay Brook Elementary Middle School brings opportunities to transform this part of the neighborhood in Brooklyn. Your ideas are valuable. Join family and neighbors at Bay-Brook Elementary/Middle School at 4301 10th Street for the first meeting of INSPIRE (Investing in Neighborhoods and Schools to Promote Improvements, Revitalization and Excellence). This event is sponsored by the Baltimore City Department of Planning. Contact Brent Flickinger for more information or to RSVP (410-396-5936 or brenton.flickinger@baltimorecity.gov). Spanish translation provided. A light dinner will be available to participants.

The Holidays are Coming!

You are invited to a holiday ornament making program on Saturday December 16th (for times, see calendar above). It is lots of fun converting natural materials and recyclables into holiday decorations. There is no charge to participate, but you need to register to attend. Please email events@masonvillecove.org or call 410-246-0669 x100 to register.

The partners at Masonville Cove wish each of you and your loved ones a peaceful and joyful holiday season.

About Masonville Cove and the Campus...

Masonville Cove is located on 70 acres of water and 54 acres of cleaned-up land including wetlands, nature trails, and a protected bird sanctuary. The Masonville project developed from mitigation tied to the creation of a Dredged Material Containment Facility (DMCF) by the MDOT Maryland Port Administration (MPA). This created an opportunity for the local residents and schoolchildren (from Brooklyn, Curtis Bay, and Cherry Hill) to connect with their natural environment and participate in meaningful stewardship projects related to Masonville Cove and their communities.

MDOT MPA worked with the community associations from Brooklyn and Curtis Bay, the Living Classrooms Foundation, and the National Aquarium to create the Masonville Cove Environmental Education Campus (MCEEC). Maryland Environmental Service coordinates the mitigation project. The MCEEC has been a model for community involvement and environmental awareness from its inception to its opening as a landmark urban environmental education center. The sustainable growth of this urban wilderness conservation area and its wetlands will remind the community that they are a part of something positive for generations to come.



A Partnership among:

MDOT Maryland Port Administration

Living Classrooms Foundation

National Aquarium

Maryland Environmental Service

US Fish & Wildlife Service