



News from Masonville Cove Environmental Education Campus

An urban wildlife refuge partnership

A Monthly Newsletter **JULY & AUGUST 2017** **Volume 5 Issue 7&8**

AUGUST Open Hours

The Conservation Area is open to the public:

Mon-Fri 9am-4pm

Sat 9am-1pm

Closed on Sundays



FREE Programming for Families.

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

Sat, 8/26 9:30-10:30am

Guided Nature Walk: Summer Wildflowers & Pollinators

Other [FREE] Opportunities to Connect with Nature

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

Tue, 8/8 10am-12pm MC

Stewards- Invasive Plant Control

Wed, 8/16 9am-11:30am Citizen Science- Scientific Monitoring

MCEEC Contact Information

1000 Frankfurst Avenue, Baltimore MD 21226

Phone: 410-246-0669, ext.100

Website: www.masonvillecove.org

Email:

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

For inquiries related to volunteering, friends@masonvillecove.org

Many Thanks to Our Volunteers

Eleven students and 3 chaperones from Packer Collegiate Institute located in Brooklyn NY volunteered at Masonville Cove as part of their Senior service trip. The group tackled invasive plants and overgrowth in the native plant gardens. Many wheelbarrows were filled and now plants in the front gardens have some growing room and gravel pathways look tidier from their efforts. Thank you Packer Collegiate for your good work.



In mid-June a volunteer group of 18 from Pricewaterhouse Coopers did a shoreline clean up. They collected debris that had washed up onto the living shoreline near the piers at the cove. Recyclables and trash tallied 174lbs. We are grateful for their conservation efforts which raise awareness about the kinds of urban debris and challenges of stormwater runoff in local waters.



Thanks to 6 Patuxent Research Refuge Youth Corps workers, our trails have new driftwood borders and the shoreline at the mouth of the outfall creek has less debris.

Later in July, a group of 13 students and 3 adults from the Maryland Department of the Environment came here for a Citizen Science project to compare water quality at the pier to that at the outfall creek. Students measured turbidity, pH, dissolved oxygen, salinity and temperature.

Last, a group of campers and adults from Alternative Directions tackled the weeds in our raised bed gardens. They were a whirlwind of activity. Thanks for helping with our gardens!



Nest Watch volunteers Nancy O. and Linda and Tom C. made observations of bird nests at Masonville Cove through June. This citizen science project originated at Cornell's Lab of Ornithology. Where possible, citizen scientists follow the progression from nest to eggs to fledglings. They have been tracking nests in nest boxes (all tree swallows, which appear to have laid a second clutch this year) as well as in trees and on light fixtures(4 little barn swallows in photo on next page).



Scenes at Masonville Cove: Young birdwatchers during a guided nature walk; Swamp Milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*) in bloom along walking trail; "Turtle Masters" at recent BioBlitz that was organized by the National Aquarium Conservation Team (photo by Pat Venturino); Fledgling barn swallows on light fixture (photo by Linda Corcoran).

BIOBLITZ on Saturday June 24th— Volunteers and experts gathered at the conservation area to explore biodiversity at Masonville Cove. Their observations were uploaded to iNaturalist. Over 300 observations of 166 species of birds, mammals, insects, plants and reptiles were recorded by 35 specialists and 77 participants under the sponsorship of the National Aquarium Conservation



Photo by Pat Venturino

Team. All this is encouraging news for interest in citizen science and for the importance of quality habitat in Baltimore City. For more information contact

conserve@aqua.org.

Summer Intern~ Tommy Newberry

My name is Tommy Newberry and I am an intern here at the Masonville Cove Environmental Education Center (MCEEC) through Living Classrooms' 'Inspired to Serve' internship program. Here at the Cove I take care of our four turtles, two fish, and one coral corn snake, Pinky. My responsibilities for the animals are things like making sure they are fed, having clean tanks, and changing out the media in their filters to keep them running smoothly. For the brackish water critters I also

routinely check to make sure the salinity of their tank water is at the ideal level for them. I also help out with our BEE SMART program that focuses on preventing summer learning loss. Every afternoon they have literacy hour where they focus on certain reading skills such as comprehension and parts of speech. I also lead visiting groups around doing things such as trail maintenance, gardening work, and water quality testing. Some of the groups I have helped lead include MDE Youth Works, Patuxent Youth Conservation Corps, and a camp for children. Through this internship I have learned many important leadership skills, and I have learned them by actually leading groups just as the Living Classrooms Foundation intended with their motto "Learning by Doing."



Editor's Note: Tommy has been a huge asset to MCEEC.

Plan a visit to Masonville Cove— The summer wildflowers are in their riotous display. On public view weekdays from 9am-4pm and on Saturdays from 9am-1pm. If you'd like a guided experience, come to the Nature Walk on August 26th at 9:30am- it's free!

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 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.

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:

Maryland Port Administration

Living Classrooms Foundation

National Aquarium

Maryland Environmental Service

US Fish & Wildlife Service