



News from Masonville Cove Environmental Education Campus



An urban wildlife refuge partnership

A Monthly Newsletter

April 2019

Volume 7 Issue 4

April Open Hours

The Conservation Area is open to the public:

Mon-Fri 9am-4pm

Sat 9am-1pm

Extended Hours Thurs, April 4th, 9am-8pm

Closed on Sundays and for Easter (4/19- 4/21)

FREE Programming & Opportunities to Connect with Nature

events@masonvillecove.org for more information or to pre-register; or call 410-246-0669, x100.

Thurs. 4/4 9:00am-8:00pm, First Thursday (extended hours)

Sat. 4/6 12:00pm-12:45pm, Scientific Monitoring

Fri. 4/12 and Sat. 4/13 10:00am-11:00am, Nature Walks

Sat. 4/13 9:30am, Project Clean Stream

-Register at aqua.org/Visit/Activity-Calendar/conservation-masonville-cove-project-clean-stream

Sat. 4/27 10:00am-11:00am, Nature for Kids Program

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

March Highlights

On a monthly basis, Masonville Cove will now be open for extended hours (9am-8pm) on the [First Thursday](#) of the month. We celebrated this new tradition with a family movie night in the Great Room on March 7th. Residents from the local community joined staff from LCF, MES, and the National Aquarium to watch *The Lorax* and indulge in pizza and popcorn. Thanks to everyone for a fun night!



Mid march, our education team spent three days working with students (K-1st) at Bodkin Elementary School. The focus was to introduce students to the [Chesapeake Bay Water Cycle](#). The little ones started the day with an interactive tale called "The Story of Glug" which describes a raindrop's journey as it evaporates from a river and attempts to find its way back home. Ultimately, Glug meets up with other raindrops in the clouds and the clouds get so heavy that all the raindrops fall back down to earth. The raindrops use the landscape to their advantage and roll swiftly down the hills to get back to their home in the river. After the story, students conducted

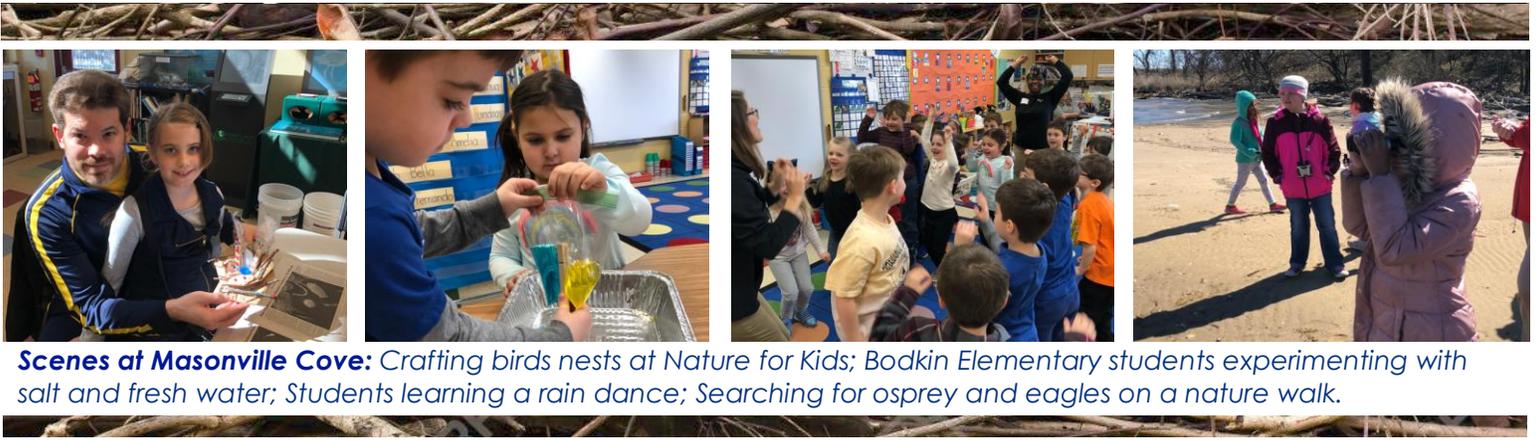
an experiment to learn how salt water and fresh water combine to make brackish water.

If you keep up with the local news, you may have heard about two special guests that are visiting Masonville Cove... a pair of [bald eagles](#) nesting on the property! This is very exciting. It's the first time eagles have nested on the campus since environmental restoration efforts began in 2007. To ensure the eagles (and eventually their fledglings) remain undisturbed, a temporary access restriction has been placed on the grounds to the left of the stream. Even with limited access, we encourage avid birders and nature enthusiasts to come get a look before the eagles depart at the end of the breeding season. Luckily, the nest is easily visible using a scope or binoculars from the education center.



Photo by: Tim Carney / MES

In celebration of nesting season, our March [Nature for Kids Program](#) highlighted the many species of birds that call Masonville home, including the eagles. Kids learned how different birds build their nests, then went on a nature walk where they collected twigs, grass, and other items to build their very own "birds nest." Some kids spruced up their nests with colorful feathers, beads, and clothespin birds.



Scenes at Masonville Cove: Crafting birds nests at Nature for Kids; Bodkin Elementary students experimenting with salt and fresh water; Students learning a rain dance; Searching for osprey and eagles on a nature walk.

Earth Day Tips: Reduce Your Plastic Use

Single use plastics have been a hot topic in environmental conversations in recent years. About **18 billion pounds** of plastic flow into the ocean every year. As a result, cities locally and globally have placed **bans** on single use plastics. Here are some ways we can celebrate **Earth Day (April 22)**, take daily action to reduce single use plastic consumption, and ease the burden of plastic on our waste management system and oceans:

Glass or plastic water bottles: Disposable plastic water bottles are convenient, but each day, people in the U.S. throw away over **60 million plastic water bottles**, the majority ending up in landfills, waterways, or as street litter. Instead, invest in a **reusable water bottle** that you can refill endlessly without waste.

Glass or plastic Tupperware: Many restaurants use plastic or styrofoam containers as to-go boxes. These boxes cannot be recycled. Instead when eating out and packing lunches, consider bringing a **reusable container**.

Reusable spoons and forks: Similar to tupperware, instead of using plastic spoons and forks for packed lunches or takeout, consider using your silverware from home or other **eco-friendly options**.

Reusable grocery bags, shopping and produce bags:

On average, American families use **1,500 plastic shopping bags a year**, only **1 percent** of which are recycled. A great way to reduce plastic bag use is to bring a reusable bag when going grocery shopping. Almost all major grocery stores sell reusable bags for as little as \$1 and you can also buy non-store related options. When shopping for clothing or other non-food items, bring a **reusable tote bag** with you!

Bring a coffee mug to work: It takes discipline, but once you get into a routine, it is easy to bring a reusable mug to your favorite coffee shop or place of work. Though many disposable coffee cups are made out of paper, they cannot be recycled because they are lined with plastic and contaminated with coffee. To put things into perspective, if a person purchases a disposable cup every day, it creates about **23 lbs of waste per year**, and each paper cup manufactured is responsible for **0.24 pounds of CO2 emissions**. In addition, styrofoam coffee cups cannot be recycled at all and will almost never biodegrade, while many iced coffee cups come with the addition of plastic straws. Using a reusable tumbler and/or coffee mug can reduce a great amount of waste, especially for those who drink coffee/tea daily. **This month we challenge everyone to think more consciously about plastic use, and use some of these tips to eliminate single use plastics!**

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 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

