



News from Masonville Cove Environmental Education Campus

An urban wildlife refuge partnership

A Monthly Newsletter

May 2019

Volume 7 Issue 5

May Open Hours

The Conservation Area is open to the public:

Mon-Fri 9am-4pm

Sat 9am-1pm

Extended Hours Thurs, May 2nd, 9am-8pm

Closed on Sundays and for Memorial Day (5/25-5/27)

FREE Programming & Opportunities to Connect with Nature
events@masonvillecove.org for more information or to pre-register; or call 410-246-0669, x100.

Thurs. 5/2 9:00am-8:00pm, First Thursday (extended hours) (6:30pm-7:30pm, Yoga at the Cove)

Sat. 5/4 10:00am-11:00am, Scientific Monitoring

Fri. 5/10 and Sat. 5/11 10:00am-11:00am, Nature Walks

Sat. 5/18 10:00am-11:00am, Nature for Kids Program (Craft: Flower Sun Catchers, Story Time, and Nature Walk)

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

April Highlights



Photo Credit: National Aquarium

April was a jam packed month, full of events like Project Clean Stream, scout programs, and field trips. [Project Clean Stream](#), hosted by the National Aquarium at Masonville Cove, is a yearly event where volunteers

help clean-up the cove. This year's event garnered support from 55 volunteers who made an overwhelmingly positive impact. Staff, with the help of volunteers, collected 444 pounds of trash and marine debris.

Our first [scout group](#) of the year assisted with scientific monitoring. Their first time testing water samples, the scouts learned how to carefully and meticulously create solutions, use pipettes, and interpret results by comparing samples to ID cards. Our other visiting scout groups worked on an interactive watershed model, fish printing, and learned about Captain Trash Wheel.



The [watershed model](#) is an amazing way to teach kids about our impact on aquatic ecosystems. The model portrays a small landscape within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed and demonstrates how anything

that falls on the land can eventually end up in the water. Our visiting scouts placed figurines on the model, ranging from houses and factories, to cars, farm animals, and construction equipment. As they added figures to the board, we talked about forms of pollution that might result from those sources, for example motor oil from cars or manure from farms. Drops of food dye were added to the board to represent said pollution. For the final act, the scouts created a rainstorm using spray bottles filled with water. We watched as the water trickled down the board, carrying away the food dye into a small water basin. The animals and plants that once lived in healthy, clean waters were now polluted by murky water.



Masonville also hosted a variety of [field trips and outreaches](#) in April. Students took tours of our green building and learned about its sustainable features. Afterwards, they played a game of "Family Feud" to test their new

found knowledge. Downstairs in the labs, students calculated their carbon footprints and did a range of activities surrounding water usage, energy consumption, and pollutants. Each student discovered how much water they use in the shower and how much it weighs, played "Wack-a-Mole" with pollutants, and competed in a race to cover leaking air from a poorly insulated house.



Scenes at Masonville Cove: Watershed model; Scouts fish printing on reusable bags; Marley Middle students finding out how much water they use and how much it weighs; Learning about Captain Trash Wheel; Storm drain stenciling.

Mother's Day: Animals in Nature

In celebration of Mother's Day, we want to honor some of the wonderful mothers in nature and the extraordinary ways they raise and protect their young.

[Didelphis virginiana- Virginia Opossum](#)

The opossum is North America's only native marsupial species. Like the world's most famous marsupial, the Australian kangaroo, opossums raise their young in a pouch for the first 2- 2½ months of their lives. Once the babies emerge from her pouch, an opossum mother will carry her young on her back for another 1- 2 months, until they are old enough to fend for themselves.



[Sternula antillarum- Least Tern](#)

These birds, listed as threatened in the state of Maryland, make for particularly aggressive mothers. Least terns nest in large colonies on the beach, creating small scrapes in the sand to lay their eggs. Because of the open and vulnerable nature of their nests, Least Terns will go extra lengths to protect their young, dive

bombing, pecking, and pooping on intruders. On the other hand, Least Terns are very nurturing to their chicks. With little protection from the sun, chicks and eggs often get hot on the beach. Mother Least Terns will shade their eggs, sometimes even dunking their feathers in water to help keep the eggs cool.



[Myotis lucifugus- Little Brown Bat](#)

Little Brown Bats are famous for roosting in large groups. Female bats tend to have one baby or "pup" a season and will carry their young while they forage and hunt for food. Around the 2 week mark, mothers will leave their pups behind in a "maternity colony" while they hunt. Maternity colonies can contain 100s of babies, but mother bats can easily single out which baby is theirs. Without night vision, they rely on echolocation and scent to find their young.



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

