



News from Masonville Cove Environmental Education Campus

An urban wilderness conservation area.

A Monthly Newsletter

December 2013

Volume 1 Issue 12

December Open Hours

The Conservation Area is open

Mon-Fri 11am-4pm

Sat 9am-1pm

Closed Sunday

Holiday Closures:
December 24 & 25,
January 1.



Free Saturday Programming for Preschoolers & Families

To reserve your spot, go to www.masonvillecove.org.

12/07 10-11am Science Alive Kids <5-Nocturnal Animals!;

11:30am-12:30pm Family Fun-Animal Tracks!

12/14 10-11am Science Alive Kids <5-Nature's Let It Snow!;

11:30am-1:30pm Family Fun-*Special Program* Playing in a Cleaner Neighborhood!

12/28 10-11am New Family Program-Winter Waterfowl

Other Free Programming

12/4 6-8pm Holiday Ornament making with mostly natural and reusable materials.

12/10 4-6pm Holiday Ornament making with mostly natural and reusable materials

12/21 11:30am-12:30pm Guided Nature Walk with Maryland Master Naturalists.

12/27 1-2pm Guided Nature Walk with MD Master Naturalists.



MCEEC Contact Information

1000 Frankfurst Avenue,
Baltimore MD 21226

Phone: 410-246-0669, ext.105

Website:

www.masonvillecove.org

Email:

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

For inquiries related to volunteering,
friends@masonvillecove.org

Environmental Education at Masonville Cove ~a reflection by Jake Comer, Living Classrooms Foundation intern

Within the last few days, when the weather went from chilly to downright cold, the beginning of the holiday season and the end of the fall semester took another step in reality's direction. By now, the third, fourth, and fifth graders who learn from Masonville Cove educators have seen us in their classrooms or here on our campus two or three times since September. They remember words like *Patapsco* and *brackish*. They have seen litter in the streets, and it worries them. When we walk with them from the education center to the water, past the stream and

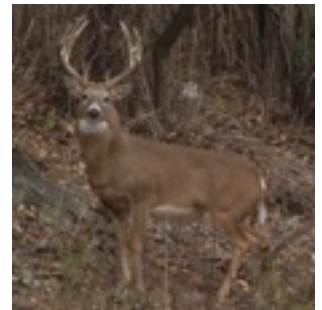
watchful Canada geese and along the shoreline, they bounce, shout, and point. They have begun to understand that the outside world is theirs as much as it is anybody's.

November has been packed with school outreaches and field trips. We have hosted eight Land/Sea programs, during which a class spends half the day on a Living Classrooms boat and the other half on the Masonville Cove campus, two 'Who Killed Rocky Rockfish?' investigative learning field trips and visited tens of classrooms. Our students have obviously learned, and, just as obviously, they have a feel for being outside, being a part of the natural, physical world, where everything — including them — is living, growing, and changing. The

cold weather's arrival and fall's surrender to winter are reminders of those constant developments and changes, which, inevitably, will bring us a new year; a healthier, more familiar Masonville Cove; and a new variety of questions and adventures for us, our neighbors, and our students.



Students exploring nature at Masonville Cove



Other News from Masonville Cove

Maryland Environmental Service Initiatives

BAY-WISE CERTIFICATION-The habitat at Masonville Cove continues to improve thanks to the planning and hard work by Maryland Environmental Service[MES] staff. On November 6, MES' Doug Griffith arranged to have Maryland Master Gardeners Betty Biliske and Steve Nordfjord come to Masonville Cove to look around and consider a Bay-Wise Certification for the conservation area. The area met the Bay-Wise criteria with Betty Biliske noting "we felt like we were preaching to the choir."

MARYLAND in MINIATURE-Grading, clearing and planting has started in a one-acre plot behind the Environmental Education Center with the objective of creating a 'Maryland in Miniature'. This joint effort by staff of Living Classrooms Foundation and MES enhances habitat for wildlife and portrays plants native to the Mountain, Piedmont and Coastal Plain bioregions represented in the state of Maryland. As wildlife discovers and uses this habitat, it will be incorporated into the

Masonville Cove experience as a teaching tool for school children and visitors. Interpretive signage is planned.

GIVING THANKS for Volunteers at Masonville Cove who make vital contributions to the mission and vision: Close to twenty people have signed on as volunteers. They have helped with weekday environmental education programs and Saturday programs for families, conducted scientific monitoring at the site, greeted and oriented visitors, spruced up the native plant gardens, and assisted with care of the critters in the Great Room in the Education Building.

A special shout out to Jake Comer[super intern], Debra Gage[MD Master Naturalist] and, Sue Minor [our newest volunteer] for their generosity and commitment in November.

We'd welcome you as a volunteer. For more information about volunteer opportunities please stop by, call 246-0669 x105 or email friends@masonvillecove.org.

First Dumpster Day in Curtis Bay and Brooklyn: On a sunny November Saturday morning residents used dumpsters to dispose of large trash items and to pitch in for cleaner neighborhoods and waterways. Edwight Court in Farring Baybrook Park and the Boys and Girls Club at Patapsco Ave and 3rd Street were sites for the dumpsters.

Staff from the National Aquarium and Living Classrooms Foundation talked with neighbors and discovered that afternoons work better for residents. Future Dumpster Days for January, March and July will run from 12pm-3pm at the same locations.

New Community Programs at Masonville Cove

We love to share all great things about Masonville Cove. More kinds of programs on weekdays, evenings and on most Saturdays have been added in December. Check out the calendar on the front page or go to the website www.masonvillecove.org for a listing of events. Pre-register, make your plan to visit Masonville Cove- 410-246-0669 x105 or info@masonvillecove.org.

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 Brooklyn and Curtis Bay Coalition (BayBrook), 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**
- BayBrook Coalition**
- US Fish & Wildlife Service**