



# News from Masonville Cove Environmental Education Campus

*An urban wildlife refuge partnership*

A Monthly Newsletter

JUNE 2016

Volume 4 Issue 6

## June Open Hours

The Conservation Area is open to the public:

Mon-Fri 9am-4pm

Sat  
9am-1pm

Closed  
Sundays,



## Free Summer Programming for Families

To reserve your spot, email [events@masonvillecove.org](mailto:events@masonvillecove.org) or call 410-246-0669 x100

**Thur, 6/9, 2-3pm**  
*Guided Nature Walk*

**Sat, 6/18, 10am-2pm**  
BioBlitz and Open House, fun, nature-based activities and tours

## Other [FREE] Opportunities to Connect with Nature

[events@masonvillecove.org](mailto:events@masonvillecove.org) for more information or pre-register or call 410-246-0669, x100.

**Tues, 6/14, 10am-12pm** 2nd Tuesdays with Masonville Stewards- Shoreline Clean Up

**Tues, 6/21, 10am-12pm** Community Program Milkweed Planting and Monarch Butterflies

**Wed, 6/22, 9am-12pm** Citizen Science, Scientific Monitoring

**Sat, 6/25, 10am-1pm** Community Project about Pollinators and Plants

## MCEEC Contact Information

1000 Frankfurst Avenue,  
Baltimore MD 21226

Phone: 410-246-0669, ext.100  
Website: [www.masonvillecove.org](http://www.masonvillecove.org)

Email:  
For inquiries related to educational programs, [info@masonvillecove.org](mailto:info@masonvillecove.org)

For inquiries related to volunteering, [friends@masonvillecove.org](mailto:friends@masonvillecove.org)

## Environmental Literacy In Action

Once again, 60 students from two local schools will participate in Living Classrooms Foundation's BEE SMART Summer Program. Educators at Masonville Cove will engage students in a structured 5-week program geared toward preventing summer learning loss that is so frequently reported by teachers, administrators, and families. BEE SMART staff will continue to build on the success from last summer and bridge the gap by applying hands-on, project-based learning techniques utilized in their school-year science programs, while incorporating a literacy component into each lesson. This model has been proven successful, as 69% of last year's BEE SMART students not only maintained their reading level, but



increased their levels. Participants will use microscopes, explore our waterways onboard the Chesapeake Bay buy boat *Mildred Belle*, learn about native plants and animals, become engineers, and will prepare presentations of learning for fellow students. Want to know more?

Contact BEE SMART Program Director: Christine Redline, extension 105.

*Living Classrooms Foundation and the BEE SMART Summer Program does not discriminate on the basis of age, ancestry, color, creed, gender identity and expression, genetic information, marital status, disability, national origin, race, religion, sex, or sexual orientation in matters affecting employment or in providing access to programs.*



## Masonville Cove hosts its 10th Environmental Education Festival

The Environmental Education Festival at Masonville Cove marks the arrival of spring. From 23-25 May, more than 300 elementary students and their teachers from local schools gathered for hands-on experiences related to urban runoff and the Chesapeake watershed. They planted wetland plants, designed and built buoys, upcycled old t-shirts into tote bags, encountered animals that live in Chesapeake waters and lands, and planted milkweed seeds to take home.

We are very grateful to all the presenters who came from non-profits or from local, state and federal agencies. They inspired curiosity and conservation actions among the students.



**Scenes at Masonville Cove:** St Paul's School volunteers shore up trails; Hatchling tree swallows in a nestbox; Fish & Wildlife Service demonstrates the protective role of wetlands; Planting milkweed to benefit monarch butterflies.

**Volunteer News at Masonville Cove**

**Under Armour cleans up shorelines at Masonville**

**Cove:** Thank you to Under Armour for their awesome volunteering on May 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>. The first day a group of 75 switched up between sales meetings and a clean up along the living shoreline at Masonville Cove. Nearly 400 pounds of trash was removed from the shoreline.



The following day, Armour Day, 38 employees from Under Armour at Port Covington reached out to Masonville Cove. They worked hard and efficiently collecting an enormous amount of debris (784 pounds!) that had washed onto the shores of MCEEC during the winter.

**St. Paul's School, Brooklandville, students restore nature trails at Masonville Cove:** Thank you to 13 students and staff for their volunteer work on May 11th. The group learned about the restoration project at Masonville. Then they headed outdoors

and removed debris from the trails and along the shoreline (35 lbs in 4 bags), hauled driftwood from the shoreline to restore a nature trail, and moved benches to greenhouse area and other outdoor teaching spaces. The group was a big help in getting the conservation area ready for the Environmental Education Festival!

**You are invited to join in the fun! BioBlitz –Open House event on Saturday June 18<sup>th</sup>**

—MCEEC will be the site of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Bio Blitz organized by the National Aquarium Conservation Team. Specialists and volunteers will help you explore biodiversity in our local environment. Learn about actions each of us can take to protect wildlife through hands-on activities. Record all of your wildlife observations through iNaturalist, a website and smartphone app that is used to track observations of plant and animal species.

We are hoping for fair weather and a crowd of curious participants. For more information and to register for the free event, please go to <http://www.aqua.org/care/conservation-events>.

**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**