



News from Masonville Cove Environmental Education Campus

An urban wildlife refuge partnership

A Monthly Newsletter

July 2018

Volume 6 Issue 7

JULY Open Hours

The Conservation Area is open to the public:

Mon-Fri 9am-4pm

Sat 9am-1pm

Closed on Sundays

Closed for Independence Day observances, 7/4 & 7/7



FREE Programming & Opportunities to Connect with Nature

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

Tue 7/10 10:30-11:30am, Guided Nature Walk
~ Pollinator Watch, especially bees.

Wed 7/25 9:30am-11:30am, Citizen Science~ Scientific Monitoring-hands on learning about wildlife and water quality

Sat 7/28 9:30-11:30am, Masonville Cove Stewards~
Mapping Millweed and Counting Monarchs-**Pre-Register.**

MCEEC Contact Information

1000 Frankfur 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

Highlights from June

June brought a richness of environmental stewardship. In fact there were so many events that we added more pictures to the Newsletter.

The month began with a group of Middle School students and a teacher from Gilman School (pictured to the right). They did a fabulous job at removing invasive plants from the switchback garden, moving rocks that were a tripping hazard on the lawn and taking out some vines that were creeping onto the decking. A large red-eared slider turtle made an appearance as they worked. Thank you, Gilman School for a solid contribution.



In mid-June, several volunteer groups helped clean up the living shoreline area near the piers. First up was a group of 11 volunteers from PricewaterhouseCoopers (photo on next page) that worked diligently on a sunny morning. Morgan Stanley (photo at right) brought 17 volunteers who collected debris on the shoreline and

then worked to tidy up the native plant gardens along the parking lot. On the day of the summer solstice, the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay teamed up for Old Bay Day and a clean up of the shoreline (photo to left). We are thankful to each of these organizations for their good work to improve habitat at Masonville Cove. Discussions during the



clean up events bring to light the kinds of solid debris affecting our waterways and some positive steps Baltimoreans can take to address the challenges of stormwater runoff.

The Environmental Education Festival brought students and teachers from area schools for several days of fun and learning.



The fifth annual BioBlitz, organized by the National Aquarium's Conservation Team happened on a beautiful Saturday in June. Watch for more details and photos in next



Scenes at Masonville Cove: PricewaterhouseCoopers volunteers after shoreline cleanup; BioBlitz Staff releasing turtles at the pier; Young advocate for nature at Latino Conservation Day; Native plant, *Asclepius tuberosa* (butterfly milkweed) in bloom.

Reaching out to the Brooklyn and Curtis Bay Communities.

Curtis Bay Recreation Center kids finished up a series about pollinators led by the National Aquarium's Andrea van Wyk. At the final event a MCEEC staff and a Chesapeake Conservation Corps intern assisted Andrea and her team in an outdoor game about the migration challenges for Monarch butterflies and to plant several raised beds with native plants that will provide pollen and nectar for butterflies and bees.



Over 80 people including families that worship together in Brooklyn's Templo de Alabanza Y Restauración (TAYR) and staff and volunteers from MC partners gathered at Masonville Cove for a meal and outdoor recreational activities in late June. The event, part of Latino Conservation Week, aimed to better connect Latinos with local natural areas. Planned and hosted by Masonville Cove partners, representatives from Hispanic Access Foundation and DC-based Audubon Naturalist Society participated in activities.

Individual Volunteers

Thanks to our volunteers during June: Priscila A. who assisted at a teaching station during the Environmental Education Festival; Kevin G. who served as bird expert at the BioBlitz; Nancy O. continued with NestWatch observations; and Steve T. who assisted with shoreline clean ups, critter care and making seed packets.

Be part of new Citizen Science Project at MCEEC:

Restoring and improving habitat for pollinators has been one crucial piece of the Masonville Cove story thanks to guidance by the US Fish & Wildlife Service and generous funding from US Fish & Wildlife Foundation in the past 3 years.

This year we plan to launch a Milkweed and Monarch Monitoring project. The citizen science project comes out of the University of Minnesota Monarch Lab. The Monarch Larva Monitoring Projects involves citizens in collecting data on eggs and larva on milkweed plants. Our plan is to train volunteers on Saturday July 28 and then choose one day a week to continue the monitoring through October. You don't have to commit to every week. We will use a sign up system. If interested, please pre-register at events@masonvillecove.org or call 410-246-0669 x100.

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