



News from Masonville Cove Environmental Education Campus

An urban wilderness conservation area.

A Monthly Newsletter

August 2013

Volume 1 Issue 8

August Open Hours

The Conservation Area is open on
Wed-Fri 11am-4pm
Sat 9am-1pm

Closed Sun-Tues.



Saturday Programming for Pre-Schoolers & Families (reservations necessary)

8/3 10-11am Science Alive Kids <5- Spiders!;
11:30am-12:30pm Family Fun-Stepping Stone Workshop

8/10 10-11am Science Alive Kids <5- Pollinators!

8/17 10-11am Science Alive Kids <5- Fish!;
11:30am-12:30pm Family Fun-Bird Bonanza

8/31 10-11am Science Alive Kids <5-Crabs!;
11:30am-12:30pm Family Fun-Our Precious Earth

Other Programming

8/24 9am-1pm
Garden Days & Social



MCEEC Contact Information

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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

Breakfast with the Birds

A group of about 10 people gathered on a cool, cloudy Saturday morning to discover what sorts of birds lived around Masonville Cove. Guided by experienced birders, Brent Byers, Bob and Mary Rineer and Kevin Graff, we observed over 40 bird species during a walk with binoculars and siting scopes in hand. We hope to organize another event in the fall to coincide with the fall migration. The group enjoyed some social time and a breakfast of pancakes, bacon, fruit and coffee after the walk.



Impressed by the diversity of birds at the Masonville Cove Campus, in early stages of development, the birders suggested installing bird feeders to attract birds around the back deck of the education building. There is vegetation cover and water nearby, too.

We hope for DONATIONS of sturdy BIRD FEEDERS, black oil sunflower seed and niger thistle seed for our back deck. Contact us at 410-246-0669 or friends@masonvillecove.org, if you'd like to make a donation.

In his own words, Fish & Wildlife Service Intern John Thies

My name is John Thies, and I am an Urban Refuge intern for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. I work at three different sites, Masonville Cove Environmental Education Campus, Patuxent Research Refuge, and the Chesapeake Bay Field Office.

As part of working with Chesapeake

Bay Field Office staff, I was able to go to Poplar Island. While on the island, I helped a scientist collect osprey blood samples. I was able to hold an osprey and return it to its nest. It's really cool because not a lot of people get to hold an osprey. I would have never been able to do this other than working an internship like this. I really like this internship because of the fun new experiences.

I was also able to go fly fishing, canoeing and go to other Dredged Material Containment Facilities. These are some activities that I wouldn't usually get to do. It's been a great experience and I think it can only get better.



MCEEC staff, UMBC, Towson & BFHS students work together to improve the visual landscape by Steve Bradley, UMBC, Visual Art

In late February 2013, I met with a few MCEEC staff to discuss a mural project for the base of a storm drain near the MCEEC building. We enlisted a group of UMBC, Towson and BFHS art students to design the project and execute the mural during the annual Environmental Festival held in May. Every Friday morning for two months, we worked on the design and painting techniques and we made a site visit. Students worked on various designs for the mural that would remind the visitors of the fragile ecology of the place and to improve the visual landscape. We began with general guidelines and ideas from the MCEEC then presented the ideas to the BFHS, UMBC and Towson students. They enthusiastically began to work and soon had a series of drawings and small paintings that we

presented to MCEEC. They gave us feedback for modifications. On May 20, we began painting the mural in stages. Our team worked for two solid days but had to postpone the final stage due to stormy weather. By June 15, with the assistance of two dedicated UMBC students and myself, we completed the mural. The project gave the BFHS students confidence to show that they can improve their neighborhoods. The UMBC and Towson students learned that the creative process can be a catalyst for civic agency.



Community Events

In late July Masonville Cove Campus hosted a Gardening Day and Ice Cream Social. More than ten people came together as a community, rolled up their sleeves and headed out to the gardens to pull weeds and admire the beautiful blossoms in the raised bed and native plant and butterfly gardens. The weather was

excellent for July in Baltimore. The group managed to fill 3 wheelbarrows with weeds and brush. Afterward we came into geothermally cooled Great Room at the Education Center for some conversation, lemonade and ice cream sundaes! Working together we learned more about each other, had fun; and the gardens look great.

Good News! If you missed the last Garden Days and Social, you have another chance to enjoy this community event:

2nd Garden Days and Ice Cream Social, Saturday August 24, 9am-1pm at the Masonville Cove Campus

No reservations required but it would really help us, if you could let us know whether you plan to attend. Phone 410-246-0669 or email friends@masonvillecove.org

Other News

Several projects are underway at Masonville Cove.

A new kiosk will be constructed near the pier. The kiosk will serve to keep visitors informed about programs and site use. This was part of the initiative by Intern John Thies working along with MES and MCEEC staff.

A promising schedule for fall planting at Masonville Cove is in the works by Maryland Environmental Service. More about that next month.



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 in Baltimore 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**