



News from Masonville Cove Environmental Education Campus

An urban wildlife refuge partnership

A Monthly Newsletter JUNE 2017 Volume 5 Issue 6

JUNE Open Hours

The Conservation Area is open to the public:

Mon-Fri 9am-4pm

Sat 9am-1pm

Closed on Sundays



FREE Programming for Families.

To reserve your spot, email events@masonvillecove.org or call 410-246-0669 x100

Sat, 6/17 9-10am, Nature Walk: Focus on Birds

Sat, 6/24 10-2, BioBlitz, fun, nature-based activities. Pre-register at conserve@aqua.org or 410-576-1014

Other [FREE] Opportunities to Connect with Nature

events@masonvillecove.org for more information or to pre-register call 410-246-0669, x100.

Wed 6/7, 10-11am Guided Nature Walk to the Water's Edge

Tue, 6/13 10am-12pm MC Stewards- Spruce up the Native Plant Gardens

Wed, 6/21 9:30am-12pm Citizen Science- Scientific Monitoring

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

Middle Schoolers lead day of service for their Peers at Masonville Cove

Congratulations to Ethan, Jackson, James, and Patrick— Change-maker project leaders from Old Mill Middle South school in Millersville— for their vision and perseverance with an ambitious STEM project. After months of planning and two visits to Masonville Cove, these Change-makers offered hands-on activities that highlighted urban impacts on the environment to seventy-seven 8th grade STEM students, STEM teachers and parent volunteers in an all-day event. The Change-maker leaders were advised by Ms. Theresa Foye of MD Environmental Service and with local know-how from MCEEC staff.

Students rotated through four 40-minute stations on a spectacular May day at Masonville: 1] the historical background of the project connecting MD Port Administration's commerce to



MCEEC and the Urban Refuge, 2] A nature walk focused on the biological richness at MCEEC, 3] a Scavenger Hunt using GPS devices and 4] a shoreline debris removal using Ocean Conservancy data sheets.

COMMUNITY FESTIVAL, Saturday June 17, Noon to 3pm, at Curtis Bay Community Center on Filbert Street—Plan to Attend the free event at Curtis Bay Community Center located at 1630 Filbert Street. There will be Food, DJ, Games, and Service Organizations.

Come to the BIOBLITZ on Saturday June 24th, 10am-2pm—Join us at our 4th annual BioBlitz to explore plants and wildlife here along the Patapsco River. A BioBlitz is an all-day event where scientists, naturalists, students, teachers, families, and other volunteers work together to find, identify, and record as many living organisms as they can find. With the help of local experts, Masonville Cove BioBlitz volunteers will assist with a scientific survey of the life at the Cove. Learn to use scientific tools as you identify living things on the property.

Pre-registration is required for this event. Volunteers must be at least 5 years old. Volunteers under 18 must be supervised by an adult. Please contact conserve@aqua.org or (410) 576-1014 for more details.



Scenes at Masonville Cove: *Coreopsis and Penstemon blooms in gardens; Male Orchard Oriole (photo by Nancy O'Hara); Volunteers from CohnReznick after shoreline debris removal; Blue flag in bloom at wetland in Access Zone 2.*

CohnReznick volunteers do shoreline cleanup

—The Social Impact team chose Masonville Cove as a field site for doing good work in their community. A group of 21 employees set about removing debris from the tidal marsh in Access Zone 2. All told 272 pounds of recyclables and 99 pounds of trash were collected. A great day! Staff and the creatures living at MCEEC send the volunteers from CohnReznick a big thanks!

If you have a group that wants to connect with this urban refuge through a service or volunteer project over the summer, please contact friends@masonvillecove.org or call 410-246-0669 x100.

Plan a visit to Masonville Cove— Take a walk to relax and revive or to see wildlife. Did you know two kinds of orioles (Baltimore and Orchard-above) are nesting on the property? Also, there are loads of native plants that provide food and habitat for pollinators and other insects.

We still need cardboard tubes from paper towels, plastic wrap and aluminum foil— Drop them off at Masonville Cove by mid-June. The BEE SMART team needs these longer tubes (not TP size) for a project.

Fond Farewell to Gaby Roffe

In the next few weeks, Gaby heads to Denver for a fellowship position with US Fish & Wildlife Service. We wish her every success as she embarks on this new chapter. We will miss her energy, kindness and genuine smile.



Gaby, as a Conservation Community Coordinator at the National Aquarium, served alongside the residents of Curtis Bay and Brooklyn. Together they worked on storm drain stencils to call attention to impacts of stormwater runoff. Many residents have new native plant gardens installed with guidance from Gaby. She collaborated with others to educate about

pollinators and plants at Ben Franklin High School and to transform the Baltimore Dream Center landscape with another pollinator garden.

Curtis Bennett, Project Manager at the National Aquarium, has this to say about Gaby: "Throughout this Community Engagement & Environmental Stewardship Program, Gabrielle has always been a strong advocate for community members. She did all she could to ensure that they felt comfortable with these new environmental projects and programs. As a result, over time, that comfort transformed itself into community confidence and ownership of the efforts."

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**