



# News from Masonville Cove Environmental Education Campus

*An urban refuge partnership*

A Monthly Newsletter

DECEMBER 2014

Volume 2 Issue 12

## December Open Hours

The Conservation Area is open

Mon-Fri 11am-4pm

Sat 9am-1pm

Closed Sundays

**Closed for the Holiday Season:**  
12/24-12/28  
and 1/1/15



## Free Programming for Young Children & Families

To reserve your spot, go to [www.masonvillecove.org](http://www.masonvillecove.org) then follow the link and instructions in right column under Pre-K programs.

**Sat, 12/6 9:30-10:30am, 11-Noon** Science Alive Kids <5-  
*Nocturnal Animals!*

**Sat, 12/13 9:30-10:30am, 11am-Noon** Science Alive Kids <5 - Let it Snow!

## Other [FREE] Opportunities to Connect with Nature

Email [events@masonvillecove.org](mailto:events@masonvillecove.org) for more information or call 410-246-0669, x105

**Wed, 12/10, 1-2pm** Guided Nature Walk

**Tues, 12/16, 6-8pm** Holiday Ornament Making

**Sat, 12/20 Noon-1pm** Guided Nature Walk

**Tues, 12/30 11:30am-12:30pm** Guided Nature Walk

## MCEEC Contact Information

1000 Frankfurst Avenue,  
Baltimore MD 21226

Phone: 410-246-0669, ext.105

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)

## Volunteer News at Masonville Cove Campus

Thank you to students and adult chaperones from Friends School in Baltimore who volunteered here on a school-wide day of service. The group secured protective fencing around the new shrubs near the education building, set driftwood along a new trail around a pond and cleaned up debris along the shoreline.



We had a garden clean up event in mid November. Thanks to Dan and Ellie for their help.

Just before Thanksgiving there was a training session to prepare people to volunteer at programs and activities at Masonville Cove. We are happy to welcome Joan and Nancy who plan to do some Maryland Master Naturalist intern hours at our campus. Ellie and Rosaleen participated in the training and plan to volunteer at environmental education programs.

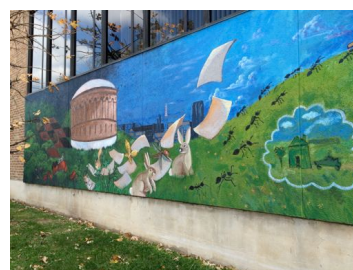
**Volunteer at Masonville Cove-** It's a fun group and you can learn a lot about the project and nature plus contribute positively to this first urban wildlife refuge partnership. Just drop by or email using the friends address in the Contact Information panel, above.

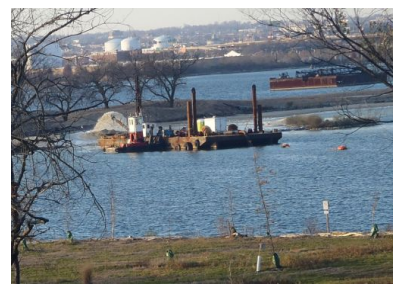
## Brooklyn Branch of the Enoch Pratt Library dedicates gorgeous murals

On a sunny November morning, community members from Brooklyn gathered to celebrate and dedicate new murals painted on the library building. U. Md Baltimore County professor Steve Bradley and Library Branch Manager Linda Schwartz shared fun and inspiring messages describing these fruits of collaboration among community members,

academic and civic institutions. Children from Maree G. Farring Elementary School sang a sweet song.

**Stop by for a look:** The branch library is located at 300 E. Patapsco Avenue.





**Scenes at Masonville Cove:** Friends School students at shoreline cleanup; Whitetail buck and doe in the conservation area; Living Classrooms Foundation's Skipjack Sigsbee at the Cove for Land-Sea environmental education program; and Habitat Improvements by a barge spraying sand onto bottom of the Cove.

**Other Happenings around Masonville Cove....**

Elementary Students experience hands-on learning about the Chesapeake Bay area. Five school groups took part in Land-Sea programming. Students spent part of the day doing laboratory investigations of water quality and plankton diversity and part of the day on Sigsbee, a skipjack built in 1902 and operated by Living Classrooms Foundation. While on board, students learned maritime skills and collected organisms from the Patapsco River.

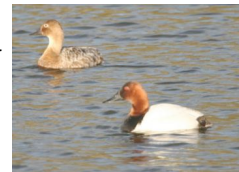
Baltimore area teachers participated in weekend professional development workshops. Lead by educator Amie McDaniels, teachers gained hands-on environmental education skills using Project Wild curriculum that takes education outdoors and develops responsible actions toward wildlife.

Ongoing mitigation on west edge of property and in sediments of the Cove. Work continues in Access Zone 2 at the western edge of the property. The cap is nearly finished and the great pile of soil has all but disappeared due to the unstinting labors of workers from Maryland Environmental Service. This area will be developed as upland and wetland habitats for birds and other wildlife. In addition, you'll see barges on the Cove distributing clean sand onto the mucky sediments to improve habitat for bottom dwelling organisms. The

long range plan is to place hundreds of reef balls in the Cove to improve availability of hard substrate habitat.

A much anticipated event-the annual arrival of Migratory Winter Waterfowl. Masonville Cove is a special choice of overwintering ducks in Baltimore City. In the last few days we've spotted Ruddy Duck, Canvasback, Lesser Scaup, Mallard, Horned Grebe and Bufflehead. Numbers are in the low hundreds. They mainly feed on aquatic plants and seeds, but also eat tiny aquatic crustaceans and small shellfish of the cove.

On an annual basis, most of these birds migrate between their summer breeding grounds in the prairie potholes of the northern plains of the US and Canadian prairie provinces to their winter feeding areas in bays and other larger water bodies in the southern parts of the US.



Changes in the length of days, seasonal habitat changes, along with birds' summer molts and increased fat reserves, establish the general timing of the fall-winter migration. However, weather events like a cold snap or the passage of a major front get the waterfowl moving south.

Come to Masonville Cove during visiting hours or take in a Guided Nature Walk to see these fascinating birds.

**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**