



# News from Masonville Cove Environmental Education Campus

*An urban wildlife refuge partnership*

A Monthly Newsletter

JANUARY 2018

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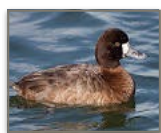
## JANUARY Open Hours

The Conservation Area is open to the public:

Mon-Fri  
9am-4pm

Sat  
9am-1pm

Closed on  
Sundays & for **Martin Luther King Holiday, 13-15 January**



## FREE Programming for Families.

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

**Sat, 1/20 Noon-1pm, Family Outing.** Learn about Winter Bird Visitors at the Cove

## Other [FREE] Opportunities to Connect with Nature

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

**Tues, 1/16 1-2:30 Guided Nature Walk** ~ Winter Waterfowl at the Cove

**NO Monitoring in January.** Citizen Science- Scientific Monitoring-hands on learning about wildlife and water quality will return in February.

## 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)

## BE a VOLUNTEER at Masonville Cove ~ Orientation and Training Morning, Saturday 1/20, 9am-12pm.

Make volunteering at Masonville Cove part of your new year's resolve to give back to your community and wildlife in Baltimore. Plus, you will learn a lot of cool stuff about Masonville Cove.

There will be a 3 hour orientation, overview, and volunteer training at the Education Center or adults and high school youth interested in volunteering. You can attend and then decide if volunteering is a good fit for you. We have various volunteer options from occasional events, stewardship of our critters and the refuge area, citizen science and family friendly activities.

Please contact Patty Parsley at [friends@masonvillecove.org](mailto:friends@masonvillecove.org) or call 410-246-0669. x100.



Following the orientation and training there will be a Family Outing that is open to the public. It will be a good way to learn about birds that overwinter in the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

## Holiday Ornament Making touched a spirit of creativity and generosity

We were a small, dedicated group at December's holiday ornament making event. Families got right to work at the various 'maker' stations laid out with paint, glitter, pine cones, recycled cardboard tubes and the like. Children glued sequins, sprinkled glitter and imagined happy recipients of their handmade gifts for teachers and grandparents! A precious time for sure.



## Looking Ahead to February....

*Watersheds 101*, this is a free program for all ages starting at 10am on Saturday 2/3. Have fun learning about your local watershed with hands-on activities with our 'enviroscape' and other models.

**The Cove is ice-covered** after all the recent frigid temperatures. Ever wondered how birds stay warm in winter? Check out the article by Kathy Reshetiloff in the recent Bay Journal: ([http://www.bayjournal.com/article/brrr\\_irds\\_adaptations\\_help\\_feathered\\_friends\\_adjust\\_to\\_sever\\_weather](http://www.bayjournal.com/article/brrr_irds_adaptations_help_feathered_friends_adjust_to_sever_weather))



**Scenes at Masonville Cove:** Box turtle, the Brain, bathing in her indoor habitat; Ice-cover on the Cove and Sand Flat at mouth of outfall creek ; Creativity shined at Holiday ornament making program; Whitetail deer near outfall creek.

### Looking Back and Looking Forward

January is named for the ancient Roman god JANUS who symbolized doorways and transitions. Often depicted with two faces, one looking to the past and the other to the future, Janus is a good fit for the first month of the western calendar year.

*Looking back, selected highlights of 2017 include:*

- another successful summer immersing 4 Maryland college students in conservation programs and environmental education through the Urban Conservation and Education Internship(UCEI)
- expanded public access to uplands in Access Zone 2 at Masonville Cove to include a large area with trails and waterfront views to the west of the first conservation area.
- visitors to the conservation area numbered 650 adult and children in 2017. Approximately 20% of those visitors came to observe birds.
- Harriet, the female osprey, nested and reared 2 chicks at the Cove, got herself tagged with a radio transmitter, and dodged two major hurricanes as she migrated to Puerto Rico.
- A strong conclusion of BEESMART, a 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC-funded program, that improved reading and writing skills for 60 elementary students at Maree G. Farring and Lakeland Schools. Students used their skills and imaginations to solve local environmental problems.

- 361 volunteers played an important role in our mission through citizen science programs, various stewardship events, and community programs.
- Looking towards the future at Masonville Cove in 2018:*
- the installation of Captain Trash Wheel near the mouth of the outfall stream .
  - monthly environmental programs at Masonville Cove that put South Baltimore residents in contact with their environment, develop better understanding of their impacts to the watershed, and offer participants practical solutions and changes in habits that improve the habitat and reduce pollution in storm water runoff.
  - more watershed education in 5 area elementary schools, thanks to funding from the South Baltimore Gateway Partnership.
  - increased numbers of visitors attracted to greater access to walking trails and wildlife in the urban refuge.
  - Community outreach that engages south Baltimore residents, including Latinos, in community clean-ups, field trips to wildlife refuges and plantings of native species that support local pollinators.
  - Continued development of citizen science programs that train volunteers to make observations and share data about water quality and wildlife, bird nesting success and plant phenology.

## 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