



# News from Masonville Cove Environmental Education Campus

*An urban refuge partnership*

A Monthly Newsletter

APRIL 2015

Volume 3 Issue 4

## April Open Hours

The Conservation Area is open to the public:

Mon-Fri 11am-4pm

Sat 9am-1pm

Closed Sundays,

Closed on Friday April 3rd



## 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, 4/4 9:30-10:30am, 11-Noon** Science Alive Kids Under 5-Eggs!

**Sat, 4/25 9:30-10:30am,** Science Alive Kids Under 5 - Amphibians & Reptiles!

## Other [FREE] Opportunities to Connect with Nature

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

**Thur, 4/2 2-3pm** Guided Nature Walk

**Sat, 4/11 9am-Noon** 'Project Clean Stream'. Please PRE-REGISTER - restricted to ages 13 years and above.

**Thur, 4/16 10am-Noon** Garden Clean up Crab Grass Patrol

**Sat, 4/18 10:30-11:30am** Guided Nature Walk

**Earth Day 4/22 3-4pm** Guided Nature Walk

## 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)

## STEWARDSHIP of the CHESAPEAKE BAY~ It's a beautiful thing!

Project Clean Stream is a statewide effort to clean up streams and woodlands in the Chesapeake Bay watershed, organized through the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay (read more at <https://allianceforthebay.org/our-work/connecting-people/project-clean-stream/>). Last year Masonville Cove was one of 260 sites that collected a total of 425,000 pounds of trash.

Join your neighbors on April 11th to clean up the shoreline and stream that connects Brooklyn and Curtis Bay to Masonville Cove.

## Sign up for Project Clean Stream, Saturday, April 11th, 9am-12pm at Masonville Cove Environmental Education Campus

Visit our webpage <http://www.masonvillecove.org/index.html>, or to sign up, call the Visitors' Desk at 410-246-0669 x100 or send an email to [events@masonvillecove.org](mailto:events@masonvillecove.org).

## Area Boy Scout hold a Merit Badge College at Masonville

On a rainy Saturday in mid-March, the Boy Scouts of America in Baltimore City (the Hopkins and Thurgood Marshall districts combined resources) sponsored the 4th annual Merit Badge College. Topics included Soil and Water Conservation, Digital

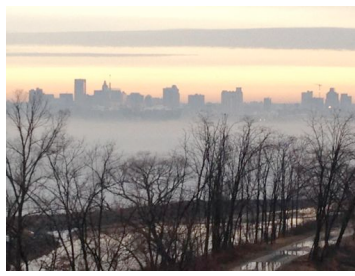
Technology and the Heritage of Boy Scouts.

## Osprey pair under observation

Masonville Cove partner, US Fish and Wildlife Service, installed a webcam to observe osprey nesting in the Cove. An osprey



pair began constructing a nest. Look for a link to the webcam and read about this research tool in the May newsletter.



**Scenes at Masonville Cove:** Boy Scout Merit Badge presentation; Swimming weather for the Brain, Masonville Cove's resident box turtle; Baltimore skyline at dawn-snow almost gone; & Common Milkweed seedlings at 3 weeks, destined for use in summer programs and to enhance local monarch habitat.

**A new meaning for the phrase “Environmental Literacy”** by Christine Redline, BEE SMART Program Director

This summer, 60 students from two local schools will participate in a brand new Living Classrooms program called BEE SMART – Baltimore Environmental Education Summer Math And Reading Trailblazers. After 10 years of working in the Masonville area schools, environmental educators now have the opportunity to engage students in a structured 5-week program geared toward preventing the summer learning loss that is so frequently reported by teachers, administrators and families. Evidence suggests that students who leave school in



June already below reading level are the most likely to drop even further behind over the summer. The Living Classrooms staff at Masonville Cove intend to bridge the gap by applying the same hands-on, project-based learning techniques utilized in their school-year science programs while incorporating a literacy component into each lesson. A team of STEM Educators, Reading Specialists, and Assistant Directors/ Director, are poised to make it happen for these students and their families, all the while disguising instruction as FUN. Participants will use microscopes, write in their journals while cruising the Patapsco River, learn to garden, dance, make art, and give wild rounds of applause for fellow students' presentations of learning. This program will occur in partnership with local schools and students will be pre-selected.

**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**