



News from Masonville Cove Environmental Education Campus

An urban refuge partnership

A Monthly Newsletter

June 2014

Volume 2 Issue 6

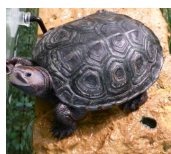
June Open Hours

The Conservation Area is open

Mon-Fri 11am-4pm

Sat 9am-1pm

Closed Sunday



Free Programming for Preschoolers & Families

To reserve your spot, go to www.masonvillecove.org.

Sat, 6/7 10-11:30am Budding Biologists (ages 5-7)- Bountiful Butterflies

Sat, 6/21 9:30-10:30am & 11-Noon Science Alive Kids <5-Animal Tracks!

Wed, 6/25 9:30-10:30am & 11-Noon Science Alive Kids <5-Pollinators!

Other Opportunities to Connect with Nature at the Cove

Sat, 6/7 DNR Free Fishing Day (No live bait. Bring your own rod)

Sat, 6/14 DNR Free Fishing Day (No live bait. Bring your own rod)

Sat, 6/28 BioBlitz at Masonville Cove Campus



fishing is fabulous!

MCEEC Contact Information

1000 Frankfort Avenue, Baltimore MD 21226

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

VOLUNTEER at MASONVILLE COVE!

There are several ways you can have fun and contribute positively to Masonville Cove Campus.

Saturday, June 28 2014, 1st BioBlitz at Masonville Cove

Register through the Conservation Dept at the National Aquarium : 410-576-1508 or conserve@aquarium.org

A BioBlitz is an all day event where wildlife experts and community volunteers work together to find, identify, and record as much wildlife as possible. At the Masonville Cove BioBlitz, we will learn about the plants and animals in an urban wetland. We will use iNaturalist, a community-based program, to help record as we explore biodiversity at the Cove. Have fun and learn what actions we can take to protect wild creatures through hands-on activities.

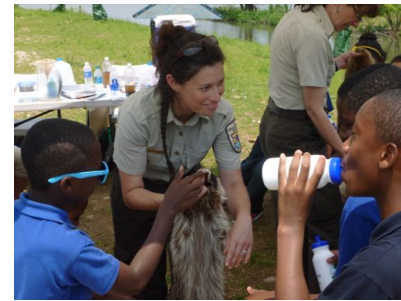
Annual Environmental Education Festival- 3 fabulous days of 'Learning by Doing'

Over 350 students, teachers, and chaperones from seven Baltimore City and County schools celebrated a school year's worth of outreach lessons, field trips, and outdoor environmental adventures at Masonville Cove on May 20-22. The Festival brought together presenters and volunteers from Maryland environmental and conservation organizations and from Benjamin Franklin High School to teach interactive lessons to augment what the students learned this year in School Leadership in Urban Runoff Reduction Project [SLURRP]. After months of learning about watersheds and runoff, designing trash interceptors, and picking up trash and recycling from their schoolyards, the SLURRP students brought their knowledge and enthusiasm to activities such as planting bay grasses on the Masonville Cove shoreline,



encountering Maryland's wildlife, and picking up over 300 pounds of washed-up trash. Most students at the festival, as rising 6th graders, won't see us in the classroom next year; it's our hope that they will remain engaged with this place, and with us, as they move on to their next successes.

Many thanks to our presenters and volunteers from the National Aquarium, Maryland Environmental Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Baltimore Co. Recreation & Parks, University of MD Extension Program, Benjamin Franklin High School, and the Anita C. Leight Estuary Center. We are also grateful to Maryland Port Administration, Maryland Environmental Trust, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Chesapeake Bay Trust, and the Living Classrooms Foundation for their support.



Scenes from 8th Annual Environmental Education Festival~Growing a Healthier Baltimore; exploring Bay grasses with Anita C. Leight Estuary Center; shoreline planting with National Aquarium; and discovering wetland critters with US Fish & Wildlife Service.

Masonville Cove Feature Series: Nation's First Urban Wildlife Refuge Partnership [Part 2 of 4-part series] by Jake Comer

A team of Living Classrooms educators runs the environmental education programming that constitutes the bulk of Masonville Cove's activity. On a typical day, that could mean leading a group of students from a local school on a field trip at Masonville Cove or visiting a classroom for an outreach lesson. The programs, with names like "Treasuring Our Chesapeake Bay" and "School Leadership in Urban Runoff Reduction Project," focus on regional topics in biology, ecology and environmental science, with particular focus on the Patapsco River and the Chesapeake Bay.

Masonville Cove staff, several of whom are certified Maryland Master Naturalists, also provide free weekend programs for visitors of all ages, lead weekday nature walks and birding excursions, provide internship opportunities for local high school students, and keep the campus open to the public six days a week.

Christine Schmidt Redline, Masonville Cove's Assistant Director, said providing educational opportunities for local students is at the core of the campus's mission. "In my opinion, that is still the most important thing that has come of all this — the fact that our kids can come here and see their local waterway, look for animal tracks, and experiment in the labs," she said. "The partnerships we have and

camaraderie that we've built with each other and with the community is just a fantastic bonus."

National Aquarium personnel work with Masonville Cove staff to coordinate volunteer events and monitor the Cove's flora and fauna. Since the education center's opening, the Aquarium team has guided shoreline cleanup and marsh grass planting programs along the Cove shoreline as part of the Aquarium's mission to "inspire conservation of the world's aquatic treasures," said Conservation Project Manager Laura Cattell Noll.



"Our goal with the Masonville Cove project is to work on restoring the harbor right here in our backyard," she said, "but also to engage city residents in that restoration work so that they feel empowered to help improve the health of their community and the health of their harbor."

Cleanups and wetland restoration aside, Cattell Noll added, volunteer opportunities are also designed to let community members engage with and enjoy the lands and waters of Masonville Cove. "One of the big goals is for people to have fun out at the Cove," she said. "It's really a place for the community to come and be outdoors."

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**