



News from Masonville Cove Environmental Education Campus

An urban wilderness conservation area.

A Monthly Newsletter

May 2014

Volume 2 Issue 5

May Open Hours

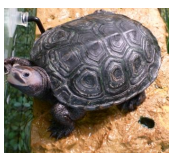
The Conservation Area is open

Mon-Fri 11am-4pm

Sat 9am-1pm

Closed Sunday

Closed 5/26 for the Memorial Day Holiday



Free Saturday Programming for Preschoolers & Families

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

5/3 10-11am Habitat Heroes (ages 8-13) Frog Watch!

5/10 9:30-10:30am Science Alive Kids <5- Baby Animals & their Moms

5/10 9:30-10:30am Budding Biologists (ages 5-7)- 5 Senses Nature Hike

5/10 11-Noon Mother's Day Stepping Stone Workshop (for the Whole Family)

5/17 9:30-10:30am & 11-Noon Science Alive Kids <5- Fish!

5/31 9:30-10:30am & 11-Noon Science Alive Kids <5- Birds and Birdfeeders!



MCEEC Contact Information

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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.

Environmental Education Festival May 20-22, 8:30-2:30pm

We need volunteers to assist with programming at stations and with logistics. Contact Christine Redline (credline@livingclassrooms.org) to volunteer.

Save the Date: June 28 2014, 1st BIOBLITZ at Masonville Cove

A bioblitz is a concentrated biological survey of a given area. Scientists, naturalists, students, teachers, families, and other volunteers work together in a defined area to find, identify, and record as many living species as they can within a given time period.

Experts, Volunteers and Participants needed. Contact Jillie Drutz at the National Aquarium before June 8th for details: jdrutz@aquarium.org

Maryland Master Naturalist classes organizing for June and July

The National Aquarium, Masonville Cove and Irvine Nature Center join to recruit and train adults interested in becoming Maryland Master Naturalists. Classes run all day Fridays from June 6-Aug 1 at each of the cooperating institutions. For general information on the program go to <https://extension.umd.edu/masternaturalist>. Contact Masonville Cove Campus for details.

Project Clean Stream - great participation.

On a blustery April Saturday morning an enthusiastic group dedicated itself to collecting trash from the stream at Masonville Cove. Volunteers worked for

several hours and collected 213 pounds of styrofoam, snack bags, plastic bottles, and other trash from the stream and its banks.

Masonville's stream receives all the runoff from the storm drain system in Curtis Bay and Brooklyn. So a big rain event like we saw on April 30th brings massive amounts of storm water with its trash to Masonville Cove waters.



Project Clean Stream 2014 is a state-wide effort with support from Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, Dominion Power, Perdue and Chesapeake Bay Trust.



Scenes from Masonville Cove~the stream outfall during April 30 storm, a Great Egret, Project Clean Stream Volunteer hard at work, Golden Star in bloom

Masonville Cove Feature Series: Nation’s First Urban Wildlife Refuge Partnership [Part 1 of 4-part series] by Jake Comer

Last September, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service designated Masonville Cove Environmental Education Campus, in south Baltimore, the country’s first Urban Wildlife Refuge Partnership. The designation ceremony took place on a cool, bright morning on the shore of the campus’s namesake, which on many days is the domain of the various species of waterfowl that gather on the water in colorful, shifting multitudes. That morning, the ducks and geese paddled to a safe distance, and the ceremony hummed with the atmosphere of a modest landmark event.

Masonville Cove’s designation as an Urban Wildlife Refuge Partnership marked the emergence of a new kind of protected natural space, specifically geared toward an increasingly urban and diverse American public. As Genevieve LaRouche, Field Supervisor at the Fish and Wildlife Service’s Chesapeake Bay Field Office, put it, “if we just have a bunch of old white duck hunters...as our constituent base, we’re not going to stay relevant.”

Concerns like these are not limited to the Fish and Wildlife Service. As American demographics, recreational habits, and relationships with the natural world continue to change, challenges to environmental and wildlife conservation are shifting with them.

Since the opening of its education center in 2009, Masonville Cove has been among the Baltimore area’s most notable responses to these challenges. Masonville Cove’s environmental education programs have reached over

7,000 local students and put community involvement in local environmental issues within South Baltimore’s reach. Based in a near-net-zero energy building on a 54-acre campus overlooking the Patapsco River and the Baltimore skyline, Masonville Cove is part of a large-scale neighborhood revitalization project that aims to improve Title I schools, provide access to south Baltimore’s waterfront natural resources, and encourage economic growth and environmental protection based on the cooperative efforts of, principally, the Living Classrooms Foundation, the Maryland Port Administration, Maryland Environmental Service, and the National Aquarium and US Fish & Wildlife Service.

“The Masonville Cove Environmental Education Campus is a model for community involvement and environmental awareness, from its inception to its opening as a landmark urban environmental education center,”

said Lorraine Andrews Warnick, director at Masonville Cove. “The sustainable growth of this campus and its wetlands will remind the community that they are a part of something positive for generations to come.”



“Corbett” Columbine in bloom

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**