News from Masonville Cove

MARCH 2013
Volume 1, Issue 3

Masonville Cove Environmental Education Center
1000 Frankfurst Ave • Baltimore MD 21226
410-246-0669 • www.masonvillecove.org •
friends@masonvillecove.org

CALENDAR
Winter Hours: The Urban Wilderness Conservation Area is open.
Wed-Fri 11am-4pm
Sat 3/9 & 3/23 from 8am-noon,
Closed Sun-Tue.
Sign in at the Front Desk for permission to access the Conservation Area.

Saturday Programs for Pre-Schoolers and Families
3/9, 10-11am Science Alive Kids<5-Worms!
11:30 am-12:30 pm Family-Stepping Stone Workshop
3/23, 10-11am Science Alive Kids<5-Boats!
11:30 am-12:30 pm Family-Birds & Birdfeeders

Masonville Cove featured in Sustainability Photo Contest

One late February afternoon, two 6th grade students from The Crossroads School visited Masonville Cove to capture images for a photography competition hosted by SustainaFest. The Annapolis-based organization (www.sustainafest.org) , created the "Arts for a Sustainable Chesapeake" contest to highlight, capture and explore sustainability in the Chesapeake Region. We invite you to root for our local students who have not only begun to develop their artistic skills, but have opened their eyes to the possibility of a sustainable future at Masonville Cove!

Masonville Cove, Possible entry in SustainaFest Contest

Ducks taking flight at Masonville Cove

Nature on the Move

The Chesapeake Bay is part of a long journey, often involving thousands of miles, by migratory waterfowl that over-winter in places like Masonville Cove. Soon we will bid farewell to the buffleheads, the canvasbacks, and the other ducks as they migrate to their northern breeding grounds.

Visit the Cove this month to greet the return migration of ospreys, in particular Oscar Osprey, who features as a suspect in the 'Who Killed Rocky Rockfish?' investigation conducted by local 3rd grade students.

Spring is also migration time for shad, alewives and menhaden. These fish attract their predators. It's time to renew your fishing license--check the DNR website, http://www.dnr.state.md.us/service/ and then come over to Masonville Cove to hone your skills at our piers.

Masonville Cove Environmental Education Campus

1000 Frankfurst Ave
Baltimore MD 21226

Phone:
410-246-0669
Front Desk: ext 105

E-Mail:
For inquiries related to educational programs,
info@masonvillecove.org
For inquiries related to volunteering,
friends@masonvillecove.org

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.masonvillecove.org

An Urban Wilderness Conservation Area

A Partnership among:

Maryland Port Administration

Living Classrooms Foundation

National Aquarium

Bay Brook: The Brooklyn and Curtis Bay Coalition

Maryland Environmental Service

Seeking Volunteers

At the end of May, students from Masonville Cove area schools will visit the campus and rotate through environmental education stations. We're looking for about 6 volunteers each day to help us with a variety of things such as: leading a composting station, assisting with a garden station, taking pictures, filling water bottles, and many other logistical tasks. For details, please contact the Educational Supervisor, Christine Schmidt Redline at 410-246-0669 x102. We appreciate your interest!! We will conduct background checks on all volunteers.

Friends of Masonville Cove

Master Naturalist training continues as trainees gain deeper appreciation and knowledge of the organisms and habitats in Maryland's coastal plain. In addition, the trainees have begun to work on special group projects that will enhance the environmental education mission of Masonville Cove.

Volunteer at Masonville Cove. You can choose whether to volunteer a little or a lot. Contact friends@masonvillecove.org or 410-246-0669, ext 105.

Garden Days

Early this month Masonville Cove staff will welcome students from the Filbert Street Garden project located in Curtis Bay and coordinated by Jason Reed (www.filbertstreetgarden.blogspot.com). These students will take part in a Native Plant training to prepare for the Filbert Street Garden Days, They will become experts in how storm water runoff carries pollution to Masonville Cove, the Patapsco River and Chesapeake Bay. They will discover how native plant species can reduce runoff problems.

They will explore the characteristics of the largest plants we have on the grounds, as they identify our native trees. Then they will move indoors to the microscope laboratory to investigate the smallest parts of our native flowers, understanding the role that each little part plays in the life of the plant.

In several weeks their learning experience will culminate with leading the Filbert Street Garden Days (3/23 and 3/30), where these students will knowledgeably direct adult volunteers around the garden, explaining how to plant shrubs and perennials and emphasizing the role of native plant gardens.

About Masonville Cove and the Center…

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 Brooklyn and Curtis Bay Coalition (Baybrook), the Living Classrooms Foundation, and the National Aquarium in Baltimore 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.