



News from Masonville Cove Environmental Education Campus

An urban wildlife refuge partnership

A Monthly Newsletter

August & September 2018

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Sept. Open Hours

The Conservation Area is open to the public:

Mon-Fri 9am-4pm

Sat 9am-1pm

Closed on Sundays and for Labor Day (9/1-9/3)



FREE Programming & Opportunities to Connect with Nature

events@masonvillecove.org for more information or to pre-register; or call 410-246-0669, x100. *Se habla español.*

Tues 9/11 10-11am, Nature Walk - Wonderful Asters in bloom and insects which visit them

Wed 9/19 9:30am-11:30am, Citizen Science~ Scientific Monitoring-hands on learning about wildlife and water quality

Sat 9/29 9:30-12:30, Shoreline Clean up - volunteer as part of the Governor's Day to Serve. Please pre-register (see instructions, above)

MCEEC Contact Information

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For inquiries related to volunteering, friends@masonvillecove.org

Highlights from the Summer

Staff and volunteers at Masonville Cove lead programming on and off campus. First, at Notre Dame U. with students engaged in Johns Hopkins' Center for Talented Youth through a rigorous education program with students from around the world.

The successful BEESMART program, now in its 4th year and funded by South Baltimore Gateway Partnership and Baltimore Summer Funding Collaborative engaged 40 students from Lakeland Elementary School in STEM activities, reading and writing with the objective to reduce summer learning loss.

Staff from Patuxent Research Refuge and the National Aquarium, both partners at MCEEC, lead a fishing program with kids from the Curtis Bay Recreation Center. It was a sweltering August day with a few nibbles, but kids had fun anyway. Patuxent Research Refuge also sent Youth Conservation Corps students to MCEEC. They



volunteered with monarch monitoring and repotting milkweed seedlings. Funding from National Fish and Wildlife Foundation supported an engaging visit to North Tract at Patuxent Research Refuge for their Wildlife Conservation Day with community members including a Latino congregation in the Brooklyn neighborhood. Stations included demonstrations with water dogs, horses and wildlife, plus hands on activities like archery and bird calling. Thanks to Abe Lopez Trejo for guiding us around the refuge!

We also hosted workshops focused on pollinators on campus and at The Well, a Curtis Bay center to heal & empower women. Participants explored what a pollinator is, met some actual pollinators in outdoor garden spaces and dissected flowers.

For two weeks in August MCEEC was home-base for Bay Buddies, a camp for students with special needs. Attentive staff engaged students in field trips with boating, bowling, horseback riding and in skills building.





Scenes at Masonville Cove: Bay Buddies camper at horse farm; Patuxent Research Refuge Youth Conservation Corps volunteer to repot milkweed; Children hard at work on a 'bee' craft at pollinator workshop; Late stage monarch caterpillar.

Urban Conservation and Education Internship concludes a successful season.

Masonville Cove partners sponsored four local college students to explore conservation and environmental education. Amber Doherty, a Conservation Community Coordinator for the National Aquarium, served as leader for Themis A., Environmental Health major at Towson University, Sierra B., Environmental Science and Geography major at UMBC, Tatyannah B., Biology major at Coppin State University and Jesus M., Environmental Science major at the University of Baltimore.



Here are a few comments by the interns on their experiences: Sierra B.: "I got awesome hands-on experience in the conservation field and met some great people who are doing the kind of work that I would like to do one day. I had some amazing experiences in education work, habitat restoration, wildlife management, and community engagement. One of the most important lessons that I learned was how crucial it is to be able to tell YOUR story, because people connect to people better than an organization or an article. I encourage any college

student with interests in environmental sciences, biology, or conservation (but not limited to these) to apply for next summer!" Tatyannah B.: "Being a part of the UCEI Internship has been one of the most amazing experiences of my life. I got to see and do so many things I would have never done if I was not in this program. I met some incredible people who created a comfortable learning space and truly care about the environment and the species within them. My top experiences were shark tagging and osprey banding. Getting to hold an osprey and administer a shot to a shark was super cool! If it were not for Curtis for coming to my school and introducing me to this opportunity, I would have never been exposed to everything conservation has to offer and I'm very thankful for US Fish and Wildlife, USGS and all the other sponsors who made this summer happen. I can't wait to spread my experience and knowledge about conservation to my community." Themis A.: "A memorable moment for me was Pelican Banding at Smith Island. This experience impacted me greatly because in order to conserve and protect pelicans, biologists need to know where the pelicans breed in the Chesapeake Bay, spend their winter and how successful their breeding colonies are each year. Counting the number of breeding pairs and banding their offspring each season provides a good way to assess the population. Experiences such as this one is why I chose to get in the environmental field."

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