



News from Masonville Cove Environmental Education Campus

An urban wildlife refuge partnership

A Monthly Newsletter

SEPTEMBER 2016

Volume 4 Issue 9

September Open Hours

The Conservation Area is open to the public:

Mon-Fri 9am-4pm

Sat 9am-1pm

Closed Sundays,

Closed Sept. 3-5 for Labor Day Holiday



FREE Programming for Families

To reserve your spot, email events@masonvillecove.org or call 410-246-0669 x100

Sat, 9/10, 10-11am Guided Nature Walk~ Butterflies!

Thurs, 9/15 2-3pm Guided Nature Walk~Butterflies!

Other [FREE] Opportunities to Connect with Nature

For more information or to pre-register call 410-246-0669, x100.

Tues, 9/13, 10am-12pm 2nd Tuesdays with Masonville Stewards- Monitoring Insect Activity

Sat, 9/17, 10am-2pm Shoreline Cleanup, International Coastal Cleanup Day

Wed, 9/28 9am-12pm Citizen Science, Scientific Monitoring

MCEEC Contact Information

1000 Frankfur Avenue, Baltimore MD 21226

Phone: 410-246-0669, ext.100

Website: www.masonvillecove.org

Email: For inquiries related to educational programs, info@masonvillecove.org

For inquiries related to volunteering, friends@masonvillecove.org

Focus on Environmental Education



The second year of BEESMART, supported by 21st Century Community Learning Centers concluded its summer

program on 8/5. Students from Maree G Farring and Lakeland Schools spent 5 weeks doing hands-on science lessons and related reading projects to prevent summer learning loss and to increase reading scores. We had tremendous energy from students, staff and families. Family engagement events will continue during the school year.

This summer MCEEC staff hosted the 16th year of the Bay Buddies program. Students with severe and profound special needs attended a week-long camp



about the science, sights, sounds, and feels of the Chesapeake Bay. It was filled with joy and discovery, another wonderful year!

Urban Conservation & Education Internship

Thanks to collaboration among Masonville partners, Sheldon Mason, Sara Carpe, Adler Pruitt and Logan Kline, all local college students, experienced hands-on conservation and environmental education in diverse ways. They traveled to exciting locations including part of the Susquehanna River watershed in New York, Blackwater National Refuge, Gwynns Falls Leakin Park, Poplar



Island, and Masonville Cove. They got invaluable field work experience, including osprey banding, shark tagging, educating students about fishing, and maintaining facilities.

Site Improvements

Maryland Environmental Service (MES) has made huge efforts to manage plant communities onsite. Workers have planted native species and have multiple methods of controlling invasive plants, including a herd of grazing goats.

Other improvements include refurbishing a greenhouse with electricity, new roof panels and a water supply, which was supported by MPA, MES and US Fish & Wildlife Service through CCC volunteer Leah Davis.

New trails and a non-tidal wetland are in development in Access Zone 2.



Scenes at Masonville Cove: Monarch butterfly on thoroughwort; NACT's Gaby Roffe at Sunday school planting activity; Volunteer group from Parsons removing invasive plants; BEESMART students visit the goats brought on site to graze patches in the conservation area.

Funding from National Fish & Wildlife Foundation supports engagement of local Hispanic community with Masonville Cove and Environmental Conservation

During Latino Conservation Week in mid-July families from Brooklyn's Templo de Alabanza Y Restauración (TAYR) and Johns Hopkins' Centro SOL came to Masonville Cove for a fun day of fishing, nature walks, shoreline cleanup and meeting MC creatures. The activities were offered in Spanish thanks to help from Latina interns from USFWS at Patuxent Research Refuge and Masonville Cove, plus bilingual staff among MC partners.

Living Classrooms Foundation's Patty Parsley and National Aquarium Conservation Team's Gaby Roffe organized a visit to the TAYR Sunday school. The children learned about the importance of supporting pollinators, especially the Monarch butterfly, and created their own pollinator gardens in a flower pot.

On 8/27 a group of families from TAYR traveled to Patuxent Research Refuge for a program by FWS' Jennie McNicoll about migratory birds, a nature walk around the lake and exploration of the Visitor Center.



Volunteer News at Masonville Cove

Many thanks to the intrepid volunteers from Parsons, Centroid and MD Ornithological Society who worked through intense heat on 8/16 to remove wheelbarrow after wheelbarrow of invasive plants and to plant 100 native plants to support pollinators.

On 8/25 a group of 34 Johns Hopkins University freshman focused on service and environmental justice came to Masonville Cove to learn about the project and to cleanup debris from urban runoff deposited on the shoreline and remove weedy plants crowding out native plants from our gardens.

Upcoming Events

Join the National Aquarium Conservation Team for a cleanup event on 9/17. Please pre-register at aqua.org or call 410-576-1014 for information.

Check the calendar, above, for other free fun events!

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