



News from Masonville Cove Environmental Education Campus

An urban wildlife refuge partnership

A Monthly Newsletter

MAY 2018

Volume 6 Issue 5

MAY Open Hours

The Conservation Area is open to the public:

Mon-Fri 9am-4pm

Sat 9am-1pm

Closed on Sundays and for

Memorial Day (26-28 May)



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.

Fri, 5/11 11am-12pm, Guided Nature Walk ~ Wildflowers with a Md Master Naturalist

Sat, 5/12 9-10:30am, Masonville Cove Stewards - Invasive Plant Removal ~ learn about common invasive plants and appreciate native plants

Sat, 5/12 11am-12:30pm, Family Program, Mother's Day Fun Craft project and nature walk

Wed 5/16 9:30am-11:30am, Citizen Science- Scientific Monitoring-hands on learning about wildlife and water quality

MCEEC Contact Information

1000 Frankfur Avenue,
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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

Volunteers at Masonville Cove

Spring Cleaning has been the theme in April.

Once again Masonville Cove has been a Project Clean Stream site. National Aquarium Conservation staff and Living Classrooms

Foundation staff collaborated to organize a shoreline clean up event in mid-April. Forty-four volunteers from the Baltimore area collected 25 bags (equal to 243 pounds) of debris and 20 bags of recyclables that



accumulated along the living shoreline over the winter. This event helped raise awareness about the problem of debris that washes into our streams as stormwater runoff in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Thanks to everyone who made this clean a big success!

Shout out to Killian K., a member of Boy Scout Troop #302. He organized and carried out a special Earth Day shoreline clean-up at Masonville Cove, as part of his Eagle Scout requirements. Killian taught about watersheds and impacts of storm water runoff, before leading 16 volunteers to the Masonville Cove shoreline for the cleanup. The group collected over 80 pounds of

trash and recycling from the shoreline. The idea for the project came when Killian participated in a clean-up with his mom at MCEEC. Killian lives in Dundalk, MD and has been a member of Troop #302 since 6th grade. He is a student at the S.P.E.C.I.E.S. magnet program at Sparrows Point High School that focuses on environmental studies. Best wishes to Killian as he works toward earning Eagle Scout.

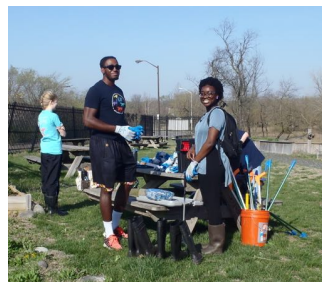


UMBC's Shriver Peacefellows

worked in our gardens

Thank you to this group of 10 UMBC graduate students/seasoned Peace Corps workers who volunteered at MCEEC for the second time. After a brief check-in, the group went to work on extracting invasive plants from our flower beds near the Education Center. At the end of their time, everyone took a quick walk down to the shoreline to have a look at Captain Trash Wheel. This was a big hit.

Thanks to individual volunteers who helped with education, citizen science projects, and at shoreline clean ups. Steve T. topped the list for hours in April.



Scenes at Masonville Cove: Tree swallow pair on nest box ; Volunteer group from UMBC's Shriver Peacefellow program paid a visit to Captain Trash Whee after massive invasive plant removal in the gardens; Project Clean Stream Volunteers ; Native understory tree, eastern redbud, in fine spring color.

Watersheds, People and Pollinators

Springtime ushers in the season of outdoor activities. Masonville Cove partners have been out at school festivals (Ben Franklin's festival and Lakeland's STEAM festival) with educational activities, program information and packets of seeds. MC partner, the National Aquarium, has been cultivating a strong relationship with two church communities in Brooklyn in the past several years. Funding from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation has expanded that outreach among MC partners. One evening adults and youth in the Latino Congregation, Templo de Alabanza Y Restauración-TAYR, located in the Brooklyn neighborhood participated in a visioning session. The children learned about osprey and human impacts on urban watersheds. On Earth Day, there was a tremendous celebration and stewardship day organized by the National Aquarium Conservation Team that included the TAYR and Pathway Church of God congregations. One hundred fifty participants painted storm drains, did maintenance in the Pollinator Garden and collected about half a dumpster of trash in the neighborhood.



Congressman Paul Sarbanes stopped by to help out at this community event.

Masonville Cove continues its quest to improve habitat for pollinators. We need pollinators for a bountiful supply of food and diverse landscapes. Nowadays pollinators need humans to improve



their habitats. For example, nesting and foraging resources need to be about 100 meters (several hundred feet) apart. Think of humans needing to live within a mile or less of a good grocery store. Pollinators suffer from food deserts, too! Generally, pollinators feed on nectar and pollen of particular plant species. The nectar provides sugars and amino acids. The pollen is a good source of protein. Flowering plants and insects have lived in community for millions of years.

Two things you can do is put the right native plants and plant them in large clumps that make finding food easier. Come to Masonville Cove ~ we'd love to share what we are thinking about! More in June...

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