



News from Masonville Cove Environmental Education Campus

An urban refuge partnership

A Monthly Newsletter

MAY 2015

Volume 3 Issue 5

May Open Hours

The Conservation Area is open to the public:

Mon-Fri 11am-4pm

Sat 9am-1pm

Closed Sundays,

Closed on Monday May 25 ~
Memorial Day Observance



Free Programming for Young Children & Families

To reserve your spot, go to www.masonvillecove.org then follow the link and instructions in right column under Pre-K programs.

Sat, 5/9 9:30-10:30am, 11-Noon Science Alive Kids Under 5-How does your Garden grow?

Sat, 5/30 9:30-10:30am, Science Alive Kids Under 5 - Fish!

Other [FREE] Opportunities to Connect with Nature

events@masonvillecove.org for more information or call 410-246-0669, x100

Wed 5/6 2-3pm Guided Nature Walk

Fri, 5/8 11:30am-1:30pm Garden Care at MCEEC

Thur, 5/14 11am-Noon Guided Nature Walk

Fri 5/29 & Sat 5/30: VOLUNTEER for Wetlands Restoration at Masonville Cove. Contact 443-386-8407 or conserve@aqua.org

MCEEC Contact Information

1000 Frankfurst 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

Volunteer News from Masonville Cove

Our thanks extend to an international group from **Stanton Chase** who were meeting in Baltimore. They took a break and came to Masonville Cove for a shoreline cleanup. This fabulous team, nearly self-organizing, picked up 245 pounds of trash and 21 pounds of recycling from Masonville's shoreline. Great Work!

Volunteer at Wetland Grass Planting coordinated by Masonville Partner, the National Aquarium

~ Help plant native wetland grasses at Masonville Cove's shoreline on Friday May 29 or Saturday May 30. Registration information in calendar(above).

Osprey Pair Nesting at the Cove

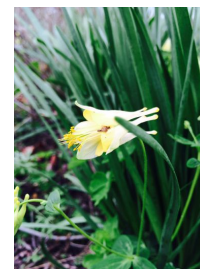
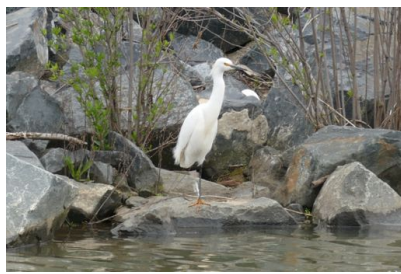
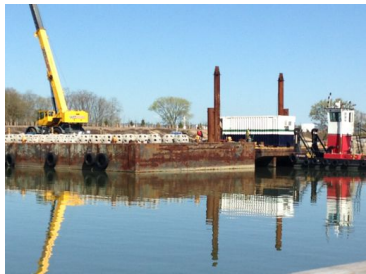
Please meet Frederick and Harriet, resident ospreys at Masonville Cove! This couple nests on the osprey stand located right in the Cove. They arrived back in Baltimore the second week of March and promptly started rebuilding their nest (This is their third year at this nest.). In the past two weeks Harriet has laid three eggs. Harriet does most of the incubating (typically females do about 70% of the incubation) but Frederick gives her some time off, usually in the middle of the day. Frederick's



main responsibility is to bring food to the nest. When the eggs hatch

he must provide for her and the chicks. These days he can be seen bringing branches, bits of trash bags, straw, etc. to build up the nest. He seems to be very particular about placement and will force Harriet to

rearrange herself, even now when she's incubating eggs. To watch Frederick and Harriet please visit the link available from www.masonvillecove.org . If you have any questions about this project please contact Marlo Atkinson at marlo_atkinson@fws.gov



Scenes at Masonville Cove: Reef balls installation ; Snowy Egret in MC conservation area [photo by Edward Delaplaine] ; Stanton Chase team at shoreline cleanup; Golden Columbine bloom in native garden

Habitat Improvements at the Masonville Cove site continue ~ on the land and in the water

Tree planting in Access Zones 2 and 3. The Maryland Port Administration (MPA) planted 990 trees in a 9.9 acre area of Access Zone 2 within the Masonville Cove Urban Wildlife Refuge. Six native species were planted - Flowering Dogwood (*Cornus florida*), Hawthorn (*Crataegus crus-galli*), Black Gum (*Nyssa sylvatica*), Loblolly Pine (*Pinus taeda*), Pin Oak (*Quercus palustris*), and Willow Oak (*Quercus phellos*). A native grass and wildflower seed mix will be used to establish ground cover throughout the planting area. The tree planting was funded by a Natural Filters Grant through the Maryland Department of Natural Resources with contributing funds by the MPA.



In the fall of 2015, 460 trees will be planted in a 4.6 acre area within Access Zone 3 of the Cove. The purpose of the plantings is to establish a forested stream buffer within the critical area to assist in the removal of nutrients (nitrogen and phosphorus), as well as create wildlife habitat. The MPA will use the removal of nutrients provided by the forested buffer, to offset the nutrient load entering the Baltimore Harbor watershed as required under the Baltimore Harbor Total Daily Maximum Load or TMDL.

Continued improvement of aquatic habitat at Masonville Cove.

Maryland Environmental Service contracted with Corman Marine Construction for a substrate improvement project in the cove. Beginning last year, the construction firm laid down sandy substrate in the cove. In late April they began placing approximately 2000 concrete reefballs of varying sizes onto the bottom of the cove. The goal of the project is to expand the hard substrate habitat available to estuarine critters and those critters that feed on them.

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**