



# News from Masonville Cove Environmental Education Campus

*An urban wildlife refuge partnership*

A Monthly Newsletter

June 2018

Volume 6 Issue 6

## JUNE Open Hours

The Conservation Area is open to the public:

Mon-Fri 9am-4pm

Sat 9am-1pm

Closed on Sundays



## FREE Programming & Opportunities to Connect with Nature

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

**Sat 6/9 9:30-11:30am, Masonville Cove Stewards -**

Shoreline Cleanup, ages 10 and older

**Fri 6/15 2-3pm, Guided Nature Walk** ~ Discover Butterflies with a Md Master Naturalist

**Sat 6/16 10am-2pm, 5th Annual BIOBLITZ** hosted by National Aquarium. Pre-registration Required.

**Wed 6/20 9:30am-11:30am, Citizen Science- Scientific Monitoring**-hands on learning about wildlife and water quality

**Sat 6/23 10-11:30pm, Family Program, Celebrate Pollinators**

## MCEEC Contact Information

1000 Frankfurst Avenue,  
Baltimore MD 21226

Phone: 410-246-0669, ext.100

Website: [www.masonvillecove.org](http://www.masonvillecove.org)

Email:

For inquiries related to educational programs, [info@masonvillecove.org](mailto:info@masonvillecove.org)

For inquiries related to volunteering, [friends@masonvillecove.org](mailto:friends@masonvillecove.org)

## Highlights of Upcoming Events at Masonville Cove

With the longer days and warmer temperatures, life at Masonville Cove steps up the pace. School programs transition to summertime programming and extra time for families to travel and explore new areas. We are ready for visitors with bird and insect field guides, binoculars to borrow and programming that helps community members to better appreciate the natural world around them.

This month we offer a nature walk to look for butterflies and a family program themed on pollinators. Flowering times were delayed this spring compared to last, but now the Foxglove beardtongue, Coreopsis and Iris are in bloom. Milkweed plants are sending up strong stalks with leaves to feed Monarch butterfly larvae (we hope to attract and support many!). There's much to discover during a walk in the conservation area here at Masonville Cove. You can look at professional photographs



Birds are nesting including osprey, barn swallows (an entry door is blocked off to keep things calm for a pair

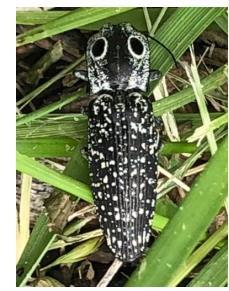
of barn swallows nesting on a ceiling fixture close to the Education Center), tree swallows, orioles, and mockingbirds. We happily welcome a steady stream of bird watchers, including an Audubon-sponsored group that observed over 40 species during a 3 hour walk in late May.

It is gratifying to notice that the commitment of the MDOT-Md Port Administration to restore this 50+-Acre parcel in urbanized Baltimore and the work of the MD Environmental Service to carry out the mitigation are paying off for wildlife and for people.

In mid-June the National Aquarium Conservation Team will host the 5th Annual Masonville Cove BioBlitz. Experts and Community volunteers (you!) join to find and record as many living organisms as possible on one day. There will be several stations to visit with crafts, live birds and reptiles.



Space is limited so you need to sign up at [aqua.org/conservation-events](http://aqua.org/conservation-events). For more information contact [conserve@aqua.org](mailto:conserve@aqua.org) or 410-576-1014.



**Scenes at Masonville Cove:** Two deer resting near wetland on a quiet rainy day; Maiden Choice student planting native plant seeds; CohnReznick volunteers after shoreline clean up ; Eastern click beetle (photo by Kevin G.).

**People**

Many thanks to CohnReznick volunteers who had a great day collecting debris around the *Spartina patens* marsh in AZ2.



Working for 2.5 hours on a sunny day, the group collected over 400 pounds of trash and recyclables, plus 2 tires. In addition several hearty souls pulled driftwood off the shoreline to restore some of the walking trails. Driftwood does serious damage to plants growing on the shoreline. Their efforts were doubly beneficial for conservation. This was the third volunteer group from CohnReznick to work at MCEEC.

Students from Maiden Choice enjoyed a special field trip to Masonville Cove to supplement their study of plant life cycles. It was a beautiful sunny day with moderate winds. There was a station on the back deck to look at butterflies and worms in our red worm composter. At another station the students explored mammal skulls and pelts. The third station focused on plants, describing the parts of a plant; and students planted seeds from native plants to take back to school.

Thanks to our volunteers during May: Steve T and Priscila A helped coordinate the shoreline clean up by CohnReznick. Nancy O. made observations of nesting birds through Nest Watch, a Citizen Science project of Cornell University Lab of Ornithology. Steve T came for an invasive plant removal and our raised beds look fantastic because of his efforts. Kevin G is steadfast about another Citizen Science effort to monitor wildlife in the conservation area; he spent several hours one early morning observing birds, bees and bugs.

On the topic of citizen science and naturalists, have a look at this article published in the New York Times by a natural sciences professor at Paul Smith College in upstate NY entitled 'The Silence of the Bugs' by Curt Stager (5/26/18): <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/05/26/opinion/sunday/insects-bugs-naturalists-scientists.html> . It's a thoughtful reflection on the role of citizen scientists and need for naturalist observers.

**Contact friends@masonvillecove** if you want to find out more about becoming a volunteer at MCEEC.

**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