



News from Masonville Cove Environmental Education Campus

An urban refuge partnership

A Monthly Newsletter

NOVEMBER 2014

Volume 2 Issue 11

November Open Hours

The Conservation Area is open

Mon-Fri 11am-4pm

Sat 9am-1pm

Closed Sundays

Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday: 11/27-11/30



Free Programming for Young Children & Families

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

Sat, 11/8 9:30-10:30am, 11-Noon Science Alive Kids <5-Leaves!

Sat, 11/15 9:30-10:30am Budding Biologists (ages 5-7) - Hibernation Celebration

Sat, 11/15 9:30-10:30am, 11am-Noon Science Alive Kids <5 - Talk Turkey!

Other [FREE] Opportunities to Connect with Nature

Email events@masonvillecove.org for more information or call 410-246-0669, x105

Thur, 11/6, 9-11am Scientific Monitoring

Tue, 11/11, 1:30-3pm Garden Cleanup

Tue, 11/11, 3-4pm Guided Nature Walk

Fri, 11/21 11am-Noon Guided Nature Walk

MCEEC Contact Information

1000 Frankfurst Avenue,
Baltimore MD 21226

Phone: 410-246-0669, ext.105
Website:

www.masonvillecove.org

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

For inquiries related to volunteering,
friends@masonvillecove.org

Breakfast with the Birds and Maryland Port Administration Open House, October 18



photo credit: Bill McAllen/MPA

The day's activities started with 'Breakfast with the Birds' early enough that it was still dark. Maryland Environmental Service's Tim Carney and Baltimore Bird Club's Kevin Graff guided fifteen birders to the Dredged Material Containment Facility (DMCF) and conservation area. Their observations are posted on Ebird: <http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist?subID=S20274464>.

Masonville Cove partners offered educational and fun activities at various stations including fishing and exploring organisms on oyster shells, geocaching, crafts, drawing for prizes, and van tours of the DMCF.

Responding to seasonal changes in Chesapeake Bay area

Neighbors and family say they try to wait until November 1st to turn on their furnaces. For creatures in the Chesapeake Bay seasonal changes in day length, air temperature, food availability, and availability of liquid water trigger adaptive responses. Some migrate to more favorable spots to the south. Others stay put, but change their behaviors.

We bid good bye to Osprey, Red-shouldered Hawks, Warblers, Orioles and Monarch Butterflies which use the improved habitat at Masonville

Cove during summer and head south as winter approaches. We await the arrival of Canvasbacks, Ruddy ducks, and other waterfowl. According to the US Fish and Wildlife Service, a million waterfowl (think swans, geese and ducks) over-winter in the Chesapeake Bay. The iconic Blue Crab migrates to deeper waters and burrows into the mud.

Red Fox, year around residents in our area, change their diet from berries and insects to rodents; and they put on extra fur.

Frogs and other amphibians settle to the bottoms of ponds, beneath logs or deep underground to survive the winter. Their metabolisms drop significantly and these amphibians burn stored body fat.

Kids, curious to learn more? Come to Budding Biologists program about HIBERNATION on 11/15[see calendar].



Fall Scenes at Masonville Cove: Monarch on thoroughwort photo by TJ Lang, Arundel ES students enjoy a nature walk in the conservation area, families explore animal tracks at an evening program and community members enjoy pumpkin decorating program.

Other Happenings around Masonville Cove...

[EnerNOC volunteers tackle several indoor projects](#)

--Many thanks to volunteers from EnerNOC, based on Key Highway in Federal Hill, who were undeterred by the rainy weather on their volunteer day. They motored through painting pumpkins for seasonal programs, lashing together a Nature Loom for MCEEC's outdoor nature exploration space and assembling two wooden benches. The weather cleared a little and everyone donned boots and gloves to pull driftwood from the shoreline area. What a team! And Masonville Cove staff were delighted to check off several items from our project list.



[A Neighborly visit](#) --Staff from the Brooklyn Branch of Enoch Pratt Library had a morning retreat at Masonville Cove on Columbus Day. The group toured the building, made friends with our critters and had a leisurely walk in the Conservation area. MC Director, Lorraine Warnick, shared her perspective on the MCEEC project and we talked about cooperative programming to benefit the community.

[Fun at several Community Programs](#) --During October the staff and volunteers at Masonville Cove happily offered a number of free, nature-themed programs for children and families to supplement the tried and true 'Science Alive!' for pre-K children. There was [Family Nature Night](#) at which families explored the outdoors for evidence of animals in the form of scat, tracks and homes. Indoors there were nature mysteries on canvas pallets. [Budding Biologists](#) for 5 to 7-year-olds took a spooky look at nocturnal creatures. Masonville Cove joined the fun at the Haunted Garden event organized by [Filbert Street Garden in Curtis Bay](#) by bringing an 'apple head' craft project. There were loads of painted pumpkins (thanks again, EnerNOC) and plain pumpkins to decorate at the evening program [It's Somethin' about Pumpkins](#).

Community members of many ages learned about the origin of pumpkin carving and decorated their own to take home.



Awesome pumpkins and pumpkin crafters at community program

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**