



News from Masonville Cove Environmental Education Campus



An urban wildlife refuge partnership

A Monthly Newsletter

December 2018

Volume 6 Issue 12

December Open Hours

The Conservation Area is open to the public:

Mon-Fri 9am-4pm

Sat 9am-1pm

Closed on Sundays
and for Christmas
(12/22-12/25)

FREE Programming & Opportunities to Connect with Nature

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

Sat. 12/1 10:00am-11:00am, Scientific Monitoring

Fri. 12/7 and Sat. 12/8 10:00am-11:00am, Nature Walks

**Sat. 12/15 10:00am-11:00am, Nature for Kids Program~
Hibernation stories and make nature inspired ornaments!**
(register in advance by contacting the email above)

Sat. 1/5 10:00am-11:00am, 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

November Highlights



This fall, thanks to funding from Northrop Gruman and BGE Green Grants, Living Classrooms was able to provide 151 Baltimore City Public School students a unique environmental education experience. During our LandSea program, students spent half of the day sailing on LCF's skipjack *Sigsbee* and the other half of the day at

Masonville Cove Environmental Education Center studying plankton and water quality in college level science labs. Additional thanks to LCF's Shipboard Department for running the "sea" portion of this fieldtrip.

The Baltimore Bird Club hosted a Breakfast with the Birds at MCEEC in November. The day started bright and early and there was a chill in the air, but 15 birders braved the wind in hopes of finding uncommon and exciting species. After a few hours exploring the property, the group reconvened in the great room for hot coffee and pastries. There they discussed their findings which included many birds of prey like the Sharp-shinned Hawk. That same day MCEEC staff hosted their very first

Nature with Kids Program. Children and their families made owls, foxes, and spooky spiders using a variety of materials, from pinecones and acorns, to pipe cleaners, googly eyes, and felt. The craft allowed visitors to use their imagination and create animals that were truly one-of-a-kind. Some kids even turned their creations into ornaments. How festive!



Animal Activity

Now that winter is almost here, many animals are preparing to go into hibernation until the spring. However, there are still some critters that stay active throughout the cold months. Foxes and deer are two of our most notable winter residents. These mammals grow thicker coats in the wintertime to protect themselves from dropping temperatures and are well adapted

(continued on opposite side).



Scenes at Masonville Cove: Pinecone critters at the "Nature for Kids" program; Tom taking water quality measurements during scientific monitoring; Turtle braving the cold water; Breakfast with the Birds.

to finding food when meals are scarce. Foxes in particular are quite efficient at listening for scurrying critters beneath the snow, while deer can use their long legs to dig for twigs, grasses, and nuts.

Many birds are also prominent Maryland residents during the winter, developing heavier plumage to combat the cold. Some birds live in Maryland year round while others migrate from more Northern climates and consider Maryland winters to be mild. In addition, the prominence of bird feeders has allowed the winter range of many birds to expand. Birds that typically fly south for the winter may spend longer periods of time in states such as Maryland because bird feeders are providing new and plentiful sources of food. In the future, we may see greater shifts in winter bird residency, with climate change.

As you look out your window or walk around Masonville, keep a lookout for common winter birds, such as the Downy Woodpecker, Blue Jay, and Northern Cardinal. These birds feed on a combination of berries and seeds, and can use their strong beaks to break through bark in search of insects.



Meet a Member of the Masonville Team!

During the summer, we gained a wonderful addition to the Masonville team, Valerie B. Valerie is the lead educator for Living Classrooms at Masonville Cove and serves as program coordinator for SLURRP (School Leadership in Urban Runoff Reduction Project). She started with LCF as the STEM Educator at BUGS (Baltimore Urban Gardening with Students), an LCF afterschool program for students grades 2-5 at the East Harbor Campus. She received her B.S. in Biology and Environmental Science at Frostburg State University and an M.S. in Sustainability Management from American University. In her free time, Valerie enjoys being outdoors with her pups, cooking from her garden, and playing board games with family and friends.



Happy Holidays

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