



# News from Masonville Cove Environmental Education Campus

*An urban wildlife refuge partnership*

A Monthly Newsletter

APRIL & MAY 2016

Volume 4 Issue 4&5

### April & May Open Hours

The Conservation Area is open to the public:

Mon-Fri 9am-4pm

Sat 9am-1pm

Closed Sundays,



Closed 5/30 Memorial Day Holiday

### Free Programming for Young Children & Families

To reserve your spot, go to [www.masonvillecove.org](http://www.masonvillecove.org) then follow the link and instructions in right column under Pre-K programs.

**Sat, 5/7 9:30-10:30am, 11am-Noon** Science Alive Kids Under 5--Flowers!

**Sat, 5/21 9:30-10:30am, 11am-Noon** Science Alive Kids Under 5--Nests!

### Other [FREE] Opportunities to Connect with Nature

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

**Tues 5/10 10am-Noon**, Second Tuesdays with MC Stewards: Milkweed Planting

**Wed 5/18, 1:30-2:30pm**, Guided Nature Walk

### 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)

### Project Clean Stream at Masonville Cove ~ a big success

On April 2nd the conservation area teemed with 98 volunteers for the shoreline and trail cleanup. Masonville Cove partners, Living Classrooms Foundation and National Aquarium Conservation Team organized the event. Shelby Taylor offered free materials from Baltimore City Department of Public Works. Girl Scouts from troops 1462 & 4967 were unstoppable as they removed debris from the walking trails. Other participants represented Bank of America and Johns Hopkins University as part of the President's Day of Service. More volunteers from Baltimore City and surrounding counties collected debris along the living shoreline.

Through their efforts 682 pounds of debris were removed from the



shoreline and trails at Masonville Cove. Participants remarked that this event made them much more aware of the scope of urban debris in our local waterways. Thanks to everyone and to Blue Water Baltimore for coordinating logistical support.

### Volunteer at Masonville Cove

In a previous Newsletter you read about the importance of milkweed to the well-being of Monarch butterflies. During March, volunteers planted milkweed seeds in flats. Now these small plants need to be put in the ground to grow into giants that will feed developing monarch larvae.

Masonville Cove Stewards will be scheduled on the second Tuesday of every month. The first one will be May 10 from 10am-Noon! Curious about this event? We'd love to educate you about milkweed plants and definitely

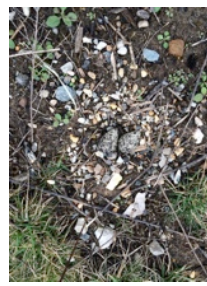
need help to install the seedlings in the ground!

Nest Watch has restarted. This citizen science project, sponsored by Cornell University's Lab of Ornithology, engages citizens to collect data on the reproductive efforts of birds. Many thanks to star volunteer Nancy O'Hara and the Ben Franklin HS interns who have been collecting results for several weeks now. Nest observations happen on Tuesdays at 11:30 and on Saturday around Noon--new observers are most welcomed! We will train you.

**Signs of spring:** A Killdeer pair have hatched 3 young. The osprey are sitting on a nest way out in the Cove; a pair of Canada Geese are tending 4 fluffy goslings; and the tree swallows have reoccupied the nest boxes. Come and see for yourselves! The conservation area is open weekdays and Saturdays(see schedule, above).



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**Scenes at Masonville Cove:** Virginia Opossum in early spring sunshine (photo by Lou Taylor); Community participants remove debris from shoreline; Killdeer nest with 2 eggs (can you spot them?); NACT's Gaby Roffe encourages young artist working on a recycle bin at BenFest.

**Other Masonville Cove News:**

**Beautiful weather and a great turnout for BENFEST:** Squirtle (a Northern Diamondback Terrapin) and the Brain (an Eastern Box Turtle) ~ Masonville Cove Ambassadors went live at BENFEST! Ben Franklin Intern Alissa Purdy was on hand to explain the lives of these creatures when community members stopped by our table.



The National Aquarium Conservation Team coordinated Recycle Bin decorating and giveaways, as well as Storm drain stenciling in order to raise awareness about impacts of urban debris. Living Classrooms staff offered an activity that challenged festival-goers to think about rates of decomposition for everyday items disposed in our household trash. Also, they offered a station where children did water quality testing for pH, alkalinity and nitrates.

**Community Clean Up and More! with Brooklyn Pathway Church of God and TAYR congregations:** Shout out to Gaby Roffe, National Aquarium Conservation Community Coordinator, who organized a fabulous event with two local religious congregations and

engaging them in watershed issues pertinent to Masonville Cove and impacts of urban debris. Church members hosted a cookout at the Baltimore Dream Center, after Sunday services; it was enjoyed by all. In addition, residents of Baltimore City picked up free recycle bins~ we hope this will lessen the amounts of debris on Brooklyn streets. There was massive interest among the children in all the paints used to personalize their bins. Led by church members and Aquarium conservation staff, groups from both congregations picked up debris scattered on the streets of Brooklyn. Nia Edwards, Latino Outreach Liaison at MCEEC, helped with activities involving the Spanish-speaking congregation (TAYR). Lastly, 6 storm drains were stenciled near 9th Street and Washburn. They are beautiful--drive by for a look!



**Ben Franklin HS students come to Masonville Cove for scientific monitoring:** In early April a group of first year environmental science students came to Masonville Cove to experience scientific monitoring first-hand. The students tested water for turbidity, pH, nitrate levels, salinity and temperature. Students also observed wildlife and did photo-documentation of the conservation area.

**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**