



News from Masonville Cove Environmental Education Campus

An urban refuge partnership

A Monthly Newsletter

AUGUST 2015

Volume 3 Issue 8

August Open Hours

The Conservation Area is open to the public:

Mon-Fri 9am-4pm

Sat 9am-1pm

Closed Sundays,



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, 8/1 9:30-10:30am, 11-Noon
Science Alive Kids Under 5- Spiders!

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

Sat, 8/29 9:30-10:30am, 11-Noon
Science Alive Kids Under 5-Hiding in Plain Sight!

Other [FREE] Opportunities to Connect with Nature

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

Thur 8/6 9:30-10:30am Guided Nature Walk~Native Plants

Sat 8/15 10-11am Guided Nature Walk~Shoreline Creatures

Masonville Cove Stewards Events

Wed, 8/5 8:15am-12:15pm

Fri, 8/14 8:15am-12:15pm

Tues, 8/18 8:15am-12:15pm

Fri, 8/28 8:15am-12:15pm

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

VOLUNTEER NEWS from MASONVILLE COVE

Thanks to Social Solutions volunteers for wading right into a massive shoreline clean up: 209 pounds of debris in 2 hours!

Mercedes Benz USA volunteers continued to amaze us as they volunteered over six days during July. They worked on shoreline cleanups collecting over 300 lbs of debris. Other good works included garden maintenance on a



hillside planted with native shrubs, mulching foot paths and outdoor classroom space, staining part of

the access ramp from the parking lot to the conservation area and the installation of a new outdoor habitat for our box turtle. One day volunteers from Mercedes Benz joined conservation staff from the National Aquarium in scientific monitoring in the conservation area.

A huge thanks to Mercedes Benz USA and their volunteers for their wonderful contribution to Masonville Cove.

Masonville Cove Stewards: join an exciting new group of volunteers ~

Participate in citizen science studies of the upland, shoreline and aquatic habitats. Learn about MD's native plants, help us to tend the gardens and to care for and develop insect and bird habitats. This area is valuable teaching and learning space for Masonville Cove's programs. Earn service credits. For more information, please call 410-246-0669 x100 and talk with Patty or email friends@masonvillecove.org.

August's Masonville Stewards Projects:

Wed 8/5: Naive Plant Gardens

Fri 8/14: Citizen Science Studies in the Conservation area

Tues 8/18: Trail Maintenance

Fri 8/28: Shoreline Cleanup

RESCHEDULED BIOBLITZ, Saturday 9/12



Scenes at Masonville Cove: Happy 'Pollinator' at ScienceAlive community program; Volunteers from Social Solutions moving driftwood from shoreline; a BEE SMART student examining flower parts; Everyone introducing the box turtle to new outdoor habitat built by Mercedes Benz USA volunteers

BEE SMART program

Students and educators are in their last week of this new summer program funded by Maryland 21st Century Community Learning Centers. It has been wonderfully enriching for educators and students alike.



As part of BEE SMART, students engage in many exciting STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) activities

including building and testing underwater robots, creating a food chain, creating their own super heroes made of vegetables and dissecting a flower. Also, BEE SMART students engage in service learning projects (making granola for loved ones and debris cleanups) and in character education (building self-esteem and gaining skill at conflict resolution). To top it all off, reading specialists have created reading and writing exercises that build on the STEM content. Reading specialists have worked with small groups throughout the program to raise reading levels.

Urban Conservation & Education Interns

Masonville Cove partners (LCF, NACT & USFWS-listed below) hosted 4 college students as part of the UC&E Internship, that allowed them to explore careers in conservation and environmental education. During their 8 weeks, interns helped clean up the



conservation area, worked with MC staff on outreach programs about clean water, banded osprey and restored wetlands in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Along the way, they expanded their expertise and had fun, too! Thank you to Anastasia Alvarez Johnson, Tamara Taylor, Stephen Celano and Karlis Grauze!

US Fish & Wildlife Service biologists confirm Common Tern nesting colony at Masonville Cove.

In early July USFWS biologists inspected an abandoned barge just outside the Cove to discover 50-70 adult pairs and a number of chicks close to fledging. USFWS biologist Chris Guy noted " these common terns are using Masonville Cove Urban Wildlife Refuge Partnership for nearby cover and food showing how crucial the habitat restoration has been for important Chesapeake Bay species."

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