



# News from Masonville Cove Environmental Education Campus

*An urban refuge partnership*

A Monthly Newsletter

FEBRUARY 2015

Volume 3 Issue 2

## February Open Hours

The Conservation Area is open to the public:

Mon-Fri 11am-4pm

Sat 9am-1pm

Closed Sundays,

Closed on President's Day, 2/16



## 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, 2/7 9:30-10:30am, 11-Noon** Science Alive Kids Under 5-For the Love of Animals

**Sat, 2/14 9:30-11am,** Habitat Heroes(ages 7-13) Oyster Investigation

**Sat, 2/21 9:30-10:30am, 11am-Noon** Science Alive Kids Under 5 - Bears!

**Sat, 2/21 9:30-10:30am** Budding Biologists (ages 5-7) -Groundhogs

## Other [FREE] Opportunities to Connect with Nature

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

**Wed, 2/11 2:30-3:30pm** Guided Nature Walk

**4:30-6:30pm** MCEEC Critters visit Brooklyn Public Library, 300 East Patapsco Ave.

**Thur, 2/26 12:30-1:30pm** Guided Nature Walk

**Sat, 2/28 8:30-10:30am** Breakfast with the Birds, Learn about migratory waterfowl, indoors and outdoors

## MCEEC Contact Information

1000 Frankfur 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)

## Ben Franklin High School Interns join the team at Masonville Cove

Jessica W. (L) and Ashley L. (R) are new interns at Masonville Cove.



They will explore job opportunities in the natural resources field. Among their activities are assisting environmental educators with free Saturday programs, focusing on building job skills, welcoming visitors to the campus and caring for the critters in tanks at the Education Building. Jessica, a senior at BFHS, aspires to be a pediatric nurse and reports

"What I look forward to most is seeing Masonville grow and help the environment more, teach more young minds, see how they can help. Ashley, a junior at BFHS reports "There are some cool things out here and I like it here. I am excited to learn something new every time I am here."



**Mid Winter Bird Count-** Led by birders David Walbeck and Frank Morgan, a group counted birds in the Conservation

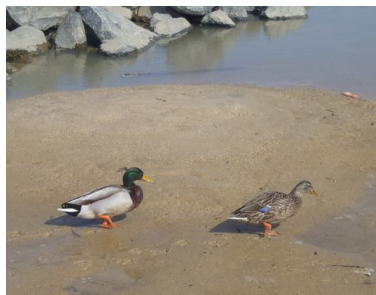
Area and in the Dredged Material Containment Facility[DMCF] one Saturday in mid-January. On land, red-winged blackbirds, white-crowned sparrows, a

mockingbird, Carolina wren, song sparrow, and belted kingfisher were noted. On the mostly frozen Cove the group counted bufflehead, several kinds of gulls, and mallards. The big news was that counts and species were much higher at the DMCF(not frozen). Large numbers of Northern shovelers, and canvasbacks were observed. Other species included lesser scaup, hooded merganser, gadwall and goldeneye.

## Come to Breakfast with the Birds on

Saturday 2/28 to learn more about migratory waterfowl! The free program is geared toward older children and adult.





*Scenes at Masonville Cove: Mallard pair at the Shoreline, Raised Beds with Snow Cover, Educator Beth L. and Students at Rocky Rockfish field trip, Volunteer Nancy S. inspecting and cleaning bird boxes*

**Spotlight on one fabulous Environmental Educational Program**

Remember that sense of wonder and anticipation of adventure you felt when you were in elementary school? That's how it feels when third graders from local schools come to Masonville Cove for their field trips. They have been primed for the trip by classroom activities and are ready to explore the mysteries of how human actions affect processes and creatures living in the Chesapeake Bay and its tributary rivers. Now for the details.

The Masonville Cove team is entering their 7th year of one of their favorite programs: Treasuring Our Chesapeake Bay (TOCB). TOCB is a third-grade program offered to students at eight local schools.

The team visits the students' classroom to introduce the Chesapeake Bay and teach them that the body of water in their neighborhood is not "the ocean," but the Patapsco River, a tributary of the Chesapeake. They learn about freshwater, brackish water and seawater. They then visit Masonville to be part of a murder mystery titled "Who Killed Rocky Rockfish," investigating suspects like Lindsay Litter, Hot Water

Harry, Solute Sally, Oscar Osprey, and Food Chain Frank. Students evaluate evidence gathered during their investigations to discern which of the suspects caused the death of Rocky Rockfish.

After leaving, they receive one more visit from the team where they cast the blame on the suspects of their choosing as a class, and learn how to stop the nefarious suspects from hurting any of Rocky's friends in the future by recycling or disposing of trash properly.

Students have returned to Masonville years later asking about Rocky, and looking for his gravestone, which can be found some days in the garden. It is great fun for all, and we look forward to continuing to story!



**Scout Troop Visits MC for Bird-themed Conservation Program-** Scouts from South Baltimore Pack #577 spent a morning at Masonville Cove learning about birds, making several kinds of bird feeders and cleaning nest boxes for the upcoming bird breeding

season. Says leader Kim S "Wow, that activity was far and beyond what I could have hoped for the boys. You were so thoughtful in making the activity appropriate for them, informative, and also useful. "

**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**