



News from Masonville Cove Environmental Education Campus

An urban refuge partnership

A Monthly Newsletter

JANUARY 2015

Volume 3 Issue 1

January Open Hours

The Conservation Area is open to the public:

Mon-Fri 11am-4pm

Sat 9am-1pm

Closed Sundays

Closed: New Year's Day (1/1) and Martin Luther King, Jr Day (1/19)



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, 1/3 9:30-10:30am, 11-Noon
Science Alive Kids Under 5-Animal Tracks!

Sat, 1/31 9:30-10:30am, 11am-Noon
Science Alive Kids Under 5 - Furbearers!

Sat, 1/31 9:30-10:30am
Budding Biologists (ages 5-7) - Winter Waterfowl

Other [FREE] Opportunities to Connect with Nature

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

Thu, 1/15, 1-2pm Guided Nature Walk

Sat, 1/17, 10-11am Mid-Winter Bird Count

Tues, 1/21, 4:30-6:30pm
MCEEC Critters visit Brooklyn Public Library, 300 E Patapsco Ave

Mon 1/26 2-3pm Guided Nature Walk

MCEEC Contact Information

1000 Frankfurst 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

Holiday Greetings from the Living Classrooms Foundation staff at Masonville Cove- We wish you, your families and your co-workers happiness, good health and prosperity in 2015.

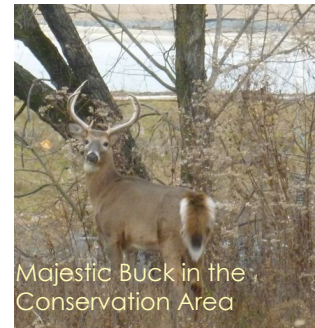


There's scarcely space to recount all the positive things that happened in 2014 at Masonville Cove and our adjacent communities. A few highlights include Filbert Street Garden is now a non-profit

organization, the Brooklyn Branch of the Enoch Pratt Library building has beautiful murals, the Brooklyn and Curtis Bay communities are talking about land use in the Farring BayBrook Park, the National Aquarium Conservation Team engaged the community and completed a Small Watershed Action Plan and the Masonville Cove partners sponsored 3 college interns over the summer who worked and learned about conservation science.

Creativity and Fun at Holiday Ornament Making Program on December 16- Six women attended this free community program. They made wreaths, repurposed baby food jars as painted candleholders, created Santa ornaments from oyster shells and ski ornaments from

popsicle sticks and toothpicks. Take a look at the photos on the following page.

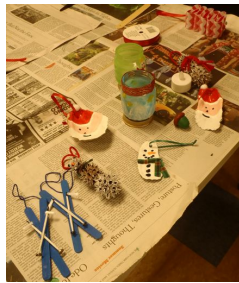


Majestic Buck in the Conservation Area

Volunteer at Masonville Cove- Learn about the project; help improve habitat for Baltimore's flora and fauna; meet and work with community members on

environmental projects, & contribute positively to this first urban wildlife refuge partnership. Just drop by or email using the friends address in the Contact Information panel, above.

Join Experienced Birders in Mid-Winter Bird Count in the Conservation Area, Saturday 1/17 at 10am



Scenes at Masonville Cove: *Lovely holiday wreath created at Community Holiday Program; Other ornaments made at the Holiday Program; Observing waterfowl on end of year Nature Walk; & Hanging Log Bird Feeder*

Feed the Birds!

According to experts at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, wild birds do not need the food handouts at the millions of bird feeders scattered about the country. However, wild birds do need us to protect their habitats so they can successfully survive and reproduce. Birds need shelter, food and fresh water available all year around.

So why feed the birds? Feeders attract wild birds, helping us to better appreciate the variety of creatures in our backyards. Young children can learn about the habitat they share with wild creatures and can become more responsible in caring for these habitats. Most people report that it is fun to observe behaviors of birds visiting feeders or foraging for seed scattered about the yard.

A couple of simple ideas for feeders that can be fun projects on a winter day. Stop by Masonville Cove, if you need more advice to get started:

Extremely simple: Place raw peanuts and/or birdseed in an old pie pan or on a clean scrap of wood, preferably in a spot with a good view from your house's window. You could smear peanut butter onto a tree trunk or put dried fruit into cracks in the bark to attract woodpeckers and nuthatches.

Simple: Take a walk and collect several pinecones. Tie a loop of twine around the pinecones. Spread peanut butter or melted fat onto the cone[s] and then roll in a plate of birdseed or stick dried fruit onto the cone. Chill in the fridge or freezer. Suspend chilled, coated pinecone from a tree or bush. Another idea is to offer a fresh Apple or Orange. Poke a wooden skewer through the fruit. Attach a loop of twine to the skewer. Thread dried fruits or cranberries onto toothpicks and insert into the apple. Suspend from a branch.

Assembly Required: Make a hanging log(see photo above) you need a small log plus a few simple tools, Find a sturdy screw eye: either purchase or dig out of your collection. Next, drill a pilot hole into the end of a small log. Insert the screw eye into the end of the log. Drill or carve out 1" diameter holes in several places along length of the log. Fill with peanut butter mixed with dried fruits and nuts. Suspend with a rope fed through the screw eye.

There are loads of suggestions about feeding wild birds. Check out more ideas from Cornell Lab of Ornithology at http://www.birds.cornell.edu/pfw/slides/Backyard_Bird_Feeding_web.pdf or from the Humane Society at 'Feed Your Backyard Birds': http://www.humanesociety.org/animals/resources/tips/feeding_birds.html

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**