



# News from Masonville Cove Environmental Education Campus

*An urban refuge partnership*

A Monthly Newsletter

JANUARY 2016

Volume 4 Issue 1

## January Open Hours

The Conservation Area is open to the public:

Mon-Fri 9am-4pm

Sat  
9am-1pm

Closed  
Sundays,

Closed for  
New  
Year's Holiday: 1/1-1/3

Closed for MLK Holiday: 1/18



## 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, 1/9 9:30-10:30am, 11-Noon** Science Alive Kids Under 5-Let It Snow!

**Sat, 1/23 9:30-10:30am, 11am-Noon** Science Alive Kids Under 5-Penguins!

## Other [FREE] Opportunities to Connect with Nature

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

**Wed, 1/13 10am-Noon** MC Stewards, Citizen Science, Scientific Monitoring. Pre-register, please

**Fri, 1/22, 2-3pm** Guided Nature Walk

**Sat, 1/23 10am-Noon** Mid-Winter Bird Count-Guided Walk. Pre-register please.

## 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)

## Observing Wildlife at Masonville Cove

Masonville Cove has been a birding hot spot recently. Starting in mid-December, a female Painted Bunting was spotted by birders at the 12/12 Breakfast with the Birds event. Baltimore Bird Club members, including Kevin Graff, saw the Painted Bunting foraging in a shrubby area behind the Education Building.

This migratory species is very rare for Maryland, typically breeding in the southern US and overwintering in the Caribbean, Mexico and Central America. Tim Carney, Environmental Specialist at MD Environmental Service notes this is



Painted Bunting by Tim Carney

the 3rd sighting in Baltimore County records.

Since the initial observation, this relative of the Cardinal has been seen three days in a row in a restricted area near the Education Building (check out the records at Cornell University's eBird site for MC records: <http://ebird.org/ebird/hotspot/L242207> ).

Twice monthly observations of birds in the DMCF and conservation area by Tim Carney of MES produce regular records of birds using the terrestrial and aquatic habitats.

Masonville Cove partner organization US Fish & Wildlife Service recently made observations of small

mammals in an effort to quantify populations in the conservation area and restricted sites at Masonville Cove.

Citizen scientists supplement observations by wildlife professionals. For example during the MC Stewards events (one is scheduled on 1/13-see calendar above), we record wildlife observed and evidence of wildlife. Some observations are just plain fun. At the Breakfast with the Birds event we watched two bucks tussling for more than 20 minutes. Meanwhile a



Buck at outfall stream- photo by Terry Lang

younger buck hanging out with the does got the girl.



**Scenes at Masonville Cove:** Bucks sparring in conservation area, photo by Terry Lang, note pilings of pier in background; Family creating holiday ornaments at community program; Baltimore Bird Club members at Breakfast with the Birds; Living shoreline in conservation area during December.

**New Ben Franklin High School Intern Joins the Weekend Program Team**

By: Alissa Purdy

Hello my name is Alissa Purdy. I am a junior at Benjamin Franklin High school. I recently started interning at Masonville Cove, I wanted to work here because it gives me more experience with kids when I help out with the programs. I also get experience with the animals when I help with critter care. Being here at Masonville is also helping me have responsibility and it is helping me learn how the work world is going to be. In my freshman year of high school I came to Masonville and we planted a water plant to bring back different fish that live in the plants such as tiny fish. As an intern at Masonville I am looking forward to learning more about the animals and how to care for them. I also want to learn how to create things for kids to do. I'm hoping to gain different experiences while I'm working here at Masonville Cove.



**Community Programs ~ Past and Future**

Toddlers to grandmothers came to MCEEC to create holiday ornaments in early December. Participants in the community program decorated glasses from a thrift store as candle holders and pinecones with beads, paint and glitter. Some glued buttons onto tongue depressor trees for a festive addition to their homes, Hot cocoa with peppermint flavored marshmallows, pretzels and candy canes also kept spirits bright!

Each month the campus offers a 1-hour guided nature walk in the conservation area. These informal walks with environmental educators and Md Master Naturalists give adults and children an opportunity to learn about the natural world, local habitats and the scope of the project at Masonville Cove. The next walk is on Friday 1/22 at 2pm.

In December several community members attended an information session about citizen science projects at MCEEC. The hope is to expand on this interest by offering training sessions and structuring the projects to better engage the students and residents of communities close to Masonville Cove. Meanwhile we plan to continue with monthly monitoring of water quality, wildlife in the conservation area and more. You can join in this on Wednesday 1/13 from 10am-Noon.

**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**