



# News from Masonville Cove Environmental Education Campus

*An urban wildlife refuge partnership*

A Monthly Newsletter JANUARY 2017 Volume 5 Issue 1

### January Open Hours

The Conservation Area is open to the public:

Mon-Fri 9am-4pm

Sat 9am-1pm

Closed on Sundays

**Campus Closed on 1/16 for MLK, Jr Observance**



**FREE Programming for Families.** To reserve your spot, email [programs@masonvillecove.org](mailto:programs@masonvillecove.org) or call 410-246-0669 x102

**Sat, 1/7 9:30-10:30am, 11am-12pm** Science Alive for kids <5: *Turtles!*  
**Fri, 1/20 10-11am** Science Alive for kids <5: *Camouflage!*  
**Sat, 1/21 10-11am** Family Outing: *Winter Tracks*

**Other [FREE] Opportunities to Connect with Nature**  
[events@masonvillecove.org](mailto:events@masonvillecove.org) for more information or to pre-register call 410-246-0669, x100.  
**Tues, 1/10, 10am-12pm** 2nd Tuesdays with Masonville Stewards~Work on Walking Trails  
**Fri, 1/13 12:30-1:30pm** Guided Nature Walk~Explore Tracks on the Shoreline and Shorebirds  
**Wed, 1/25 9:30am-12pm** Citizen Science~ Scientific Monitoring  
**Tues, 1/31, 12:30-2:30pm** Community Program ~Winter Botany

**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)

### Breakfast with the Birds led by Baltimore Bird Club

On 3 December members of the Baltimore Bird Club[BBC] came to Masonville Cove for a breakfast followed by a walk in Access Zone 2. The group was guided by Maryland Environmental Service's Tim Carney and Doug Griffith, as the area is not open to the public. Peter Lev of the BBC lead fellow birders in observations of birds in the upland wetlands, shoreline and brushy thickets. A fox sparrow pair was spotted in a brushy area. In addition, the group observed a Rusty Blackbird (*Euphagus carolinus*), which is a relatively uncommon bird that overwinters in our area.

According to Cornell University Lab of Ornithology, the Rusty Blackbird is among the most rapidly declining bird species in North America. Over the past 4 decades their numbers have dropped by more than 85%. However, ornithologists do not understand why. Read more about this bird at ([https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Rusty\\_Blackbird/id](https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Rusty_Blackbird/id)).



### By the numbers, 2016 was a great year at MCEEC

Nearly 2800 students were served by programs at Masonville Cove amounting to 7393 student hours! Students participated in environmental education during the school year and in formal programs during the summer months.

Another two thousand people attended programs or visited the campus during 2016.

Volunteers made sterling contributions to the Masonville Cove Campus. Thirteen individuals contributed 135 hours. More than 290 people

volunteered as part of a group doing plantings, shoreline cleanups, invasive plant removal projects and weeding. Their volunteer time exceeded 1235 hours.

THANK YOU!

Have a look at the calendar (above) or check the online calendar ([www.masonvillecove.org](http://www.masonvillecove.org) and click on the Calendar tab) for programming and volunteer opportunities. Let us know if you have a corporate or service group that would like to volunteer. We have standard monthly volunteer events. You can make 2017 an even better year!



**Scenes at Masonville Cove: Members of the Baltimore Bird Club enjoy an outing in Access Zone 2; Red fox along the shoreline (photo by TJ Lang); Spartina patens plantings thrive in Access Zone 2; Students engage in hands-on investigations of water quality at Masonville Cove (photo by Will Parson, Chesapeake Bay Program).**

**Urban Conservation & Education Internship: Seeking College Students**

For the fourth summer in a row Masonville Cove is hosting a field-based summer internship for college students from the Baltimore area. We are currently seeking students from the Baltimore region who want to learn about the importance of conservation throughout the Chesapeake Bay region by working with staff from the National Aquarium, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Living Classrooms Foundation and the Maryland Port Administration.



Field-based means most of the work will require getting your hands dirty outside. Some of the projects last summer included: osprey banding, wetland planting, shark tagging, and leading environmental education activities for Baltimore City youth. This internship encourages not only learning about the

natural world, but also sharing that knowledge with others.

Any undergraduate student from the Baltimore area that is interested is encouraged to apply; check out the Masonville Cove website for more information about the program and how to submit an application. Applications are due by Tuesday, February 28<sup>th</sup>. If you have any questions you can contact internship staff at [uceinternship@gmail.com](mailto:uceinternship@gmail.com) or 410-576-1508.

**Curious about Plants?**

On the 31st of January there is a free public program to explore identifying traits of woody plants during winter! We'll be talking about leaf bundle scars, bud scales and bark and doing some fun tree detective work. There will be some later programs in February and March when we can track some of the seasonal changes in trees at Masonville Cove!

If you are interested in helping with greenhouse planting projects, we'll be starting up in late February and early March. The goal is to plant natives to support pollinators. Look for details in future Newsletters!

**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**