



# News from Masonville Cove Environmental Education Campus

*An urban refuge partnership*

A Monthly Newsletter

JULY 2015

Volume 3 Issue 7

## July Open Hours

The Conservation Area is open to the public:

Mon-Fri 9am-4pm

Sat 9am-1pm

Closed Sundays,

**Closed for Independence Day**



## 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, 7/11 9:30-10:30am, 11-Noon**  
Science Alive Kids Under 5-Water, Water Everywhere!

**Sat, 7/18 9:30-10:30am, 11-Noon**  
Science Alive Kids Under 5-Turtles!

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

## Other [FREE] Opportunities to Connect with Nature

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

**Wed 7/8 1-2pm** Guided Nature Walk~Wildflowers

**Sat 7/25 10:30-11:30am**  
Guided Nature Walk~Butterflies

Masonville Cove Stewards Events(more below)

**Fri 7/10 8:15am-12:15pm**

**Fri 7/24 8:15am-12:15pm**

**Fri 7/31 8:15am-12:15pm**

## MCEEC Contact Information

1000 Frankfurst 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)

## Summer Programs for Children Underway

Environmental educators at Masonville Cove are doing what they do best: engaging urban youth in hands-on learning focused on STEM objectives and mindfulness about local watersheds. The new program, BEE SMART, frames these activities for students in reading and in writing about their experiences.

The first week of the program saw lots of happy, engaged 3-5th graders from South Baltimore schools. The students had lots to write about. They read about, built and tested ROVs (Remotely Operated Vehicles-see photo,



below left), explored the waters of the Patapsco River aboard Living Classrooms' vessel the *Mildred Belle*, and encountered an offspring of Harriet and Frederick, the osprey pair with a nest in the cove(see photo, below right).



Other educators are teaching about Whales and about the Chesapeake Bay

in a Johns Hopkins University-sponsored program, Center for Talent Youth. These courses entail classroom learning, field trips and overnight trips on the Bay or to New England whale sites.

From time to time the Urban Conservation and Education interns drop in for supplies or to participate in Masonville Cove programs. These four college-aged interns are sponsored by MCEEC partners and led by MC educator Molly Finch.

## Snippets from Masonville Cove

\*Watch for a new date for MC BioBlitz. Stormy weather postponed this event.

\*Enjoy and Learn on a Guided Nature Walk. In July the walks focus on wildflowers and butterflies.



**Scenes at Masonville Cove:** *Volunteering Untapped group victorious after their the clean up at the living shoreline; Swamp Milkweed, a native attractive to monarch butterflies, in bloom near vernal pool; Gilman School students hit the crabgrass hard; Mercedes Benz USA volunteers make a major haul in their shoreline clean up.*

**Volunteer News from Masonville Cove**  
**During June MANY volunteers worked to improve the habitat at Masonville Cove**

Heartfelt thanks goes to a corporate group that has made a very generous commitment to support Masonville Cove programming spaces and habitat development. During June, Mercedes Benz USA, a near neighbor on the MD Port Administration property, has sent 4 groups totaling 25 employees and contributing more than 150 volunteer hours.

The groups removed debris from the living shorelines, installed protective fencing over new wetland plants, created a new trail along the east bank of the outfall creek, and removed countless pounds of weeds from the native plant gardens.

They will continue their volunteer work through July. We are very grateful for their enthusiastic support!



Thirteen adults organized by Volunteering Untapped donned gloves and Wellington boots for a shoreline cleanup in mid June. Overcast weather kept conditions cooler, ideal for outdoor work. They loaded shoreline debris into garbage bags, tallying up 86 lbs! Thanks to everyone for their good work.

Eleven Gilman School students and Upper School English teacher, Chris Dawson, tackled mountains of crabgrass and other weeds invading Masonville Cove's native plant gardens. Their work helped the native plants to thrive and improved this valuable teaching and learning area. After lunch the group toured the conservation area. Thanks Gilman School!

Lastly, thanks to Nancy O'Hara who has dedicated her lunch hour to a citizen science project observing and recording details about birds' nests in the conservation area. Her results are part of Nest Watch, a program developed by Cornell's Ornithology Lab.

**NEW! For community members and students seeking service learning hours ~ Become a MC Steward.** Learn about MD's native plants, help us to tend the gardens and to develop insect and bird habitats. This area is valuable teaching and learning space for Masonville Cove's programs. Earn service credits. Call 410-246-0669 x100 and talk with Patty. Parents or guardians must accompany students 16 years and under-- think family fun. Anyone under 18 years of age must have a responsible adult sign their waiver.

**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**