



News from Masonville Cove Environmental Education Campus

An urban wildlife refuge partnership

A Monthly Newsletter

JULY 2016

Volume 4 Issue 7

July Open Hours

The Conservation Area is open to the public:

Mon-Fri 9am-4pm

Sat 9am-1pm

Closed Sundays,

The campus will be closed 2-4 July



FREE Summer Programming for Families

To reserve your spot, email events@masonvillecove.org or call 410-246-0669 x100

Sat, 7/9, 9:30-10:30am Guided Nature Walk~Summer Wildflowers

Sat, 7/16, 9:30am-1pm Latino Conservation Week ~ Family fun and conservation activities offered in Spanish and English

Other [FREE] Opportunities to Connect with Nature

For more information or pre-register or call 410-246-0669, x100.

Tues, 7/12, 10am-12pm 2nd Tuesdays with Masonville Stewards- Gardening and Monitoring Insects on Milkweed Plants

Wed, 7/27 9am-12pm Citizen Science, Scientific Monitoring

MCEEC Contact Information

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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

Masonville Cove Partners engage local community in creating native plant gardens

The National Aquarium Conservation Team and Chesapeake Conservation Corps intern Andrea VanWyck worked with Brooklyn congregations at the Pathway Church of God and Templo de Alabanza y Restauración to create a pollinator garden and beautiful sidewalk mural at the Baltimore Dream Center located at 3701 9th Street. The garden was blessed in a ceremony and community lunch on June 26th. Take a moment to drive over and have a look!



Three classes of 1st and 2nd Graders at Curtis Bay

Elementary School Students learned about native butterflies and their host plants on June 16th. Sheperded by Rodette Jones of Filbert St Garden (a community garden in Curtis Bay) and Nia Edwards of Hispanic Access Foundation and Living Classrooms Foundation, the students marched across Filbert Street to the garden to plant native milkweed plants, which are host plants for the Monarch butterfly.



All together 75 plants were carefully tucked into a newly prepared garden patch. Hopefully the students will stop by during the summer to check on their baby plants! And you can, too.

Join with Masonville Cove partners and curious, conservation-minded neighbors in a free public event:

Summer is an active time here. In July and August we offer morning stewardship opportunities on the 2nd Tuesday of the month. These will focus on observing insects on milkweed plants and other pollinator plants. Interesting! If citizen science is something you'd like to experience, we will be monitoring the conservation area for wildlife on land and in the air plus testing the water quality on July 27th. There are monthly nature walks which are fun for families-check the calendar tab at <http://www.masonvillecove.org> .



Scenes at Masonville Cove: Gallery Church volunteer with milkweed plants to be installed; Volunteers planting milkweed; Packer Collegiate Institute seniors during service trip; Breakfast with the Birds (& Plants) explorers in Access Zone 2 lead by MES staff Tim Carney and Doug Griffith

Volunteer News at Masonville Cove

We welcome volunteers, as individuals or in groups, to engage in conservation actions at Masonville Cove. During June we hosted several volunteer events:

- Thank you to 9 students and a chaperone from Packer Collegiate Institute in Brooklyn NY. These HS seniors did a fabulous cleanup of the garden in front of the building as part of a service trip.
- We hosted two planting events during National Pollinator Week in the last week of June. Thank you to volunteers Susan, Loring, Ann and Maggie and to MES's Darius who planted over 300 milkweed plants. A few days later a group of 7 from Gallery Church in Mt Vernon volunteered in another planting. They planted 3 different species of milkweed, plus plants from a NRCS [Natural Resources Conservation Service-see photo, at right] project near the Education Building. All together over 250 plants were installed. Thanks Gallery Church volunteers! Also, thanks to MES's Ricky and Aquarium's Curtis and Gaby for extra hands-on help.



- Thank you to Nancy O for her steady observations of nesting birds as part of Cornell University's NestWatch.
- Last, thanks to regular MCEEC volunteers Kate, Ann and Kevin for their good work.

Third BioBlitz happened under near perfect weather: Organized by National Aquarium, this event brings specialists and citizen participants together to explore and record observations about biodiversity in this urban refuge. Of the 172 species counted, over 40% were insects. Notably, Sam Droege, Wildlife Biologist for the U.S. Geological Survey, discovered 12 species of bees that had not previously been recorded in Baltimore City prior to the BioBlitz. Check the iNaturalist website for details [<http://www.inaturalist.org/projects/masonville-cove-bioblitz-2016>].

Urban Conservation & Education Internship brings 4 Maryland college students to MCEEC. Over 10 weeks these interns work with MCEEC partners to experience best practices in conservation and education related to the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Watch for more details about their projects in the August Newsletter.

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