



# News from Masonville Cove Environmental Education Campus

*An urban refuge partnership*

A Monthly Newsletter

JUNE 2015

Volume 3 Issue 6

## June Open Hours

The Conservation Area is open to the public:

Mon-Fri 9am-4pm

Sat 9am-1pm

Closed Sundays,

## 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, 6/13 9:30-10:30am, 11-Noon** Science Alive Kids Under 5-Pollinators!



## Other [FREE] Opportunities to Connect with Nature

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

**Fri 6/12 11:30am-12:30pm** Guided Nature Walk

**Sat 6/20 10am-11am** Guided Nature Walk

**Sat 6/27 10am-1pm** Participate in 2nd Annual BioBlitz (explore and record biodiversity at MCEEC). To pre-register, please contact [conserve@aqua.org](mailto:conserve@aqua.org) or (410) 576-1014 or search 'Bio Blitz at Masonville Cove'

## 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)

## Volunteer News from Masonville Cove

### Thanks to Volunteer Groups that spruced up our gardens and cleaned up the living shoreline

A group of first year upper school students from Gilman, Bryn Mawr and Roland Park Country Schools came to Masonville Cove in mid-May. Organized by Piper Bond, the group sprang into action to remove debris from the shoreline, grapple with crab grass invading the native plant gardens and move driftwood from the shoreline to outline a mulched patch to be used as an outdoor 'classroom'. Thanks for all your hard work; and you were so polite and super fun to work with!

A big shout out to a team from Northwestern Mutual office in

Baltimore City who helped us with many jobs at the Education Building. They moved mulch, weeded our flower beds, prepped some materials for upcoming school and summer events. Thanks for everything.

### High School Intern Trevor Wilson ~ In his own words

My name is Trevor Wilson, a junior at Catonsville High School. I'm currently working as an intern at Masonville Cove. I've been here for 9 months and it's been great. My experiences at Masonville Cove have been eye opening. I have learned so much about the environment that I'm sure



many people tend to forget. Whether it is about how pollution affects water clarity and the effects it has on aquatic life, the useful benefits of alternative energy, or even why a hungry opossum is a bad thing! All the activities I have done here are to benefit the programs run here and the people who work here. Out of all the tasks that were assigned, helping the young environmentalists learn how to create a better, cleaner world is incredible. I'm really glad to have worked here. Many things have been taught to me and I have been able to take my skills to new levels. I'll be able to take these skills to college and future careers in the medical field as well, which is what I plan on doing in the near future. As I continue on into my future Masonville Cove will be a place I will sorely miss.



**Scenes at Masonville Cove:** Students at Festival encounter a river otter pelt; Baltimore City high school students volunteer at shoreline clean up; Volunteer Ann B. and daughter Maggie planting milkweed seeds; Team from Northwestern Mutual at recent volunteer event.

**Masonville Cove Campus is site for 9th Annual Environmental Education Festival**

Over three days in mid-May, nearly 400 students, their teachers and chaperones from eight Baltimore City schools came to our campus for hands-on learning about the impacts of runoff pollution and the creatures that share our shorelines. During the festival, Mother Nature offered up a variety of weather from sweltering humidity, to blustery, and cool rainy conditions. The students and presenters were fabulous through it all!



We are so thankful for presentations by environmental educators from the MD Department of Natural Resources, the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration, US Fish & Wildlife Service, Baltimore County Recreation and Parks, MD Environmental Service, University of Maryland Cooperative Extension Service and the National Aquarium Conservation

Team. Also, many thanks to Shoppers Food for donating the healthy food enjoyed by our students at lunchtime.

Students participated in shoreline plantings of wetland grasses, simulated wetland impacts in pervious and impervious land surfaces, designed and built bouys(see photo at left), learned about horseshoe crabs (not really crabs, though), butterflies and their host plants and did a take-home planting, encountered wildlife native to the Chesapeake region, and made bird feeders to take home. It's hard to capture everything that happened but suffice to say the students were like sponges soaking up new ideas and experiences.

**Get Ready for the BIOBLITZ at Masonville Cove on Saturday June 27.**

Explore biodiversity with scientists, naturalists, teachers and families as folks gather to record as many living organisms as they can find in this 3 hour event. Please pre-register for the BioBlitz, sponsored by the Conservation Team at the National Aquarium -- see the contact information in the calendar section on the previous page, or search [www.aqua.org](http://www.aqua.org) for conservation events.

**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**