



# News from Masonville Cove Environmental Education Campus

*An urban refuge partnership*

A Monthly Newsletter

MARCH 2015

Volume 3 Issue 3

## March Open Hours

The Conservation Area is open to the public:

Mon-Fri 11am-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, 3/7 9:30-10:30am, 11-Noon** Science Alive Kids Under 5-Birds and Bird Feeders!

**Sat, 3/21 9:30-10:30am,** Science Alive Kids Under 5 - Worms!

**Sat, 3/21 11am-Noon** Stepping Stone Workshop for the Whole Family

## Other [FREE] Opportunities to Connect with Nature

For more information or call 410-246-0669, x100

**Tues, 3/10 1-2pm** Guided Nature Walk

**Sat, 3/14 10-11:30am** 'Green' Cleaning Products Workshop

**Fri, 3/20 1-3pm** Garden Clean up for Spring

**Wed, 3/25 3-4pm** MCEEC @ Brooklyn Branch Library, 300 E Patapsco Ave. 'Green' Cleaning Products Workshop

**Thur, 3/26 12:30-1:30pm** Guided Nature Walk

**Sat, 3/28 7:45-10am** Breakfast with the Birds, Learn about migratory waterfowl, indoors and outdoors

## 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)

## TAKE a WALK on the Wild Side:

Did you know that Masonville Cove is the first Urban Wildlife Refuge Partnership in the United States? This designation by the US Fish and Wildlife Service recognizes the excellent work among the partner organizations to make the natural world and the outdoors more accessible to people living in cities. Did you know that you could walk on trails and along the shoreline on 11-acres of the conservation area on weekdays between 11am and 4pm and on Saturdays between 9am and 1pm?

In addition, we offer Guided Nature Walks twice every month. Take in the benefits of a walk in

the conservation area, learn about the MC project, and see some of the creatures that inhabit this urban refuge. These walks are free. Maryland Master Naturalists or Environmental Educators will guide you and answer your questions during these hour-long walks.



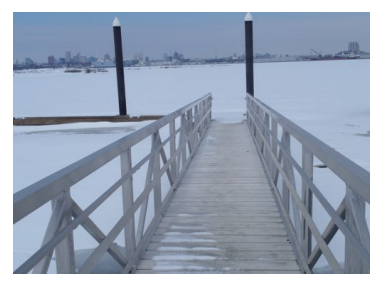
*Budding Naturalists preparing for a Nature Walk*

## Natural Weed and Insect Control for your Garden:

Monday 3/9 4-6pm at the Brooklyn Branch Library on Patapsco Ave. Presented by the Filbert Street Garden pros. Check it out!

## Another Chance to Learn about Migratory Waterfowl:

A frozen Cove and persistent frigid weather postponed the Breakfast with the Birds. You can still learn about the amazing migratory ducks and geese that spend their winters in the Chesapeake Bay region. New date for Breakfast with the Birds is Saturday March 28. Please pre-register at [events@masonvillecove.org](http://events@masonvillecove.org) or call 410-246-0669 x100.



**Scenes at Masonville Cove:** Red Fox at the Shoreline-photo by Terry Lang, Black Locusts during a recent Snowstorm, Volunteer Joan V at Brooklyn Branch Library Program featuring MC critters, Downtown Baltimore across from the floating pier and frozen Cove.

**Masonville Cove Snake and Turtles welcomed at the Brooklyn Branch of the Enoch Pratt Library:**

On a cold afternoon in mid-February, three beloved reptiles from Masonville Cove were packed into a warm car headed to the Brooklyn Branch Library for a community program. Excited murmurs rippled through the library as a tank containing Pinky, Masonville Cove's corn snake, made its way to the meeting room. In addition, Squirtle, a diamondback terrapin native to the brackish waters of the Chesapeake Bay, and 'the Brain' a box turtle native to Maryland were introduced to a group of about 50 patrons of the Library. A big 'thank you' to Linda Schwartz, Branch Manager, for arranging this community program. Also thanks to Joan and Nancy, Maryland Master Naturalist program interns, who volunteered to help with the program.



**On Saturday, April 11<sup>th</sup>, 9am-12pm sign up for Project Clean Stream:**

This statewide effort to clean up streams and woodlands in the Chesapeake Bay watershed is organized through the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay( read more at <https://allianceforthebay.org/our-work/connecting-people/project-clean-stream/> ). Last year Masonville Cove was one of 260 sites that collected a total of 425,000 pounds of trash.

Join your neighbors on April 11th to clean up the shoreline and stream that connects Brooklyn and Curtis Bay to Masonville Cove. To sign up send an email to [events@masonvillecove.org](mailto:events@masonvillecove.org) or call Beth Lenker at 410-246-0669 x102. Because participants will be working on uneven terrain, the event is restricted to ages 13 years and older; and parents or guardians must accompany those between the ages of 13 and 18 years of age.

**Countdown to Spring:** Participate in free, spring-themed programs at Masonville Cove in March. Check the calendar section on page 1.

**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**