



# News from Masonville Cove Environmental Education Campus

*An urban wildlife refuge partnership*

A Monthly Newsletter

MARCH 2016

Volume 4 Issue 3

### March Open Hours

The Conservation Area is open to the public:

Mon-Fri 9am-4pm

Sat 9am-1pm

Closed Sundays,

Closed for Easter Holiday 3/25-3/26



### 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, 3/5 9:30-10:30am, 11am-Noon** Science Alive Kids Under 5-Frogs!

**Sat, 3/19 9:30-10:30am, 11am-Noon** Science Alive Kids Under 5-Boats & Floats!

### Other [FREE] Opportunities to Connect with Nature

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

**3/8, 3-4pm**, Guided Nature Walk

**3/10, 10:30-Noon**, Volunteer to Plant Milkweed Seeds

**3/23, 2:30-3:30pm**, Volunteer to Plant Milkweed Seeds

**Sat. 4/2 9am-1pm** Project Clean Stream. (see article below)

### MCEEC Contact Information

1000 Frankurst 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)

### You're Invited to be a Watershed Steward ~ Project Clean Stream, Saturday April 2nd, 9am-1pm

Living Classrooms Educators and National Aquarium Conservation staff will join forces for a fun day focused on impacts of urban debris on our watersheds and how to get a handle on our trash. This event is family-friendly with a variety of age-appropriate activities. Youth and adults can participate in **Project Clean Stream**, a Maryland-wide initiative to tackle trash in and around state waterways. We'll be working along the living shoreline and outfall stream. Younger children will learn about urban debris, healthy choices for our waterways and how critters are impacted by urban debris.



To pre-register, email [events@masonvillecove.org](mailto:events@masonvillecove.org) or call 410-246-0669, x100.

### Planting for Monarchs and other Pollinators- Volunteers Needed

This year the partners at Masonville Cove will collaborate to help improve the habitat in south Baltimore for Monarch butterflies and other native pollinators. It starts with having the right plants to support the various life stages of butterflies and other pollinator insects. For the Monarch, milkweed is crucial as food for the caterpillars.

Come to Masonville Cove for free programs on March 10 and 23 to learn more about monarchs, milkweeds and conservation efforts. We will set up seed flats for milkweed seeds collected at Poplar Island and in the



MC conservation area. The plants require an early start so there will be plenty of leaves for the caterpillars to feast upon and prolific blossoms for adults to gather nectar from.

### Free bilingual program educates about local watersheds

Community members attended a family program focused on local watersheds and lead by Nia Edwards, new Latino Community Outreach Coordinator at Masonville Cove. It was a significant start to offering community outreach to Spanish-speaking neighbors in south Baltimore. Hands-on activities using models and stories emphasized human impacts on the Patapsco River and Chesapeake Bay.



**Scenes at Masonville Cove:** Three generations volunteer for Citizen Science-Monitoring; Gary Peters and MC's Molly Finch support a mold of an enormous rockfish on loan; Outreach with Latino children at a Brooklyn church; Free program about human impacts on our local watershed.

**Other Masonville Cove News:**

**Update on Postponed Mid-Winter Bird Count:** Thank you to David Walbeck a committed naturalist and environmental professional who came to Masonville Cove in early February to complete a mid-winter bird count. This is the third consecutive year of this count at Masonville Cove.

**Great Back Yard Bird Count-**Ben Franklin High School interns Ashley Lyman and Allissa Purdy connected with a global community of bird observers. On a very rainy February 13th the interns conducted a 15-minute survey at Masonville Cove. Using a spotting scope they observed a Northern Cardinal, Dark-eyed Junco and Scaup. They entered their results into the database, <http://gbbc.birdcount.org> for a real time record of bird sightings around the world. This citizen science effort, initiated in 1998 by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and National Audubon Society enlists volunteers to count birds over a specific 4-day period during February.

**New Environmental Educator:** Hello, my name is Julian Whitley and I am the newest member of the education team here at Masonville Cove! I was introduced to Masonville through the Urban Education and Conservation Internship during the summer of 2014, and then worked as a educator for the BEE SMART summer

program the following year.

Currently I work with Masonville on their outreach program SLURRP (School Leadership in Urban Runoff Reduction Project). The program relies on hands on lessons and science experiments to teach local 4th and 5th graders about how runoff from their communities impacts the Chesapeake Bay.



I graduated from the University of Maryland in December with a degree in Environmental Science; I and am excited to continue to work with the Masonville Community!

Julian replaces Marcie Orenstein, MC environmental educator, who will work with the National Aquarium Conservation Team.

**Thanks to avid local fisherman Gary Peters,** a mold of a record striped bass captured by DNR is on loan and graces the wall of the Great Room. It's certain to stimulate curiosity in schoolchildren during field trips.

**Fickle Weather happens in March: Check the website or phone us, if you have questions about weather-related changes in our programs.**

**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**