



News from Masonville Cove Environmental Education Campus

An urban wildlife refuge partnership

A Monthly Newsletter **MARCH 2017** **Volume 5 Issue 3**

MARCH Open Hours

The Conservation Area is open to the public:

Mon-Fri 9am-4pm

Sat 9am-1pm

Closed on Sundays



FREE Programming for Families.

To reserve your spot, email programs@masonvillecove.org or call 410-246-0669 x102

Sat, 3/4 9:30-10:30am, 11am-12pm Science Alive for kids <5: Winter Waterfowl!

Fri, 3/17 10-11am Science Alive for kids <5: Playing with the Wind!

Sat, 3/18 10-11am Family Outing: Treasure Hunt

Other [FREE] Opportunities to Connect with Nature

events@masonvillecove.org for more information or to pre-register call 410-246-0669, x100.

Wed, 3/1 10:30am-12pm Plant Seeds for Pollinators

Fri, 3/3, 10:30-11:30am Guided Nature Walk- Late Winter Botany

Wed, 3/22 9:30am-12pm Citizen Science- Scientific Monitoring

Sat, 3/25 9:30am-12:30pm Volunteer at Project Clean Stream

Fri, 3/31 10:30am-12pm Spring Botany walk

MCEEC Contact Information

1000 Frankfur Avenue, Baltimore MD 21226

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

4th Annual Project Clean Stream at Masonville Cove, Saturday March 25, 9:30am-12:30pm.

It's time to get outdoors and make a difference in your community. Join your neighbors and community partners to remove debris from the shoreline and stream that connects Brooklyn and Curtis Bay to Masonville Cove. Learn about the impacts of marine debris in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

Pre-registration is required for this event. Participants must be at least 10 years old; anyone under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Please contact conserve@aqua.org or 410-576-1014 for more information. To register click aqua.org/conservation-events.

All the debris collected will be weighed and recorded for Project Clean Stream, a bay-wide event sponsored by the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay. Their 2017 goal is to engage 100,000 volunteers at 4000 sites in the Chesapeake Bay watershed and to collect over 4 million pounds of debris.



Share your ideas about public access to Masonville Cove!

The MD Department of Transportation's Port Administration is in the process of identifying ways to improve public access to Masonville Cove. On Thursday, March 16 from 5:30-7:30pm head to Benjamin Franklin High School (Media Room) on 1201 Cambria Street in Brooklyn MD. Attend the community

meeting about access to MCEEC. The Port Administration seeks your input on a Multimodal Transportation Feasibility Study. For more information, please contact Danielle Wilson at MD Environmental Service (dwils@menv.org or 410-729-8921).

Save the Date for BENFEST:

Saturday April 22, from 11am-3pm. Mark your calendars so you'll be sure to take in this engaging community event. Masonville Cove partners will be there. Stop by our tent.



Scenes at Masonville Cove: Newly installed bat box on a poplar tree in the conservation area; Molly admires a newly mulched trail beyond the fence line in Access Zone 2 (opening date TBD); Buds on trees are expanding; Improved walking path around vernal pool area north of Education Building.

Snippets relating to Masonville Cove:

Environmental Education: MCEEC educators hosted a field trip by Maryland Association for Environmental & Outdoor Education (MAEOE) conference attendees on Friday Feb 3. The plan for the group was to experience the range of environmental education activities offered to elementary students on field trips to MCEEC. Besides geocaching, bird watching, and examining plankton samples collected from the Patapsco River, they learned about creatures that inhabit the Chesapeake Bay watershed through a 'creature feature' (photo at right).



Pollinator Support: The greenhouse at Masonville Cove is ready to begin rearing native pollinator plants from seed. The seeds come from local plants and are among those species recommended for the Mid-Atlantic region by the Xerces Society in their "Bring Back the Pollinators" campaign (http://www.xerces.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/MidAtlanticPlantList_web.pdf). A group gathered to tidy up the greenhouse in mid-February and organize planting materials. On **Wednesday March 1 at 10:30am** you can get involved in the planting project. After

growing strong and healthy in our greenhouse, seedlings will be planted in community gardens and around Masonville Cove. If you missed it, read the article in February's Newsletter about the role of pollinators in ecosystems and why Masonville Cove, as an urban wildlife refuge partnership, has a role to play in enhancing habitats for pollinators (www.masonvillecove.org).

MD Environmental Service hard at work: The walking trails are much improved and in great shape for an energizing walk. MES staff installed more driftwood along the borders and mulched the trails recently. Come out for a walk—the trail loop from the parking lot around the conservation area is about 0.5 mile long and recommended for body and spirit!

In the last month 1 bat box and 2 owl boxes were mounted on trees in the conservation area and in Access Zone 2. We are keeping an eye on these and hoping wildlife will claim these boxes as home. Thank you MES partners!



At the end of February and into early March the MES team is painting the first floor of the Education Building. There are no indoor programs during painting, but you can still access the property and sign in at the front desk.

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**