



# News from Masonville Cove Environmental Education Campus

*An urban refuge partnership*

A Monthly Newsletter

NOVEMBER 2015

Volume 3 Issue 11

## November Open Hours

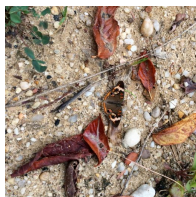
The Conservation Area is open to the public:

Mon-Fri 9am-4pm

Sat 9am-1pm

Closed Sundays,

Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday, 11/26-11/28



## 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, 11/14 9:30-10:30am, 11-Noon**  
Science Alive Kids Under 5-  
*Nocturnal Animals!*

**Sat, 11/21 9:30-10:30am,**  
Science Alive Kids Under 5-  
*Leaves!*

## Other [FREE] Opportunities to Connect with Nature

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

**Thur, 11/5 9am-Noon** MC Stewards, Prepare the gardens for winter

**Tues, 11/10 11am-Noon**  
Guided Nature Walk

**Thur, 11/19, 9:15am-12:15pm**  
MC Stewards, Citizen Science, Scientific Monitoring

## 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)

## Community Members enjoy free programming Patuxent Wildlife Festival -

Residents of south Baltimore traveled together with MC staff to Patuxent's National Wildlife Visitor Center for tours, fascinating presentations on research projects at the refuge and fun. This annual event at the refuge is free to the public.

**Pumpkin Decorating -**  
People aged babies to grandmothers gathered



around tables of pumpkins and paints in the 2nd Annual pumpkin decorating event at Masonville Cove. The creative spirits rendered pumpkins that were ghoulish and friendly; there was a Ravens pumpkin, too!

## Filbert Street Haunted Garden -

Children and adults from the Curtis Bay community flocked to the Filbert Street Garden on Halloween Day for a fun event. The weather was perfect for spooky fun. The Enoch Pratt library entertained with stories. There was face painting



and pumpkin painting at picnic tables. MCEEC offered Halloween-themed games. Some kids were in costume which added to the festive spirit of this community event.



**Does testing for water quality and observing wildlife interest you? -**  
We have your event. Come to MC on Nov. 19th in the morning for a citizen science program. **Curious minds welcomed.**



**Scenes at Masonville Cove:** EnerNOC volunteer constructing a wildlife brush shelter; Young artist at the Pumpkin Decorating community event; Lady bug on *Iva frutescens*; LCF's Rachael displaying bag of oyster shells with spat.

## VOLUNTEERS at Masonville Cove

A big 'Thank You' to **EnerNOC volunteers** for their work at Masonville Cove in late October. At their second year volunteering at MC, the weather was excellent; and their strong work ethic bore fruit. Volunteers did a shoreline cleanup, moved driftwood to make a brush shelter, and cleaned up two garden spaces.

Masonville Cove depends on volunteers like those from EnerNOC to initiate new habitat projects and maintain gardens that are beautiful for wildlife and humans alike.



## Habitat Enhancements on land and sea by Volunteers at Masonville Cove

**Wildlife brush shelters** are a great way to reduce and reuse materials, plus attract wildlife. EnerNOC volunteers constructed such a shelter using driftwood logs from the shoreline, piled into a dome, and then topped off with brushy branches and flower stems from the garden cleanup. Located near a patch of trees and the outfall stream, it stands about 5 feet tall. Visitors and students can view it from the windows of the Great Room. We hope to attract a variety of critters that like to hide in logs, bask in the sun or hunt for insects.

On October 23, students, and teachers from St. Ignatius Loyola Academy and Living Classrooms staff teamed up to move **oysters** from Downs Park in Anne Arundel County to Masonville Cove- notably 100 thirty-pound bags of *Crassostrea virginica*. Oysters help clarify the water as they filter feed, and create habitat for dozens of other species as they form into reefs. However, once oyster larvae settle they've got nowhere to hide when it comes to pollution, over-harvesting and disease. These oysters got a little help from human friends.

First, at Horn Point Laboratory, young oysters are reared, settled onto empty shells, and placed into mesh bags. Next, partner groups step up to distribute the bags into Chesapeake Bay waters. While oysters do best in salty waters, oyster-activists seek to move oyster spat into fresher waters of the Bay, where over-harvesting and disease are less of a threat. At Masonville Cove and other sites, the bags are cut open, data on sizes and quantities of oysters are recorded, and then oyster shells are poured out into shallow waters. We have high hopes that the oysters will survive here and look forward to monitoring the growth of the reef!

## 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**