



# News from Masonville Cove

JANUARY 2013

Volume 1, Issue 1B



## CALENDAR

**Winter Hours:** The Urban Wilderness Conservation Area is open for enjoying and exploring.

Wed-Fri 11am-4pm  
Sat 1/12 & 1/26 from 8am-noon,  
Closed Sun-Tue.

**Sign in** at the Front Desk for permission to access the Conservation Area.

### Saturday Programs for Pre-Schoolers and Families

1/12, 10-11am  
Science Alive <5-  
Animal Tracks!  
11:30am-12:30pm  
Family-Recycled  
Magazine Workshop

1/26, 10-11am  
Science Alive <5-Let  
it Snow!  
11:30am-12:30pm  
Family-Terrarium  
Workshop

Masonville Cove Environmental Education Center  
1000 Frankfurst Ave • Baltimore MD 21226  
410-246-0669 • [www.masonvillecove.org](http://www.masonvillecove.org) •  
[friends@masonvillecove.org](mailto:friends@masonvillecove.org)

## School-Based Programs

### Brooklyn 3<sup>rd</sup> Graders Explore a Wild Treasure in their Backyard ~ The Chesapeake Bay

This fall 3<sup>rd</sup> graders throughout the Brooklyn neighborhood have participated in Living Classrooms Foundation's multi-staged 'Treasuring Our Chesapeake Bay' [TOCB] Program. Initially, Living Classrooms staff from the TOCB program come into the classroom to explore the basic characteristics of the Chesapeake Bay and what it means to be living or non-living. Next, students experience an all-day trip to Masonville Cove in order to investigate the mysterious death of Rocky Rockfish. Along the way they have the opportunity to explore challenges facing rockfish in the Chesapeake Bay, through scientific experiments. Living Classrooms staff follow up the field trip with another in-class visit, where students learn how to help rockfish like Rocky by preventing one of the most infamous suspects, Danielle Debris, from getting into the Chesapeake Bay. To culminate the TOCB learning experience, Masonville Cove Environmental Education Center hosted an Open House on December 18<sup>th</sup> for 3<sup>rd</sup> graders to show their families what they had learned.

## Friends of Masonville Cove

**The Friends of Masonville Cove** is a volunteer corps dedicated to environmental stewardship and connecting local citizens with their natural spaces.

**Early Winter Social** held on 12/5 was a big success. About 20 people attended. Lorraine Warnick, MCEEC Director, presented an overview of the Center. UMBC Professor Steve Bradley told us about the 'Mapping Baybrook' project. Christine Redline presented information on School Based Programs. Holly Fowler of the National Aquarium described and distributed materials related to the upcoming Master Naturalist program. There was a giveaway of ornaments made of natural or re-purposed materials. Great fun had by all.

## NEWS from Maryland Environmental Service

Working diligently. Look for an update in February.



## Masonville Cove Environmental Education Center

1000 Frankfurst Ave  
Baltimore MD 21226

Phone:  
410-246-0669  
Front Desk: ext 105

E-Mail:  
For inquiries related to  
educational programs,  
info@masonvillecove.org  
For inquiries related to  
volunteering,  
friends@masonvillecove.org

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We're on the Web!  
See us at:  
[www.masonvillecove.org](http://www.masonvillecove.org)

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### **An Urban Wilderness Conservation Area**

A Partnership among:

Maryland  
Port Administration

Living Classrooms  
Foundation

National Aquarium

Bay Brook: The Brooklyn  
and Curtis Bay Coalition

Maryland Environmental  
Service

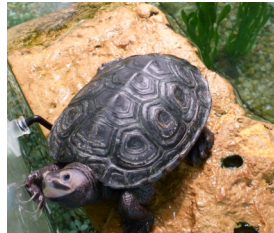
## Federal Hill Fifth Graders "SLURRPing" for Sustainability

The School Leadership in Urban Runoff Reduction Project has just wrapped up its 2012 school year, and we couldn't be more excited to recap some of the wonderful things that are taking place in the greening realm of Baltimore City Schools. The School Leadership in Urban Runoff Reduction Project (SLURRP) is an outreach program that delivers meaningful environmental education into South Baltimore public schools about the harmful effects of runoff pollution in urban environments. Each school we worked with this year has been an inspiration and model to other students in the Baltimore City community. However, one school in particular is making great strides in greening their schoolyard and addressing the issue of urban runoff.

Federal Hill Preparatory School sits atop a hill in South Baltimore. The school is entirely contained by the streets and row homes of the Federal Hill neighborhood. Their schoolyard, typical of Baltimore City schools, consists of a playground, kickball field, and foursquare court. What you don't see when you look at this school building are the minds contained in it. For example, Ms. Champion's 5<sup>th</sup> grade class proposes new designs of their schoolyard in order to make it a safe place for a raindrop to fall. In SLURRP, students have already evaluated their schoolyard using a schoolyard report card, tracked sections of their schoolyard using a GPS on what they want to improve, and created blueprints that showcase a new and sustainable schoolyard.

*[More details next Newsletter]*

**Critter Corner:** Squirtle is our resident Diamondback Terrapin.



**Ms. Champion's  
Students  
using a GPS  
Instrument.**



### **About Masonville Cove and the Center...**

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 Brooklyn and Curtis Bay Coalition (Baybrook), the Living Classrooms Foundation, and the National Aquarium in Baltimore to create the Masonville Cove Environmental Education Center. Maryland Environmental Service coordinates the mitigation project. This center will be 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 area and its wetlands will remind the community that they are a part of something positive for generations to come.