



News from Masonville Cove Environmental Education Campus



An urban wildlife refuge partnership

A Monthly Newsletter

November 2018

Volume 6 Issue 11

November Open Hours

The Conservation Area is open to the public:

Mon-Fri 9am-4pm

Sat 9am-1pm

Closed on Sundays and for Thanksgiving (11/22-11/25)



FREE Programming & Opportunities to Connect with Nature

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

Sat. 11/10 10:00am-11:00am, Nature Walk

Sat. 11/17 10:00am-11:00am, Nature for Kids ~ Fall Harvest Stories, Pine Cone Crafts, and Nature Walk (please register in advance by contacting the email above)

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

October Highlights

Shoreline cleanups were a recurring theme throughout the month of October. Staff from Living Classrooms held a shoreline cleanup during Fleet Week. Participants included members of the Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard, as well as students from Benjamin Franklin High School. Students were partnered with 2-3 service members who mentored them throughout the day and with whom they picked up trash. Masonville Cove is extremely grateful for their help and due to their collaborative efforts, we collected over 100 pounds of trash.

MCEEC partner, The National Aquarium (NA) also hosted two shoreline cleanups at the Cove in October. The first event, an International Coastal Cleanup, had a great turnout and garnered support from almost 60 volunteers. Members of the neighboring Brooklyn and Curtis Bay communities were in attendance. Volunteers from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and students from previous SLURRP programs also participated. After a long but rewarding day, volunteers gathered in the great room



to celebrate with pizza. The following day, NA hosted another cleanup engaging members of a Jewish Congregation. Thanks again to the National Aquarium, service members, and all the volunteers who made the cleanups such a success.

Mid-Autumn Migration

As the days get shorter and winter approaches, we're beginning to see many prominent shifts in animal behavior and migration patterns. Birds native to the Northern states and Canada are well into their fall migration, many stopping in Maryland on their journey south. Two species, the [LeConte's Sparrow](#) and the [Clay-colored Sparrow](#), have recently been spotted on the Masonville Campus. Both "perching birds" are found in the northern prairies (Canada and northern states) during the breeding months (spring) and typically migrate through the heartland of America down towards Texas. Many of our resident birders were eager for the chance to observe these sparrow species, which are not commonly found in Baltimore. (continued on opposite side).

LeConte's Sparrow (left),
Clay-colored Sparrow
(right)

Photos: courtesy of
Audubon.org





Scenes at Masonville Cove: Buck at MCEEC; Tom teaching students about water quality during a Land and Sea Program; Crescent Butterfly with a torn wing, spotted during a monthly nature walk; Raccoon at MCEEC.

Masonville Cove is located east of the birds' normal migration range. While their migration paths overlap slightly, the Clay-colored Sparrow strays further west during migration and ventures much farther south, to the tip of Mexico. The LeConte's Sparrow follows a narrower path through the states and typically ends its journey in eastern Texas, Louisiana, and Mississippi. A noticeable difference between the two birds is their type of habitat. Clay-colored Sparrows prefer prairies with open areas and lots of brush. The LeConte's Sparrow prefers marshy areas with tall grasses. Stop by our campus for a chance to see these birds before they're gone!!

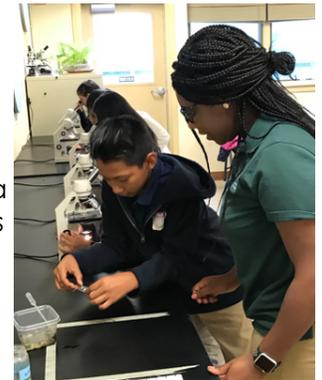


The change in seasons is also affecting other wildlife. During the summer, deer populations mainly forage in the woods, where there are plentiful nuts, fruits, berries, and foliage. In the fall, when food becomes sparse, deer begin to shift to open areas, agricultural fields, and residential areas as they seek out new food sources. Dropping temperatures also mean the presence of fewer pollinators. Pollinators including the Monarch Butterfly and Bumblebee, have left for the season or died off. However, if you pay close attention, you may notice some animals migrating later in the year, a suspected result of climate change. We hope you'll visit Masonville Cove to observe these changes and see what else the season has in store.

Meet a Member of the Masonville Team!

A new face at Masonville Cove is Ashley J., an [AmeriCorps](#) member. AmeriCorps is a national service program that focuses on bettering the livelihood of communities through education and engagement, as well as, providing service members the opportunity to work first-hand in the environmental and health sector, homeland security, and public safety fields. Ashley started her year-long term with Masonville Cove in early September.

More about our 2018-2019 AmeriCorps member: Ashley graduated from the University of Richmond in 2018 with a B.S. in Environmental Studies. She is a Norte Dame Mission-AmeriCorps volunteer serving for one year as an environmental educator at MCEEC. Ashley recently published an academic research paper on environmental education with the Virginia Engage Journal. In her free time, Ashley enjoys writing poetry and singing. She is currently applying to grad school, where she is interested in studying Environmental Justice and Health.



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 MDOT 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.

MDOT 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:
MDOT Maryland Port Administration

Living Classrooms Foundation

National Aquarium

Maryland Environmental Service

US Fish & Wildlife Service

