



News from Masonville Cove Environmental Education Campus

An urban wildlife refuge partnership

A Monthly Newsletter

October 2018

Volume 6 Issue 10

October Open Hours

The Conservation Area is open to the public:

Mon-Fri 9am-4pm

Sat 9am-1pm



Closed on Sundays
and for Fleet
Week
(10/4-10/6)

FREE Programming & Opportunities to Connect with Nature

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

Sat. 10/13 11:00am-12:00pm, Nature Walk

Sat. 10/20 9:30am-12:30am, International Coastal Cleanup - Volunteer with the National Aquarium. Please pre-register (see instructions, above)

Sat. 10/27 10:00am-11:00am, Nature for Kids ~ Stories, crafts, and nature 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

September Highlights

September brought about a heap of events to rap up the summer season at Masonville Cove.

Monarch Festival

Mid September, the MC staff took members of the local community to the annual pollinator festival hosted at Patuxent Research Refuge, a partner with MCEEC. Families participated in a guided nature walk, story time, and a variety of pollinator focused crafts. At the festival, there were different stations for families to explore, including one station with an observation hive, where kids could view the inner workings of a beehive and try different types of honey. Other stations

included lessons about the Monarch Butterfly life cycle, types of pollinators, and a table with milkweed plants for families to take home. Children also had the opportunity to watch a local butterfly expert tag and release a monarch butterfly before it starts its 3000 mile migration down to Mexico.



Shoreline Cleanups

September also presented the opportunity for a few shoreline cleanups in Masonville Cove. Volunteer groups from MITRE helped staff remove debris and trash from the shore, collecting nearly 150 pounds of trash over a 3 hour period. Additional volunteers came out for the Governor's Day to serve, picking up trash remnants that washed up along the beach. If you're interested in participating in a shoreline cleanup, please contact the "friends" email listed above.



Land/Sea Program

4th graders from Lakeland Elementary School joined living classrooms for two fun filled days to explore the diversity of our waterways. The students worked with staff in the lab, taking water quality measurements and IDing two types of plankton: zooplankton and phytoplankton. During the sea portion of the day, students boarded our skipjack "Sigsbee" for a scientific cruise along the harbor. On board, they were able to dissect oysters, practice navigation techniques, and observe water stratification using a salt wedge. Over the two day period, crew engaged over 78 students.





Scenes at Masonville Cove: Volunteer participating in a shoreline cleanup; Observing flowers on a nature walk; Story time at the Patuxent Pollinator Festival; Deer and canine tracks.

Meet a Member of the Masonville Team!

This year, Masonville Cove has its first ever Chesapeake Conservation Corps (CCC) intern. CCC is a program run by the Chesapeake Bay Trust which helps expand green careers and train up-and-coming environmental stewards by placing students with different environmental agencies in the Chesapeake Bay region. These interns work with their host site, such as Masonville Cove, for a year long term where they not only contribute to the goals of the host organization, but gain valuable knowledge and experience in community relations, environmental education, scientific monitoring and much more. Here's a little excerpt from our 2018-2019 CCC member:



"Hello, my name is Tom Heffernan and I'm a volunteer for CCC working with Masonville Cove for the year. I graduated from Washington College in the Spring of 2018 with a major in Environmental Studies & a minor in Primary Education. I hope to spend my time here learning more about environmental education and plan on writing my CCC

Capstone on the positive impacts that Urban Wildlife Refuges, like Masonville Cove, have on biodiversity and ecosystem health. Can't wait to meet you this year!"

Green Tips from your Green Center

With autumn upon us and dropping temperatures, it is only a matter of time before the leaves begin to fall. Don't miss out on a great opportunity to return helpful nutrients to the soil and live a greener lifestyle! While it may be tempting to burn those leaves or add them to your waste bins to be shipped off to the landfill, consider contributing your yard wastes to an existing or new composting system! Adding yard waste with other landfill wastes, uses up valuable space and disrupts the natural cycle of nutrients returning to the soil. Burning of yard waste such as leaves, is a bad idea for our and our planet's health. As the smoke rises, it contributes to air pollution, which eventually falls back to the ground and can filter through the soil and into our water supply, potentially creating an unhealthy habitat for fish and other aquatic life. Composting is a better option and your gardening will benefit greatly from the nutrient rich results of composting yard wastes. Another alternative is to use fallen leaves as mulch. Rather than raking and bagging yard waste, you can use your lawnmower to cut leaves into small bits that will settle between the grass and naturally recycle.



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

