



GreenPort of Baltimore Newsletter

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ENVIRONMENT

The creation of Captain Trash Wheel

This time-lapse video shows the construction of Captain Trash Wheel, slated to start turning at [Masonville Cove](#) later this spring. The MDOT MPA commissioned Captain Trash Wheel to address trash in the Patapsco River's Middle Branch and is part of the mitigation package for the [Masonville dredged material placement site](#). Driven mostly by water current and solar power, the wheels trap and remove waterborne trash and debris.



Captain Trash Wheel will be the third trash wheel on Baltimore waterways. The others, known as Mr. Trash Wheel, located at the mouth of the Jones Falls, and Professor Trash Wheel, located at the mouth of Harris Creek are operated by Waterfront Partnership of Baltimore.

"Headstart" terrapins to be released on Poplar Island

Winter months have been growth months for 177 diamondback terrapins that have been nurtured in classrooms across Maryland since last fall. The "headstart" program shields young terrapin from harsh weather, strengthens their growth, and hopefully improves their survival rate after a spring release on Poplar Island.

[Poplar Island](#), restored through the use of dredged material, provides important habitat for a variety of wildlife. The terrapin program has taken place there since 2005, led by Dr. Willem Roosenburg at Ohio University and releasing more than 2,300 terrapins to date. The turtles are tagged and later tracked to estimate population and survival rates.

The popular program has a long waiting list, but short classroom presentations are available using "ambassador" terrapins to teach about the turtles, the port, and



Poplar Island. Schools on the Eastern Shore should contact the [Maryland Environmental Service](#); in Anne Arundel County, contact [Arlington Echo](#); other locations should contact the [National Aquarium](#).

Poplar Island has become an important site for the study of diamondback terrapin. Photo: MES

New 'Eco-Minute' video features Canton Railroad

A new Eco-Minute video features Canton Railroad, a participant in the Port of Baltimore Diesel Equipment Upgrade Program. A grant from the program helped Canton install idle-reduction technology on six locomotives, saving fuel and reducing emissions. The program has also helped to reduce emissions from 172 dray trucks and 11 other pieces of cargo handling equipment. [A previous Eco-Minute video](#) highlights the story of William Thomas as he replaced his dray truck with a newer, cleaner model.



Snowy owls on Hart-Miller Island



*A snowy owl perched on Hart-Miller Island.
Photo: Tim Carney, MES*

Approximately 40 enthusiastic birders participated in two "Snowy Owl Bus Tours" at [Hart-Miller Island](#) in January, led by the Maryland Environmental Service (MES).

The once-eroding island has been restored with dredged material from shipping channels and now provides important habitat for wildlife.

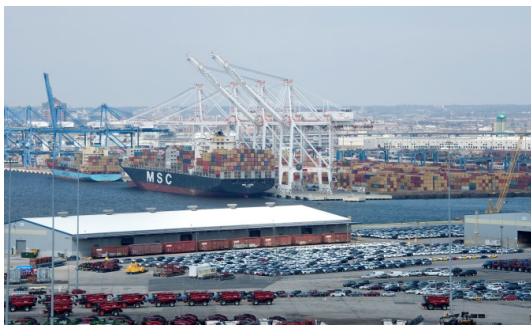
All tour participants saw the two snowy owls that are wintering on the island, as well as a rare snow bunting. The second tour group was also treated to the sight of a massive flock of snow geese just off shore. Many of the participants had never been to the island before and are eager to return. "Thanks for giving my friend her first look at the snowy owl and me, my first trip to Hart-Miller Island," commented one visitor. "It was a wonderful morning experience for us both."

PORT

International GreenPort Congress coming in May

This spring, Baltimore will be the first American city to welcome the international GreenPort Congress, a gathering of port communities from around the globe to exchange information

on the latest in sustainable environmental initiatives. The 2018 conference, hosted by the Port of Baltimore, Maryland Department of Transportation, and Maryland Department of the Environment, takes place May 16-18 at the Baltimore Convention Center, with a focus on blending policies, best practices, and technical solutions to achieve sustainability goals. Attendees will be invited to participate in port tours, from both the land and water, and to visit [Masonville Cove](#) and [Poplar Island](#). For information, visit the [GreenPort Congress web site](#).



Tours of port operations will be just one of many activities during the 2018 GreenPort Congress.

Photo: Bill McAllen

'Throw Away Don't Blow Away'

Being green starts close to home at the MDOT MPA these days – with the discarded coffee cups, sandwich wrappers, and plastic bags and bottles that frequently blow across parking lots into the river.

To tackle this problem, the MDOT MPA, in partnership with Wallenius Wilhelmsen Logistics, recently kicked off a litter-reduction campaign at the Dundalk Marine Terminal.



Volunteer Trash Ambassadors help spread enthusiasm for the anti-litter campaign.

The slogan, "Throw Away Don't Blow Away," is paired with other steps, such as volunteer Trash Ambassadors and increased use of the Big Belly trash receptacles. The cleanup is about more than looks. The aim is to reduce litter that enters local waterways, especially from windy areas, and to prevent damage from debris to cars and other equipment passing through the port.

Port tests emergency evacuation preparedness

Evacuating the Dundalk Marine Terminal at the Port of Baltimore in the event of an emergency could be a huge undertaking. To prepare, the MDOT MPA staged a tabletop evacuation exercise to simulate evacuation plans for a make-believe emergency. About 20 employees from various departments participated. Everyone understood their roles and responsibilities but recognized the need to work closely with the terminal tenants to ensure that their plans are up to date.

MDOT MPA plans to hold an annual tabletop exercise to address different types of emergencies. Officials will also review emergency protocols to ensure that dispatchers know what questions to ask and what information to give to emergency responders. They will also evaluate how best to notify all employees, tenants, and port users of emergencies and will issue annual reminders to review evacuation and emergency plans.



A table top drill brought together a variety of departments to enhance emergency preparedness.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Innovative Reuse Committee Meeting - February 27th at 5:30PM

(Snow Date: March 6th at 5:30PM)

Pt. Breeze Maritime Center I

2200 Broening Highway, Baltimore, MD 21224

For questions or to confirm attendance please contact [Greenport](#).

Hart Miller Citizens Oversight Committee Meeting - March 20th at 6:30PM

Pt. Breeze Maritime Center I

2200 Broening Highway, Baltimore, MD 21224

For questions or to confirm attendance please contact [Greenport](#).

DMMP Management Committee Meeting - March 28th at 10:00AM

World Trade Center, 401 East Pratt Street, Baltimore, MD 21202.

For questions or to confirm attendance please contact [Greenport](#).

 [MPA Website](#)

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GreenPort Newsletter is the Maryland Department of Transportation's Maryland Port Administration's bi-monthly update of projects and programs that help the agency contribute to a thriving economy, environmental stewardship, and community partnerships. As always, we thank the many private sector businesses, government leaders, communities, and individual citizens who have helped make these achievements a reality.

James J. White, Executive Director
The World Trade Center
401 East Pratt Street, Baltimore MD 21202
1-800-638-7519 / www.marylandports.com

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