



GreenPort 
of Baltimore

July/August
2015

Green Business Is Good Business



Welcome to the GreenPort Newsletter

Welcome to GreenPort, a bi-monthly newsletter from the Maryland Port Administration about its projects, programs, and events that help protect natural resources in the Chesapeake Bay region. The Port Administration believes that stewardship and sustainability of the environment and protection of human health are essential elements of its mission.

Please spread the word! Anyone interested in a new subscription to the GreenPort newsletter please click [HERE](#), or email mpasafepassage@marylandports.com, subject – Please Subscribe.

MPA Receives Award for Environmental Excellence

The Maryland Port Administration received an Environmental Excellence Award from the Maryland Department of Transportation for its [Water Quality Master Plan](#). The plan identifies strategies for reducing stormwater runoff, which carries sediment and other pollutants into local waterways and the Chesapeake Bay.

The goal of the plan is to help the Port Administration meet requirements for federal permits and pollutions reductions needed for the regional effort to restore the Chesapeake Bay. It describes existing conditions, potential pollutant sources, existing stormwater controls, recommendations for improvements, and an implementation plan integrated with the existing Environmental Management system.

Dolphins Sighted at Poplar Island

Dolphins have once again been spotted offshore of Poplar Island in their seasonal search for food sources in the Chesapeake Bay. They typically swim into the Bay in March and April and leave in the fall for the warmer waters of South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida.

Staff from the Maryland Environmental Service (MES), which manages the Poplar Island dredged material placement site for the Maryland Port Administration, spotted the dolphins in June. The MES team was sampling water just beyond the island's harbor when they encountered a pod of about 30 dolphins and shut down the boat to let them pass safely.

Dolphins are attracted to the area in part by the tidal movements in the Chesapeake Bay. "They recognize that when the tide goes outwards towards the shore, the food comes directly to them," said Jennifer Dittmar of the National Aquarium.

The restoration of Poplar Island helps, too, because it rebuilds the aquatic ecosystem. "This attracts more variety of fish for the bottle-nosed dolphins to prey on," Dittmar said.

People can help dolphins and other marine

life by keeping trash and other debris out of the water. This includes preventing litter on land, where stormwater can sweep it into streams, rivers, and the Chesapeake Bay. Dolphins can get tangled in such debris or ingest things that are harmful to their stomachs. Sick or injured dolphins should be reported to the Aquarium's stranded animal hotline at 410-576-3880.



Dolphins Cruised the waters along Poplar Island in June.

(Article research conducted by MPA student intern Rana Hardnett)

Photo Credit: Alexa Boos, MES

Dray Truck Replacement Program Receives \$500,000

The Maryland Port Administration's [Dray Truck Replacement Program](#) has an additional \$500,000 to replace older dray trucks with newer, cleaner models. The U.S. Department of Transportation provided \$200,000, which was combined with \$300,000 in state funds.

The Dray Truck Replacement Program, sponsored by the Maryland Port Administration and its partners since 2009, provides financial assistance for replacing older dray trucks with newer, cleaner-running models. Dray trucks are large diesel vehicles used to haul freight from port facilities to local distribution points. Many of these trucks are older models with high emission rates that contribute to local air pollution.

The goal of the program is to reduce air pollution and greenhouse gases associated with the transport of goods to and from the Port of Baltimore. To date, the program has helped replace about 100 trucks and reduced annual air emissions by about 108 tons of nitrogen oxides, 29 tons of carbon monoxide, 4 tons of particulate matter, and 4 tons of hydrocarbons.

Terns Make a Home at Masonville Cove

While attempting to put a satellite transmitter on an osprey at [Masonville Cove](#) in July, biologists from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service made an unexpected discovery — a new, successful nesting colony of common terns.



Common Tern
Photo Credit: USFWS

The terns were making use of an abandoned barge just outside the cove, which offered habitat for 50 to 70 adult pairs and their chicks, and turning to Masonville Cove for nearby food and additional shelter.

Common terns are a species of concern and are being considered for listing on Maryland’s rare, threatened, and endangered species list. The Masonville colony is the second and northernmost common tern nesting colony in the Maryland portion of the Chesapeake Bay.

“We’re very excited to see it,” said biologist Chris Guy of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The Maryland Port Administration has led the restoration of wildlife habitat at Masonville Cove, supported by many community organizations and residents. The presence of the terns shows the impact of this project for an important Chesapeake Bay species. The other nesting colony of common terns in Maryland is on Poplar Island, which the Port Administration has rebuilt and restored using dredged material.

Common terns need places to raise their chicks that are free from predators like foxes, raccoons, dogs, and cats. The abandoned barge, along with Masonville Cove, has provided it.

“I expect them to be back next year,” Guy said.

Dredging

Progress at the Pearce Creek Placement Site

The Maryland Port Administration and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers have made tremendous progress in their joint effort to reopen the Pearce Creek dredged material placement site in

Cecil County. Working with the communities surrounding the site, as well as Cecil County officials and the Town of Cecilton, plans have been completed and approved to do the following:

- Line the existing facility with an impermeable barrier to prevent any further degradation of groundwater under the site
- Begin placing dredged material from the C&D Canal approach channels in the site beginning in the fall of 2017
- Construct a water line from Cecilton to the homes in West View Shores, Bay View Estates, and Sunset Pointe to ensure safe drinking water for all residents

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) has approved the design of the liner and the withdrawal of additional water from the Cecilton community well. MDE has also issued a Water Quality Certification to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which spells out the environmental conditions the Corps must meet as the project goes forward.

The Pearce Creek Implementation Committee has been meeting every two months to oversee the project. Both agency officials and citizens participate in the meetings. In addition, a [website](#) has been created to enable everyone to keep abreast of progress.



Dredged material will be placed at the Pearce Creek site beginning in 2017.
Photo Credit: MES

Education

Happenings at Masonville Cove

[Masonville Cove](#) is an active hub for learning and wildlife. Four college students in the Urban Conservation and Education Internship program spent part of their summer observing and identifying wildlife and plants at Masonville. The internship program, sponsored by the Maryland Port Administration, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Living Classrooms Foundation and National Aquarium, helps students explore career opportunities in conservation. Julian Whitley, who worked as an intern in 2014, was hired by Living Classrooms to work as an environmental educator for the BEE SMART program that took place at Masonville Cove this summer. BEE SMART is a new program for 2-5th graders that integrates math and writing skills with outdoor learning.



Urban Conservation and Education interns
(left to right):
Tamara Taylor,
Anastasia Alvarez-Johnson,
Stephen Celano,
and Karlis Grauze

Photo Credit:
National Aquarium

In July, Masonville Cove hosted Secretary Mark Belton of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and Secretary Benjamin Grumbles of the Maryland Department of the Environment. The secretaries toured the cove and environmental center and discussed interagency cooperation with the Dredged Material Management Program. They also viewed the water quality monitoring station that is part of DNR's [Eyes on the Bay Program](#).

The [osprey camera](#) at Masonville provided a close look at this year's nesting activity. Unfortunately, one of the chicks born to Frederick and Harriet (the resident osprey couple) did not survive, but the two other chicks are healthy and have left the nest. The camera will be on-line again next March in hopes of catching the osprey's return.



Osprey chicks pre-fledge attempts.

Photo Credit: Randy Loftus, USFWS

Community

Cox Creek Clean-up



Volunteers at the Cox Creek Clean-up removed approximately 2,000 pounds of trash and debris during.

Photo Credit: MPA

The Maryland Port Administration hosted a Project Clean Stream event at Cox Creek in April, organized by KCI Technologies.

Fifteen KCI employees, in addition to 10 others, volunteered to clean up the shoreline of Cox Creek. They worked alongside volunteers from the Maryland Port Administration, Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, and Maryland Environmental Service to collect about 2,000 pounds of trash, which included 55 bags of refuse, 11 tires, 4 drums, a play set and slide, PVC pipe, and scrap metal.

Upcoming Events

Masonville Cove Bioblitz

September 12th

Online [registration](#) required.

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401 East Pratt Street, Baltimore MD 21202
1-800-638-7519 / www.marylandports.com

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