



GreenPort of Baltimore

May/June
2016

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 visit the [GreenPort](#) web site.

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Environment

Eel Release Supports Biodiversity

After raising seven American eels in their classroom, students from Brooklyn Park Middle

School released the eels into the wild at [Masonville Cove](#) in May. The event was part of Arlington Echo Outdoor Education Center's American Eel Raise & Release Project, conducted in cooperation with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources.

Through this program, American eels are given to selected 6th grade classrooms throughout Maryland. Students learn about the economic and ecological importance of American eels that are frequently affected by habitat loss and pollution in the Chesapeake Bay. Raising and releasing eels in the Bay provides food sources for other species and supports ecosystem diversity.



Lauren Tucker of Arlington Echo helped release young eels at Masonville Cove in May.

Photo Credit: Danielle Wilson, MES

Arlington Echo expects to release eels from three additional schools at Masonville Cove in the near future.

Interested schools can contact [Arlington Echo](#); staff will provide all necessary materials to participate. Those with additional questions about the project can contact [Keith Whiteford](#) at the Maryland Department of Natural Resources.



On May 4th and 5th, 2016, students from Brooklyn Park Middle School participated in the release of American eels into Masonville Cove. Click photo for video.

Masonville Cove is an MPA restoration project and an Urban Wildlife Refuge Partnership, managed in cooperation with the US Fish and Wildlife Service, Living Classrooms Foundation, National Aquarium, and Maryland Environmental Service.

**MPA, MDOT, and MDE Team Up
to Improve Air Quality**

In December 2015, the MPA, Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT), and Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to enhance the agencies' cooperative efforts to protect Maryland's environment. A workgroup, consisting of representatives from the three agencies, meets monthly to develop and plan implementation of programs and initiatives that improve air quality for the Baltimore region.

"We're working to make sure the Port can be the economic engine it is while also maintaining an environmental record that is one of the best on the East Coast," said Tad Aburn, director of the Air & Radiation Management Administration at MDE.

In fact, 2015 marked a significant milestone in Maryland's air quality. For the first time in 30 years, the state was in compliance with all federal air quality standards.

"The Port's efforts have helped us with the reduction of ground level ozone and fine particulate pollution," said Aburn. "In addition, a lot of the Port's activities have revolved around reducing the energy they consume, which reduces greenhouse gas."

New technology and initiatives often have a high price tag. One of the objectives of the workgroup is to find funding sources for the programs and initiatives.

"By working in partnership with not only state agencies and the Port but also with citizens groups, we can make a powerful argument that we have a lot of people working together on air quality," said Aburn. "This enhances our ability to get grant dollars."

MPA Receives Award for Inner Harbor Water Wheel

The Maryland Department of Transportation presented staff at the MPA and Maryland Environmental Service with an Environmental Excellence Award for their work on the Baltimore Inner Harbor Water Wheel.

The Water Wheel, powered by sun and current, is positioned at the mouth of the Jones Falls to capture water-borne trash and debris before it enters the harbor.

The MPA partnered with the Waterfront Partnership of Baltimore and contributed \$500,000 toward the construction and installation of the water wheel to offset impacts from the construction of the dredged material placement site at Masonville. The MPA then committed additional funding to support water wheel operations for the next 20 years.

MPA and MES leadership on the project was provided by Steve Storms and David Blazer, both formerly of MPA Harbor Development, and Stephanie Peters of MES.

The wheel began operating in May 2014 and has captured more than 420 tons of trash to date, been featured in [National Geographic](#), and become a social media darling known as "[Mr. Trash Wheel](#)."



The MPA supports the operation of the Inner Harbor Water Wheel, which removes trash from the Jones Falls before it enters the Baltimore Harbor.

Photo Credit: Bill McAllen

Greener Trucks, Cleaner Air

The MPA's [Dray Truck Replacement Program](#) continues to help local truck owners upgrade to greener vehicles that reduce emissions and help protect air quality in the Baltimore area.

James Wommack was the first to participate in the program when it was launched several years ago. Wommack heard about the program on the radio and made a call to learn more. In the end, Wommack received a \$20,000 grant toward the purchase of an International Pro Sleeper from North Point International Truck Sales.

"In the beginning, everyone was very nervous about the grants — that you would end up having to pay the money back," Wommack said. "They [the truckers] had never had anyone reach out to help them. It was unknown waters."

That all changed when they saw Wommack driving his new vehicle. "They saw how pretty a truck it was," he said, and that's when people began asking him about the program. He was happy to help.

So far, approximately 140 truckers, with available funding for more, have followed Wommack's lead. By driving newer, cleaner vehicles, these truckers have helped reduce annual air emissions by approximately 90 tons of nitrogen oxides, 24 tons of carbon monoxide, four tons of particulate matter and three and a half tons of hydrocarbons.

Education

Volunteer for the Masonville BioBlitz!

Volunteers are needed for the 3rd annual "BioBlitz" at [Masonville Cove](#) on Saturday, June 18 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. During the BioBlitz, scientists, naturalists, students, teachers, families, and other volunteers work together to locate, identify, and record as many living organisms as they can find. Pre-registration is required. Volunteers must be at least 5 years old and any volunteers younger than 18 years must be accompanied by an adult. [Click here](#) for registration and information.

An open house is taking place on the same day as the BioBlitz, so it's the perfect time to get to know Masonville Cove. There will be several stations hosted by the partners including a special raptors presentation by Wing of America at 9:30 AM. Other hands-on environmental activities, as well as tours of the Masonville dredged material containment facility will also be available.



A young volunteer gently handles a turtle that the team discovered during the 2015 BioBlitz.

Photo Credit: National Aquarium

Masonville Featured on Aqua Kids

Masonville Cove recently received national exposure on AquaKids, a television program for youth that airs on 80 stations across the country. Katrina Jones of the MPA described how the dredging program triggered the restoration work at Masonville, and Curtis Bennett of the National Aquarium explained how the site is benefitting both local residents and wildlife. Staff from the Living Classrooms Foundation helped students make environmental discoveries along the shoreline and back in the lab. You can view the full episode [here](#).

Dredging

Hart-Miller Island Offers New Opportunities for Hiking, Birding, Biking

The southern portion of Hart-Miller Island is now open for public use, expanding opportunities for people to enjoy this unique island and its wildlife.

Hart-Miller Island, located in Baltimore County at the mouth of Back River, was restored from eroded fragments using dredged material from shipping channels. It has long provided public recreation through [Hart-Miller Island State Park](#), with a half-mile beach and campsites.

In May, the southern portion or "south cell" of the island opened to the public as well,

cooperatively managed by the Maryland Port Administration, Maryland Environmental Service, and Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

The south cell will be open and staffed by DNR park rangers Thursdays through Mondays from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Visitors can rent bicycles, observe birds and other wildlife, participate in programs, and hike eight miles of trails that circle a large pond and include breathtaking views of the Chesapeake Bay. The 1.8 mile Long Trail Loop is marked with signage about the island's ecosystem and history. Light concessions are available for purchase.

Please note that the island is accessible only by personal boats; no public shuttles are currently available.



Community

Volunteers Rally for St. Helena Clean-up

The neighborhood of St. Helena, located near the Dundalk Marine Terminal, benefited from a spring clean-up thanks to 115 volunteers organized by the Baltimore Port Alliance on April 2. More than 9 tons of debris were gathered and removed from the area.

Eighty-nine of the volunteers were members of the BPA, representing the following groups: ASR Group (Domino); Baltimore Maritime Exchange; John S. Connor, Inc.; EcoLogix Group, Inc.; Ports America Chesapeake; Maryland Environmental Service; Maryland Port Administration; SEDESCO; TradePoint Atlantic; Vane Brothers; and Wallenius Wilhelmsen/Mid-Atlantic Terminal Navy Operational Support Center C. Steinweg (USA), Inc.

Twenty-six volunteers hailed from the St. Helena Community Association, Dundalk Renaissance Corporation, and Deliverance Temple Church.

Supplies and refreshments were provided by the BPA, DRC/Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, MediaTwo, Ports America Chesapeake, St. Helena Community Association, TradePoint Atlantic, and Vane Brothers.



A spring clean-up in the St. Helena neighborhood received support from many volunteers and community organizations, including members of the Baltimore Port Alliance.

Photo Credit: Shirley Gregory

Upcoming Events

DMMP Executive Committee Meeting - June 14th at 2:00 PM

MDOT Headquarters:

7201 Corporate Center Drive. Hanover, MD 21076

RSVP required for security

Bioblitz/Open House at Masonville - June 18th from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Masonville Cove Environmental Education Campus:

1000 Frankfurst Avenue, Baltimore MD 21226

Pre-registration is required for the Bioblitz only; The Open House is open to the public

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GreenPort Newsletter is the 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.

www.marylandports.com

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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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