



GreenPort of Baltimore

September / October

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.

Education

Join the Fall Festival at Masonville Cove

[Masonville Cove](#)'s Fall Festival takes place Saturday, October 3, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., rain or shine. It's free, fun, and you'll be glad you came! The National Aquarium, which is coordinating the festival, has teamed up with the Maryland Port Administration, Living Classrooms Foundation, Maryland Environmental Service, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to offer family-friendly activities that celebrate wildlife, promote outdoor recreation, explore

environmental science, and share information about dredging. You'll find arts and crafts, a "biohut" dissection station, archery lessons, guided fishing, a shoreline clean-up, wetland planting, and fishing rod raffle. Van tours of the Masonville dredged material placement site take place at 10:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m., and 1:00 p.m. Guests less than 18 years old must be accompanied by an adult. Participants in the wetland planting and shoreline clean-up must be at least 10 years old.



A family stops by the National Aquarium station to learn about native fish habitat during the Masonville Fall Festival in 2014.
Photo Credit: MPA

Masonville BioBlitz

The National Aquarium led its second annual "BioBlitz" at [Masonville Cove](#) on September 12, when volunteers helped identify 164 species of birds, mammals, insects, reptiles, amphibians, aquatic creatures, and plants.

A BioBlitz is a full-day event when volunteers work with expert naturalists to find, identify, and record as many living organisms as they can at a specific site. Twenty-one specialists and 34 volunteers participated in the Masonville BioBlitz. The data they collected will be shared with the [Maryland Biodiversity Project](#), where it can contribute to the understanding of urban biodiversity and biodiversity in Maryland as a whole. For a closer look at the data from both the 2014 and 2015 events, visit the [Masonville Cove project](#) on iNaturalist.

Volunteers at the 2015 Masonville BioBlitz helped to find and identify 164 species.

Photo Credit: USFWS



Dredging

Harbor Development Director Dave Blazer Moves On

A leadership change is occurring in the Harbor Development unit of the Maryland Port Administration. Dave Blazer, who has directed Harbor Development since 2013, left this position on September 18 to become the director of fisheries at the Maryland Department of Natural Resources.



During Dave's tenure, the [Pearce Creek project](#) advanced and the [expansion of Cox Creek](#) got underway. Dave secured an agreement to move ahead on a demonstration project in the harbor called "Confined Aquatic Disposal," and he worked with an advisory committee to develop a new strategy for [innovative reuse](#) of dredged material. He also hired three new staff members to supplement the Harbor Development team.

While MPA recruits a new leader for Harbor Development, questions may be directed to [Shawn Kiernan](#), director of the dredging program, and [Kristen Weiss](#), policy coordinator.

Environment

LED Lighting Project Will Cut Energy Costs

The Maryland Port Administration is installing new LEDs (light-emitting diodes) on a Port of Baltimore bridge. As a result, monthly energy consumption for lighting the bridge is expected to drop by 80 percent.

The LED project affects the connector bridge between the Dundalk and Seagirt Marine Terminals. The bridge is served by 27 light poles. Thirteen poles are being converted to LED fixtures, and 14 poles are being removed because the LEDs alone will provide more than adequate lighting for bridge traffic.

Installation of the LEDs began in May and is now 90 percent complete.

The project will reduce energy consumption and cut associated costs because the number of lighting fixtures will be halved and LEDs use only 60 percent of the energy demanded by traditional fixtures. Maintenance costs will be reduced significantly because the LED fixtures have a 10-year life expectancy, compared to the two-and-a-half-year life expectancy for the previous fixtures.

The Maryland Port Administration is working on a future project to replace roadway lighting at the Dundalk Marine Terminal truck plaza.

Goats to the Rescue

The staff at [Masonville Cove](#) has been working for a number of years to control invasive vegetation at the site. Historically, invasive vegetation has been controlled by the use of chemical herbicides. This year, in attempt to reduce collateral damage to desirable vegetation, a new method was explored: Goats!



Goats, instead of herbicides, are helping to remove invasive plants at Masonville Cove.

Photo Credit: MES

Nineteen goats from Harmony Church Farm, managed by Ronie Cassilly, have temporarily been placed in Masonville Cove to eat plants in a one-acre plot.

The goats especially like to munch on Chinese lespedeza, a woody plant that invades fields, open woodlands, and wetland borders and crowds out native species. Lespedeza is very hard to control or eradicate.

The goal is to reduce the seed bank of lespedeza, and goats are an effective way to do it. "They eat almost all day long and will even lie down in a patch of lespedeza while they are eating it," Cassilly said. "The goats have four stomachs that process the food they eat. The seeds don't survive passing through the animal's digestive track and will not germinate from the droppings."

Using goats is less expensive than herbicides and prevents the unintentional release of herbicides into local waterways and the Chesapeake Bay. The goats benefit too: lespedeza is a natural de-wormer.

Cassilly will bring the goats back in the spring for a "flash graze" so that the goats can eat any remaining lespedeza before it produces seed.

MPA Environmental Strategy Focuses on Water, Air, and Energy

The Maryland Port Administration released its Environmental Strategy, outlining three main initiatives – clean water, healthy air, and reduced energy consumption. “I felt that it was important for the MPA to have a long-term strategy for its environmental program,” said Executive Deputy Director Kathy Broadwater.

Some of the action items to promote air quality include establishing programs to evaluate emission control technologies for ports, installing systems to improve truck gate efficiencies, and implementing a “green” vehicle and equipment program.

Water quality efforts will begin by reviewing and updating existing water quality plans and programs. This includes updating the Institutional Stormwater Management Plan and continuing the implementation of the Master Water Quality Plan to reduce nutrients.

The MPA will also investigate technologies, operational improvements, and alternative fuels in order to reduce energy consumption and replace diesel fuel. Specific steps include exploring grants and financing for energy initiatives and determining the feasibility of smaller energy projects, such as the installation of fuel cells, windmills, and solar panels.

Community

Reaching New Audiences via Port Tours

The vast operations of the Port of Baltimore are being introduced to more communities and stakeholder groups by the Maryland Port Administration and the Baltimore Port Alliance. Giving people an “up close” view of the massive volumes of cargo that enter and exit the Port builds new appreciation for both the economic importance of the Port and the environmental activities taking place at the public and private terminals. Tour groups are also viewing dredging operations at Cox Creek, Masonville, Poplar Island, and Hart-Miller Island.

Recently, a delegation of Baltimore foundations toured Seagirt Marine Terminal, CSX, Ruckert, and Steinweg. Community leaders from Cecil County visited [Masonville](#) and [Cox Creek](#). The Citizens Advisory Committee for the Port Administration walked the south cell of [Hart-Miller Island](#) to enjoy the restored habitat there. Community groups from Dundalk took a van tour of the Dundalk Maine Terminal. In every case, visitors said they gained new perspectives on how the Port of Baltimore works.

MPA Employees: Community Volunteers

The State of Maryland encourages volunteerism by offering state employees four hours of paid leave to volunteer with nonprofit organizations.



Staff from the Maryland Port Administration recently volunteered more than 100 hours of community service.

Photo Credit: MPA

The Maryland Port Administration participated in this program with two recent projects. Twelve staff members contributed four hours in July to the Turner Station Conservation Team, to help unload and organize a truckload of fresh produce provided by the Maryland Food Bank. About 200 needy families benefited from this project. Additionally, 14 employees worked with the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay to clean trash and debris out of a portion of the Herring Run in northeast Baltimore. Approximately 2,000 pounds of trash were removed from the stream, including three bicycles and a sink. "It was very hot, sticky, dirty hard work, but we were determined to get that area cleaned," said Matthew Scales of the Port Administration communications department. Together, the groups contributed more than 100 volunteer hours and found their efforts both rewarding and eye-opening.

Upcoming Events

Masonville Cove Fall Festival

Masonville: October 3rd
 1000 Frankfurst Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21226 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Visit the Maryland Port Administration at the Patuxent Wildlife Festival

Patuxent Wildlife Refuge: October 17th
 10901 Scarlet Tanager Loop, Laurel, MD 20708 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Visit the Maryland Port Administration at the Dundalk Family Festival

Veteran's Park: October 24th
 44 Shipping Place, Dundalk, MD 21222 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Dredged Material Management Program Annual Meeting

Sollers Point Multipurpose Center: November 6th
 323 Sollers Point Road, Dundalk, MD 21222 10:00 AM

Follow • Subscribe • Explore

Learn more about the MPA's work for the economy, community, and environment through the:

- MPA Website
- GreenPort Website
- Port of Baltimore magazine (free)



MPA Website



GreenPort Website



POB Magazine

Or follow the MPA on social media:



Facebook



Pinterest



Twitter



Instagram



YouTube

***|FACEBOOK:LIKE|* this issue on Facebook!**



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

GreenPort is a publication of the Maryland Port Administration.
James J. White, Executive Director
The World Trade Center
401 East Pratt Street, Baltimore MD 21202
1-800-638-7519 / www.marylandports.com

To subscribe click [HERE](#)

To unsubscribe click [HERE](#)