

GreenPort Newsletter of Baltimore

July/August 2019



First flights of juvenile eagle with Kingbird escort at Masonville. Photo by Craig Koppie/USFWS



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ENVIRONMENT

Eagles Thriving on Port-Managed Lands

As reported in the March/April edition of the GreenPort Newsletter, [Masonville Cove](#) is currently home to the only known pair of bald eagles currently nesting in Baltimore City. Craig Koppie, raptor biologist with the [U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Chesapeake Bay Field Office](#) (USFWS), reports that the pair are successfully raising two male eaglets. "The juveniles have fledged and are doing well. A family of Eastern kingbirds have also fledged at

the same time, and the eagles have a wing-man!" said Koppie.

Senior Environmental Specialist Tim Carney with [Maryland Environmental Service](#) (MES) recently discovered that there are also two eaglets thriving at [Swan Creek Wetlands and Cox Creek Dredged Material Containment Facility](#) (DMCF). The nest is used every year; however, it is obstructed by leaves, and until recently, it was believed there were no young this year. "DMCF sites are quite the nursery for our eagle population this year," said Carney.

For the Masonville pair, USFWS biologists were able to attach a standard [U.S. Geological Survey](#) (USGS) leg band and a purple band, to both eaglets once they were about 7 1/2 weeks old. Letters and numbers on the bands identify the individual birds. The purple band shows that the eaglets were hatched in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. The bands will allow scientists to track the eaglets throughout their life span. The Masonville Cove campus has fully reopened after temporary restrictions to protect the pair of nesting bald eagles were lifted.

As a reminder, Swan Creek Wetlands and Cox Creek DMCF is closed for drop-in birding until further notice due to construction, but quarterly bird walks are offered on weekends. For more information, email Tim Carney (tcarn@menv.com).



Left: One of the two male juvenile bald eagles with his parents at Masonville Cove. **Right:** Juvenile eagles from another successful eagle's nest were seen recently at Swan Creek Wetlands and Cox Creek DMCF. Photos by Tim Carney/MES

BioBlitz Brings Out Record Crowd, Documents Threatened Species

The sixth annual [Masonville Cove](#) BioBlitz drew a record crowd of 175 participants in June. Attendees found three threatened species: bald eagle, double-crested cormorant and chimney swift. Using [iNaturalist](#) – a website and app that is used to track observations of wildlife species around the world – a total of 217 species were recorded from 496 observations. That is the second highest species count for this event.

You can view all of the wildlife that was documented on the [Masonville Cove BioBlitz iNaturalist project page](#). The event was led by the [National Aquarium](#) in collaboration with the [Maryland Department of Transportation Maryland Port Administration](#) (MDOT MPA), [Maryland Environmental Service](#) (MES), USFWS and [Living Classrooms Foundation](#). Attendees also celebrated 10 years of the [Masonville Cove Urban Wildlife Refuge Partnership](#).

Many thanks to the [Wallenius Wilhelmsen](#) employees who participated in honor of [World Oceans Day](#).



Left: Wildlife specialists helped participants explore biodiversity in an urban environment and learn

Birthday Party Held for Captain Trash Wheel

During the sixth annual Masonville Cove BioBlitz, Living Classrooms hosted a party to celebrate Captain Trash Wheel's first birthday, complete with song, cupcakes and birthday buttons. MDOT MPA Outreach Coordinator for Harbor Development Katrina Jones even brought a gift for the Captain: a hand painted portrait of the Captain by MDOT MPA graphic arts specialist Sam McPherson.

Commissioned by MDOT MPA, Captain Trash Wheel was deployed last year at Masonville Cove. It is Baltimore's third trash wheel and prevents trash from entering the Patapsco River's Middle Branch. MDOT MPA also provided funding for Mr. Trash Wheel in the Inner Harbor and Professor Trash Wheel at Harris Creek Park in Canton.

The trash wheels are powered by river current and solar energy and have attracted national and international attention. To date, Captain Trash Wheel has collected more than 11 tons of trash and debris.



A beautiful hand-painted rendition of Captain Trash Wheel was presented by MDOT MPA Outreach Coordinator for Harbor Development Katrina Jones. Photo by MES

Port and Zoo Work Together on Restoration Projects

Partnering for the first time, MDOT MPA and [The Maryland Zoo](#) in Baltimore joined forces on stormwater restoration projects at the zoo to stop erosion, provide habitat for local wildlife, and improve the quality of water that flows into the Jones Falls and ultimately into the Chesapeake Bay. Completed in early spring, the restoration construction projects were overseen by MES.

"The Port was really very generous in helping us solve these problems," said Maryland Zoo's Executive Vice President for Animal Programs and Chief Operating Officer Karl Kranz. "It's my hope that the public finds it interesting to look at and that the frogs, toads, turtles and other



creatures that frequent the zoo will enjoy the improved habitat.”

Together, MDOT MPA, the Maryland Zoo, and MES tackled two restoration projects at the zoo, a way to collect and filter water from the parking lots and roads near the Zoo’s main entrance and restoration of a seriously eroded stream. Photo by MDOT MPA

COMMUNITY

Baltimore Port Alliance Sponsors Port Tour for Community

This spring, the [Baltimore Port Alliance’s](#) (BPA) Environmental Committee hosted an informative Port tour for community members, during which attendees learned about progress that the Port is making to reduce air emissions. “The air quality has never been better in Baltimore in the last 100 years,” said MDOT MPA Air Quality Policy and Program Manager Chandra Chithaluru.

Other speakers included BPA Environment Committee Co-Chair and General Manager of [C. Steinweg](#) Rupert Denney, MDOT MPA General Manager of Safety, Environment and Risk Management and Committee Co-Chair Bill Richardson, and Solomon Egbe, Aamer Qureshi and Chris Hensell from [Ports America Chesapeake](#). MDOT MPA Environmental Manager Shawn Kiernan led a bus tour of the Dundalk Marine Terminal.

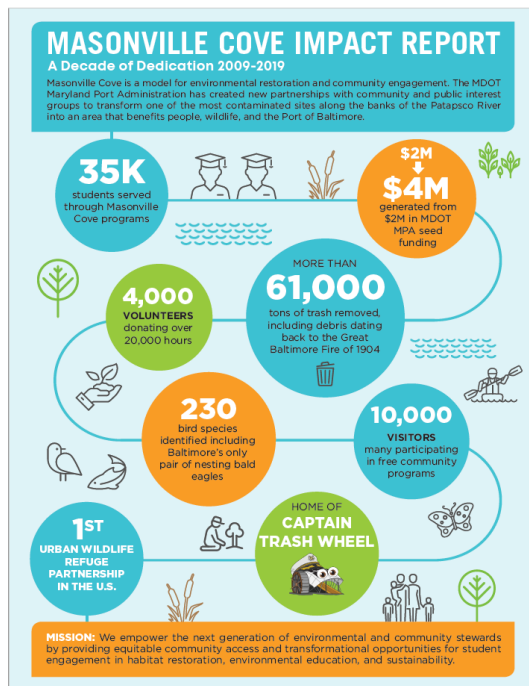
“Each of the men was so passionate about his area of expertise,” said Marcia Patterson from the Rockview Beach/Riviera Isles Improvement Association.



Pictured here are just a few of the 25 stakeholders who attended the tour (the largest group who has participated in the tour to date). The group included members of nine organizations representing 11 different neighborhoods in [Baltimore City](#) and [Anne Arundel County](#). Photo by Jody Couser/[Ecologix Group](#)

Upcoming Special Events at Masonville Cove

Mark your calendars! Here are a few special events celebrating the “Decade of Dedication” at Masonville Cove. Additionally, the Masonville Cove Environmental Education Campus (MCEEC) is extending evening hours to 8 p.m. on the first Thursday of each month through 2019. For more information, call MCEEC at 410-246-0669 or visit www.masonvillecove.org.



- **8/1 Cove Critters of the Night**
- **9/5 Fishing in the Cove**
- **9/29 Paddle Day/ National Urban Wildlife Refuge Day**
- **10/3 Halloween Night Hike**
- **11/7 Nature Bingo**
- **11/17 Hiking with the Captain**
- **12/5 Owl Prowl**
- **12/14 Captain's Scavenger Hunt**

Note: Times may vary depending upon events

DREDGING

Demonstration Project Off to Strong Start

At the Quarantine Road Landfill, an innovative reuse pilot project is showing early signs of success. In partnership with [Baltimore City's Department of Public Works](#), dried dredged material from the Cox Creek DMCF is being tested at the landfill as Alternative Daily Cover (ADC). "So far, Baltimore City operators have used about 3,000 cubic yards and are finding that the dredged material is performing satisfactorily as ADC," said MDOT MPA Innovative Reuse Program Manager Kristen Keene.

At the conclusion of the one-year pilot project, Baltimore City will submit a report to the [Maryland Department of the Environment](#) (MDE) describing the performance of dredged material as ADC. MDE will then determine if this may continue for an extended period-of-time at the landfill.

MDOT MPA continues to investigate other opportunities for small-to-medium scale, functional demonstration projects using dewatered dredged material.



In December 2018, MDOT MPA provided approximately 6,000 cubic yards of dewatered dredged material from Cox Creek DMCF for use as ADC at the Baltimore City-owned Quarantine Road Landfill. To date, 3,000 cubic yards have been used. Photo by MDOT MPA

EDUCATION

Conservation Interns: Where Are They Now?

Since 2014, the National Aquarium has partnered with MDOT MPA, Living Classrooms Foundation, and Chesapeake Bay Field Office (USFWS) and [Patuxent Research Refuge](#) (USFWS) to offer the [Urban Conservation and Education Internship \(UCEI\)](#) Program. These opportunities are available for college interns with an interest in conservation from the greater Baltimore area. To date, 19 college students have completed the program. Here's a look at where some of these ambitious interns are today. Another update will appear in the next issue.

- Alberto Salazar (2017) is a student at [University of Maryland Baltimore County](#) (UMBC) pursuing his GIS certification.
- Sarah Carpe (2016) is attending UMBC, scheduled to graduate in 2020 with a Bachelor of Science in environmental science. She continues to stay active in Baltimore conservation events such as the Masonville Cove BioBlitz. In 2019, she accepted an internship with the Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies (U.S. Forest Service). She will be helping with a project focused on people's perception of green infrastructure in Baltimore City.
- Sierra Barkdoll (2018) attends UMBC and leads many environmental groups and efforts on campus.
- Tatyana Brutus (2018) attends [Coppin State University](#) and reaches out to her mentors regularly.
- Jasmyynn George (2017) graduated from Coppin State University and completed an internship at The Maryland Zoo in Baltimore as an animal behavior/keeper aide. She is currently working in Pennsylvania and exploring opportunities to work with animals or wildlife.
- Jesus Munoz-Buenrostro (2018) graduated from the [University of Baltimore](#) and participated in the [Chesapeake Conservation Corp](#) Program as a volunteer with [Southwest Community Development Corporation](#) in Baltimore.

- Themis Arvanitidis (2018) graduated from [Towson University](#) and interned with the National Aquarium in its Animal Husbandry department.



From left to right: Refuge Manager Brad Knudsen, Patuxent Research Refuge; Sierra Barkdoll, UMBC; Conservation Community Coordinator Amber Doherty, National Aquarium; Themistoklis Arvanitidis, recent graduate of Towson University; Tatyana Brutus, Coppin State University; and Jesus Munoz Buenrostro, recent graduate of University of Baltimore. Photo by Amber Doherty/National Aquarium

UPCOMING EVENTS

Critters at the Cove - August 1st at 6:30 PM

Masonville Cove Environmental Education Center
1000 Frankfurst Ave
Baltimore, MD 21226

For questions please contact [Greenport](#).

DMMP Citizens Advisory Committee/Harbor Team Meeting - August 7th at 6:00 PM

MedStar Harbor Hospital
3001 S Hanover St
Baltimore, MD 21225

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

Pearce Creek Implementation Committee Meeting - August 16th at 10:00AM

Cecilton Community Center at Parklands
90 B North Center Street
Cecilton, MD 21919

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

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

Pt. Breeze Maritime Center I
2200 Broening Highway
Baltimore, MD 21224

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

Hart-Miller Island Citizens Oversight Committee - September 17th

Departure time is at **5:00 PM** from:

HMI Land Base

2024 A Riverview Road

Baltimore, MD 21221

Must RSVP for seat on vessel no later than September 10th at [Greenport](#).

DMMP Management Committee Meeting - September 24th at 10:00AM

World Trade Center

401 E. Pratt Street, Stanton Room

Baltimore, MD 21202

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



MDOT MPA Website



GreenPort Website



Port of Baltimore Magazine



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.



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