

GreenPort Newsletter of Baltimore

November/December 2018



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EDUCATION

Port Supports Inspirational Leader of Middle School Program

Paralyzed by a high school football injury 15 years ago, [Van Brooks](#) turned a personal tragedy into a remarkable public triumph. This son of a longshoreman founded the [Safe Alternative Foundation for Education](#), which provides much-needed free after-school and summer programs for Baltimore middle school students.

Last summer, Brooks' teens built underwater robots equipped with cameras and operated them at the Druid Hill Family Center YMCA and [Masonville Cove Environmental Education Center](#). [Maryland Department of Transportation Maryland Port Administration](#) (MDOT MPA) helped Brooks obtain a grant from the Chesapeake Bay Trust that enabled the students to learn how land uses impact water quality.

"Van's passion for helping students dream big is an inspiration for me personally," said MDOT MPA Manager of Safety, Environment and Risk Management Barbara McMahon.



Caption: Van Brooks and his students had a great time deploying their custom built sea-bots at Masonville Cove.

Photo: MDOT MPA

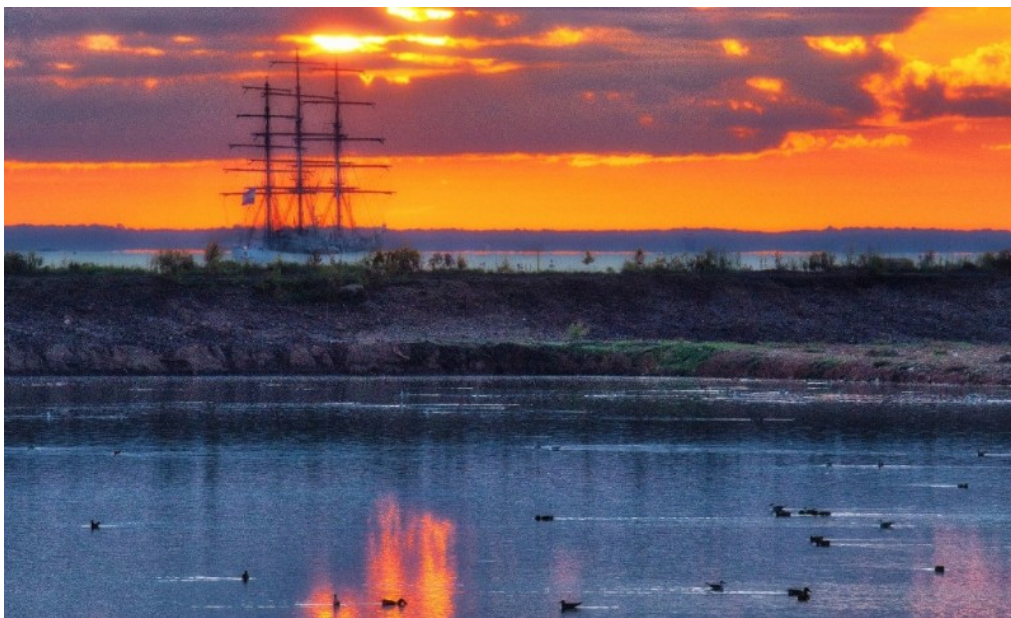
ENVIRONMENT

Cox Creek and Swan Creek Ranked #1 eBird Hotspot in Maryland

For the third year in a row, area birders ranked **Cox Creek Dredged Material Containment Facility (DMCF)** and Swan Creek Wetlands as the No. 1 hotspot on the popular website, **eBird**. The ranking is based on the total number of species observed out of nearly 2,000 Maryland locations.

"Cox Creek is a unique birding hotspot because it offers many types of habitat, and each habitat attracts its own variety of birds," said local birder Stan Arnold, who has conducted hundreds of surveys there. The shallow water and mudflats within the containment facility cells are attractive to shorebirds. Other species are attracted to the mature forest, freshwater wetlands, tidally-influenced wetlands, open grassy areas, and the Patapsco River.

Due to construction associated with expansion of the site, birding activities are limited to pre-scheduled guided tours only. Contact Maryland Environmental Service (MES) Senior Environmental Specialist Tim Carney at tcarn@menv.com to be added to the birding contact list.



This beautiful sunrise photo was taken by birder Wendy Crowe during a recent bird walk led by Timothy Carney.

Creativity Cleans Stormwater Runoff from Terminal

Treating stormwater to improve water quality is challenging everywhere, but it's especially true on Port terminals where every available inch is used for cargo. Often the only options are installing underground holding tanks or other costly treatments.

For MDOT MPA General Manager of Safety, Environment and Risk Management Bill Richardson, this challenge creates opportunities. Taking advantage of [Dundalk Marine Terminal's](#) existing topography, he oversaw the installation of a creative above-ground sand filter with a vegetative cover in an unused area of the terminal. The low-cost project filters stormwater runoff before it flows into the Patapsco River.



Richardson used a grant from the [Maryland Department of Natural Resources](#) to work with [Furbish](#), a Baltimore green building company, to build the project with design help from the [Center for Watershed Protection](#).

Creativity leads to better water quality thanks to this low-cost sand filter with a vegetative cover that helps manage stormwater at the Dundalk Marine Terminal.

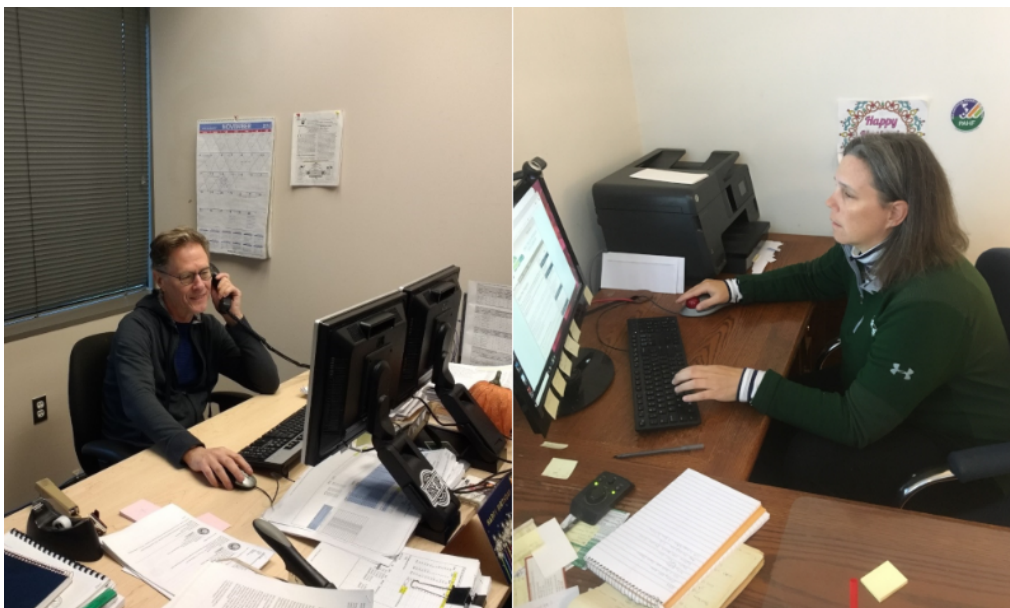
Photo by Furbish

Two Writers Use Their Keyboards for Cleaner Air

Two grant writers are credited with finding federal funds to help cut air pollution in the region while cargo volumes rise at the Port of Baltimore.

Collaborating for the past decade, Ted Kluga, MES, and Susan Stephenson, [EcoLogix Group, Inc.](#), have helped MDOT MPA win eight grants from the [Environmental Protection Agency \(EPA\)](#) through the [Diesel Emissions Reduction Act \(DERA\)](#), totaling about \$6.4 million.

The funds are used for improvements in dray trucks, cargo handling equipment, marine engines, and diesel locomotives. For example, MDOT MPA has replaced nearly 180 dray trucks since 2012. Replacement of these independently owned short-haul trucks with newer, cleaner models reduces the emission of pollutants.



Ted Kluga of MES and Susan Stephenson of EcoLogix Group, Inc., are an effective grant writing team who secure funding for the Port of Baltimore's Diesel Equipment Upgrade Program.

Courtesy Photos

Five Pieces of Heavy Duty Equipment Replaced Thanks to EPA Grant Funds

Reducing air pollution and emissions associated with moving cargo through the Port of Baltimore is a priority for MDOT MPA, which offers funding to partners through an EPA grant to replace older, heavy-duty diesel equipment.



BalTerm, one of the Port's leading handlers of imported forest products, recently replaced three 16,000-pound-capacity fork lifts, which were approximately 20 years old, with newer models that meet current federal emissions standards for heavy duty diesel engines. Additionally, two terminal tractors were replaced this fall.

"BalTerm was excited to have the opportunity to participate for the second time in the **Port of Baltimore's Diesel Equipment Upgrade Program**," said Balterm General Manager Jeremy Riddle.

The EPA and MDOT MPA are helping partners to reduce emissions at the Port by replacing older, heavy-duty diesel equipment with new more efficient models, such as this 16,000-pound-capacity fork lift.

Photo: MES

COMMUNITY

MDOT MPA Employees Volunteer for 'Day to Serve'

MDOT MPA employees continued to answer the call from **Governor Larry Hogan** to give back to communities as part of a '**Day to Serve**.'

One group of employees visited Masonville Cove Environmental Education Center on Sept. 28, 2018 to clean up the shoreline along the Middle Branch of the Patapsco River. The group, joined by MES employees, collected more than 100 pounds of trash and recyclables.

On Oct. 4, 2018, another group of employees from Maintenance and Facility Operations provided some much-needed work for the St. Helena Community Center. Workers expertly cut drywall ceiling tile and installed it in a room, replacing 49-year-old fiberglass ceiling tile. Watch a video of what their work means to the community center at **<https://youtu.be/XKdAGU8vk8Y>**.



Volunteers from MDOT MPA and MES show off their trash collection at Masonville Cove.

Volunteer Honored for 14 Years of Service

Fran Taylor, outgoing chair of the Dredged Material Management Program (DMMP) [Citizens' Advisory Committee \(CAC\)](#), was honored for his 14 years of volunteer service helping the Port connect to citizens and communities and build relationships with new and different stakeholders. Active engagement by citizens is essential for a successful DMMP.

"On behalf of MDOT MPA, we thank Fran for his tireless commitment to the Port of Baltimore, his steadfast engagement in the dredging program and his advocacy on behalf of citizens," said MDOT MPA Director of Harbor Development Chris Correale. "Fran serves as a model for meaningful, civic involvement and tireless commitment to public service."

MDOT MPA looks forward to working with [Waterfront Partnership](#) Director of the Healthy Harbor Initiative Adam Lindquist, who will serve as the next chair of the CAC.



Fran Taylor accepts the gift of a ship's wheel as thanks for his 14 years of volunteer service as CAC chair. From left to right: David Bibo, MDOT MPA; Katrina Jones, MDOT MPA; Fran Taylor, outgoing CAC chair; and Frank Hamons, retired from MDOT MPA.

Photo: MDOT MPA

Environmental Stewardship Major Theme at DMMP Annual Meeting

Environmental stewardship was a major theme at this year's DMMP Annual Meeting. From a Baltimore City school teacher, to an executive with a major global shipping company, attendees learned that the environment is a core focus of the Port and many of its partners.

[Wallenius Wilhelmsen Ocean's](#) Head of Port and Cargo Operations, Mike Derby, shared that the shipping company has an admirable goal to reach zero emissions. [Baltimore City Schools](#) STEM Leader Kristine Buls explained that MDOT MPA's environmental education programs have inspired students to care about the conservation and gave them an opportunity to learn about the Port and dredging.

The perimeter of the room was set up with displays of major MDOT MPA initiatives, including "Cox Creek Expanded," [environmental education](#), [innovative/beneficial use](#), and a replica algal flow-way.



Baltimore City Schools STEM Leader Kristine Buls, MES Outreach & Education Coordinator Laura Baker, and Special Education Teacher Heidi Donato at the DMMP Annual Meeting.

Photo: MES

Innovative Dredging Program Wins Prestigious Award

The [American Society of Landscape Architects \(ASLA\)](#) recently recognized MDOT MPA's innovative reuse program with the prestigious [2018 ASLA Professional Award](#) for design presented to [Mahan Rykiel Associates](#).

"Design with Dredge: Resilient Landscape Infrastructure in the Chesapeake Bay" was selected for the landscape strategies used in the Baltimore region, where 1.15 million cubic yards of sediment must be removed each year from Baltimore Harbor to keep the Port operating.

Mahan Rykiel Associates presented MDOT MPA with a copy of the award at the DMMP Annual Meeting. ASLA also recognized [Maryland Geological Survey](#), [USACE Baltimore](#), [Anchor QEA](#), MES, [Turner Station Conservation Teams](#), MDOT MPA Innovative Reuse Committee, North Point Peninsula Council, and [Cornell University](#).



Office of Harbor Development Chief of Outreach, Policy & Permits, Kristen Fidler and Environmental Analyst Kristen Keene accept the 2018 ASLA Professional Award on behalf of MDOT MPA from Team Leader Isaac Hametz, Mahan Rykiel Associates.

Photo: MDOT MPA

Citizens Advisory Committee Tours Pearce Creek DMCF

On Oct. 11, 2018, MDOT MPA and the [U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Philadelphia District](#) (PCOE) hosted the DMMP [Citizens' Advisory Committee \(CAC\)](#) for a tour of the [Pearce Creek DMCF](#) and surrounding area to learn more about the reactivation of the site and coordination with adjacent communities.

PCOE Chief Engineer Joe Pital led a tour of the [Chesapeake & Delaware Canal](#) dispatch office where they control ship traffic. Local resident Valerie Woodruff joined MDOT MPA Environmental Analyst Kristen Keene for a presentation explaining the need for reactivating the site and connection to municipal water. PCOE Project Engineer Gavin Kaiser gave a tour of the Pearce Creek DMCF. The group also took a driving tour of the surrounding community, where a project funded by MDOT MPA connected homes to a new [public waterline](#) from the Town of Cecilton.



CAC members enjoy a visit to the C & D Canal Museum maintained by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Chesapeake City, Md.
Photo: MDOT MPA

UPCOMING EVENTS

Cox Creek Citizens Oversight Committee - January 9th at 5:30PM

(Snow Date: January 17th)

Riviera Beach Public Library

1130 Duvall Hwy, Pasadena, MD 21122

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

Harbor Team Meeting - January 24th at 6:30 PM

(Snow Date: February 24th)

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 - January 15th - 6:30 PM

(Snow Date: January 29th)

Pt. Breeze Maritime Center I

2200 Broening Highway

Baltimore, MD 21224

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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