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# GreenPort Newsletter of Baltimore

**November/December 2019**



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## PORT

### Fellow Helps Port Research Ways to Offset Greenhouse Gases

Jon-Michael Murray, a graduate student at [Yale School of Forestry and Environment](#) and an [Environmental Defense Fund \(EDF\)](#) Climate Corps Fellow, spent 10 weeks at the Port

this summer where he helped MDOT MPA Safety, Environment and Risk Management (SERM) staff research possible ways to help offset greenhouse gases.



"One important lesson that I learned was how a public administration operates, which is one of the primary reasons that I chose MDOT MPA. I learned how public projects get funded and how they are managed on a day-to-day basis," said Murray.

Since 2008, EDF has placed nearly 1,000 graduate students into more than 450 organizations in the United States and China to tackle energy-related challenges. Murray is the fourth EDF fellow to work with SERM at MDOT MPA.

*EDF fellow Jon-Michael Murray previously spent 6 years as a nuclear machinist mate in the U.S. Navy. Photo: MDOT MPA*

## COMMUNITY

### Fun and Interactive Open House Welcomes Community Members

In October, the MDOT MPA hosted an open house and tour of the **Cox Creek Dredged Material Containment Facility** and the recently completed Cox Creek Operations & Maintenance building. Attendees enjoyed interactive, family-friendly activities such as an opportunity to "touch-a-truck," play games, observe wildlife, and join a guided bird watching walk along the dredged material containment site and in the Swan Creek wetlands. Staff and partners presented displays about the Port's important environmental education projects and shared information about the Cox Creek Expansion Project.

Construction on the new 10,943-square-foot building began in April 2018. The building includes a lab, office space, meeting room, and a vehicle maintenance garage. A large conference room will be used for educational programs and meetings such as the **Cox Creek Citizens Oversight Committee** and an upcoming meeting of the **Innovative Reuse Committee (IRC)**.



**Left:** MDOT MPA planned a fun day for all ages to enjoy, including games and activities for children.  
**Right:** Activities included an early morning guided bird walk. In 2018, for the third year in a row,



area birders ranked Cox Creek DMCF and the Swan Creek Wetlands as the No. 1 hotspot on the popular website, [eBird](#). Photos: [Maryland Environmental Service \(MES\)](#).

## MDOT MPA Facilities Staff Lend Helping Hands

Located near the Seagirt and Dundalk marine terminals is the historic neighborhood of St. Helena. MDOT MPA strives to be a good neighbor, and so under Governor Hogan's "2019 Day to Serve" effort, five members of MDOT MPA's Facility Maintenance, Fleet and Cranes Department volunteered to finish installing ceiling tiles at the St. Helena Community Association building. This was the second year that Port volunteers worked on the project.

"The community association had been in the process of replacing suspended ceiling tiles in various rooms in the community building. The project was slow moving and had been ongoing for some time. The results are just *beautiful*," said Association President Shirley Gregory. "St. Helena extends a warm thank you and owes a debt of gratitude for this kind act of volunteerism."



From left to right: Hunter Noha, Rich Rehberger, Tim Cosgrove, Bill Bosley, and Eric Cartnail from MDOT MPA's Facility Maintenance, Fleet and Cranes Department give back through "Day to Serve." Governor Hogan gave all employees four consecutive hours of paid leave to participate in a volunteer activity that met Day to Serve requirements and the approval of supervisors. Photo by Dan Spack/[EcoLogix Group, Inc.](#)

## MDE Employees Pitch in at Masonville Cove

In October, [Maryland Department of the Environment](#) Secretary Ben Grumbles joined employees for a shoreline clean-up at [Masonville Cove](#) along with [Living Classrooms Foundation](#) and MES employees. The group collected a total of 100 pounds of debris, which included 52.5 pounds of hard plastic recyclables and 47.5 pounds of trash.

"We are very appreciative of the MDE staff for taking the time to come down to Masonville Cove, roll up their sleeves, and spend a few hours to contribute such a visible impact on our shoreline," said Living Classrooms Foundation's Director of Masonville Cove Campus Lorraine Warnick.

MDE employees took part in three "Day to Serve" projects that focused on litter cleanup in Baltimore. In addition to Masonville Cove, they also served at Carroll Park Community Garden and a playground in Pigtown.



*Director of the MDOT MPA Office of Harbor Development Kristen Fidler, MDE Secretary Ben Grumbles, MES Senior Lead Environmental Specialist Danielle Wilson, and MDE Communications and Outreach Coordinator Lisa Jones participate in a shoreline cleanup at Masonville Cove, as part of "The Day to Serve 2019." Photo by MDOT MPA*

## OUTREACH

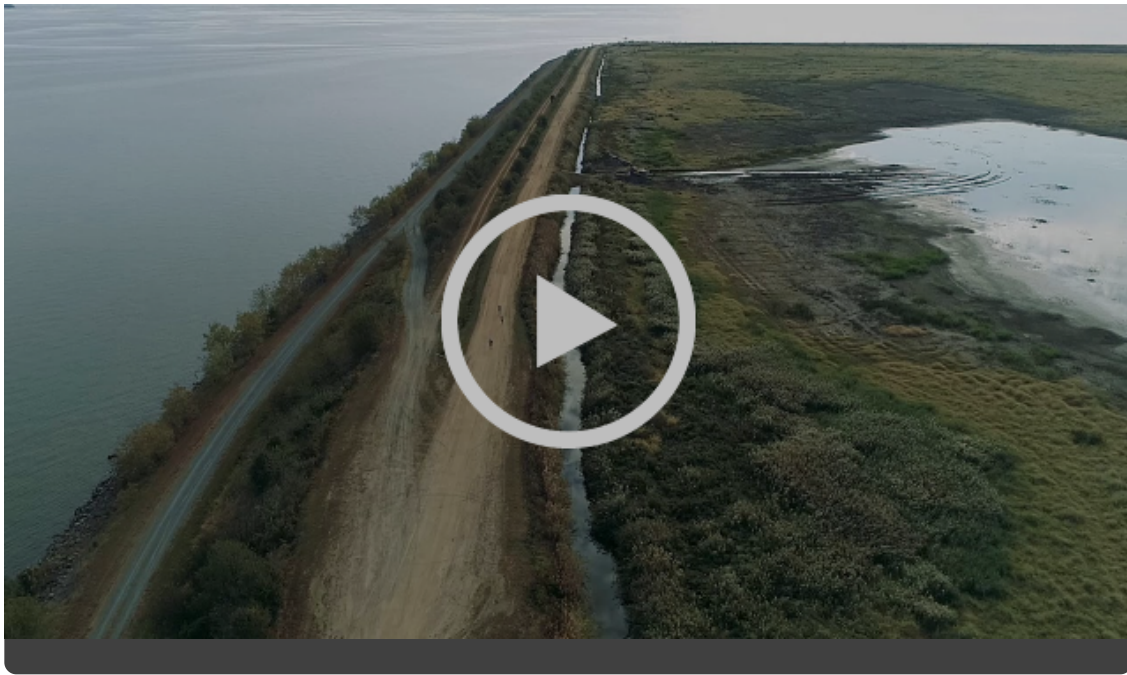
### Second Annual Hart-Miller Island 5 miler

In October, the second [Hart-Miller Island](#) (HMI) 5 Miler hosted 80 runners, with 16-year-old, Trey Pollick, finishing first in just over 36 minutes. The race was held in cooperation with MDOT MPA, [Maryland Department of Natural Resources](#), [Friends of Maryland State Parks](#), MES, [Maryland Park Service](#), and [Charm City Run](#).

Mary Taylor, the daughter of Fran Taylor, a member of the HMI Citizens Oversight Committee, joined her father and was the first female to cross the finish line. "As both a participant and an HMI citizen volunteer, this was a great opportunity to experience a unique race and beautiful state park with my daughter, neighbors, and others," said Taylor.

The 1,100-acre island was built using dredged sediment from shipping channels that serve the Port of Baltimore. In 2016, the HMI South Cell was added to the [state park](#). Open seasonally and accessible only by private boat, the park includes eight miles of trails with breathtaking views of the Chesapeake Bay and a large pond. Bikes, paddleboards and kayaks can be rented on site.





## Connecting with Our Community

"Connecting with the public and engaging with the communities is a priority for MDOT MPA, and we are always looking to expand our audience. We are very pleased to report tangible results," said MDOT MPA Outreach Coordinator for Harbor Development Katrina Jones. "Social media use has increased by 120% across the various Port of Baltimore social media platforms in 2018. As of December 1, Captain Trash Wheel has over 3,500 social media followers across its three accounts after being introduced to social media platforms at the beginning of 2018. Subscribers to the GreenPort eNewsletter have increased by approximately 5%."

As of September 2019, more than 15,841 people learned about the Port of Baltimore by visiting DMCFs and participating in off-site events such as community events, meetings, conferences, and educational programs.

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Visit the MDOT MPA web site at

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## DMMP Annual Meeting Welcomes Record Number of Attendees

A record 110 attendees came to the Dredged Material Management Program (DMMP) Annual Meeting in November where the theme was "Vision 2020: Engage, Environment, and Economy."

The DMMP was noted for its efforts to help our region adapt to climate change. "All agencies in Maryland must work to address climate change, and the DMMP recognizes this and is factoring climate change into its projects and the long-term planning estimates. In fact, the work of the DMMP may be an asset in helping Maryland address coastal resiliency and

reduce the impacts of sea level rise,” said Dr. Peter Goodwin, president of the [University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science \(UMCES\)](#).

Speakers included MDOT MPA Director of Harbor Development Kristen Fidler, [Citizens Advisory Committee](#) Chair Adam Lindquist, Dr. Peter Goodwin, UMCES, MDOT MPA Director of Planning Jim Dwyer, [U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Baltimore District](#) Study Manager Andy May, and Dr. Mamie Parker, retired director of the [U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service](#), inspirational speaker, and principal at Ecologix Group, Inc.

This year the annual report was supported by a microsite. Check it out at [mpadmmpannualreport.com](http://mpadmmpannualreport.com).



Larry Bannerman, [Turner Station Conservation Teams](#); Walt Dinicola, [Anchor QEA, LLC](#); Principal Isaac Hametz, [Mahan Rykiel](#); Gloria Nelson, Turner Station Conservation Teams; [Chesapeake Bay Foundation](#) Baltimore Program Manager Carmera Thomas; and MDOT MPA Office of Harbor Development Environmental Analyst Kristen Keene.

Photo by Jody Couser/EcoLogix Group, Inc.

## EDUCATION

### STEM Night Held at Masonville Cove

As part of the “Decade of Dedication” series of special events and extended evening hours, Masonville Cove welcomed Girl Wolf Den of Pack 577, [Scouts BSA](#), for a *Science, Technology, Engineering and Math* (STEM) night in November.

In 2018, the girls made history when Pack 577 became one of the first packs formally accepting girls to participate in Boy Scouts. But this was not their first time being first. In late 2017, as kindergarteners in a pilot program, they were also Baltimore’s first all-girl Lion Cub Scout Den .

The evening included a special lesson in





logistics, called "Ship a Chip." Eleanor, age 7, liked getting to choose the materials to build her container to safely ship a potato chip. When reflecting on Nature Bingo, Eleanor said, "I learned about the animals and trees that are found at Masonville Cove."

**Left:** The girls proudly share their certificates for building a successful shipping container and for their chip being still intact. Attending the event counts toward their "Paws on the Path," one of five requirements that will help them achieve their rank this spring to Bear.  
Photo: MDOT MPA



Members of Girl Wolf Den Pack 577, Scouts BSA, work on their shipping containers for their chips. The pack is made up of second graders from South Baltimore, including Pigtown, Locust Point, Federal Hill, and Riverside. Photo: MDOT MPA

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Cox Creek Citizens Oversight Committee - January 8th at 5:30PM  
(Snow Date: January 15th)

Cox Creek Operations and Management Building  
1000 Kembo Rd, Curtis Bay, MD 21226

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

**Harbor Team Meeting - January 23rd at 6:00 PM**

*(Snow Date: January 30th)*

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 21st at 6:30 PM**

*(Snow Date: January 28th)*

Pt. Breeze Maritime Center I

2200 Broening Highway Baltimore, MD 21224

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



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Port of Baltimore Magazine

**MDOT MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION™**  
**MARYLAND PORT ADMINISTRATION**

*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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