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## GREEN PORT



COURTESY OF MES (MD. ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES)

### Planting at Masonville Cove

More than 450 fifth-graders and a small group of high school students enjoyed a hands-on science experience at the Masonville Cove Environmental Education Center in May.

Living Classrooms staff work with the students in Masonville-area schools on a monthly basis throughout the school year. These programs begin in the third grade and are funded through the Maryland Port Administration (MPA). The Masonville Cove Environmental Festival serves as a culmination of the students' environmental education programs with Living Classrooms.

This year's Festival was extra special because the National Aquarium offered support and conducted a massive wetland planting with the fifth-grade students and other volunteers.

Various environmental organizations were also on hand to teach students about such things as water quality buoys in the bay, how to make bird feeders from recycled bottles and gardening for nutrition. Students also had a chance to see terrapins, blue crabs, horseshoe crabs, fish, a duck and an opossum.

High school students pitched in, too. As part of the National Aquarium's Wetland Nursery Program, students at Benjamin Franklin High School raised grasses throughout the school year; students from the school then helped plant them, along with a group of students from the Maritime Academy.

A total of 17,500 plants were planted on the fringe wetland at the Masonville Cove Dredged Materials Containment Facility.

Grants from the MPA and Constellation Energy, along with donations from the Maryland Environmental Service, made the programs possible. 🌐