



Thanks to you, we are moving steadily forward on our shared goals for wildlife and the environment!

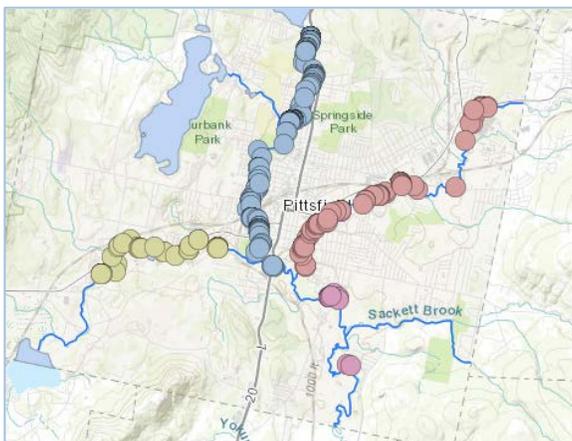
Stewardship: *We mobilize local citizen-scientists and volunteers to restore and maintain the ecological integrity of our region.*



All generations working together for a cleaner river!



River cleanups are an essential part of what BEAT does to maintain healthy habitat for wildlife. We partner with the Housatonic River Association on two to three river cleanups each year. Join us!



Over the past two years BEAT staff, volunteers, and project partners have been surveying 18 miles of the Housatonic River for point source

pollution. Funded by the Massachusetts Environmental Trust (MET), the project incorporated digital surveying, mapping, water quality testing, and partnerships with the Housatonic Valley Association, The City of Pittsfield and Berkshire Community College (BCC). We located and evaluated 288 stormwater outfalls (pipes that lead to the river) for possible cross contamination from sewer lines. Unfortunately, we found some. Curiously, 114 of the 288 outfalls found were previously unknown to the city.



Stewardship: Continued...

Thank you to our kiwi eradication volunteers and to all of you who have invested in this work with your generous donations! Invasive species like hardy kiwi destroy healthy forest ecosystems and wildlife habitat. With a grant from Cornell's IPM Center and your support, BEAT has formed a task force to address this crisis in New England and nearby states. There remain a great many areas to be mapped and a deal of work to be done!

BEAT works with dozens of volunteers and with other organizations, like Mass Audubon, to systematically map and eradicate invasive hardy kiwi... before it will be too late to contain it.

Invasive kiwi pulls down mature trees.



More like a tree trunk than a vine!



In order to restore wildlife connectivity, we need to know where and how wildlife move. The BEAT Wildlife Trackers Club meets twice monthly throughout the year. Especially in winter, BEAT staff and volunteers are out in the field finding and identifying wildlife tracks and feeding the information into a database shared by professionals across our region. Join us!



Wildlife connectivity

Human activity has interfered with what wildlife have depended upon for millennia: well-worn paths through the wilderness. These paths lead to food, mating grounds, and form migration routes. With your help, BEAT is working with other organizations to restore connectivity along traditional paths of movement both in waterways and on the ground.

Watchdogging

Working with you to protect the environment for wildlife.



Rosemary speaks to a group of activists.

BEAT's No Fracked Gas in Mass (NFGiM) website is the go-to source for current and actionable information when it comes to fossil fuel infrastructure projects and energy-related happenings across the region.

Thanks to your generosity and that of grant funders, BEAT's No Fracked Gas in Mass (NFGiM) program continued to lead by tracking and reporting on developments in fossil fuel procurement, transportation, and use by corporate giants, thanks to the tireless efforts of Rosemary Wessel and our dedicated volunteers who keep their eyes and ears open 24/7. Thousands of people living across Massachusetts and New England, NY, NJ and beyond rely on NFGiM's alerts on energy-related hearings, listening sessions, rallies, meetings, and calls to action.



The complex issues around energy challenge even the most seasoned professional. NFGiM staff work closely with partners to bring clarity from chaos and confusion. We help key stakeholders understand that fossil fuel infrastructure and dirty energy use threaten our environment, our health, and all species that depend on robust natural areas for food, shelter, and survival.



Thank you for your past support of the NFGiM program! Please be generous as we look ahead to ever more challenges in 2018. **VISIT www.nofrackedgasinmass.org!**



Outreach and Education

Because we believe an informed, engaged citizenry is the environment's best protection.

Have you noticed – BEAT is everywhere!

Well, perhaps not *everywhere*, but BEAT staff and volunteers are more visible than ever, sharing BEAT's mission and partnering with other groups and organizations in the community to learn about and celebrate Berkshire wildlife. Please be generous in supporting our fund drive and thereby ensuring our talented staff can continue to spread the word on the urgent need for protections that will help sustain wildlife. **They need all of us to be their voice!**



Greening the Gateway City / Pittsfield program is in its second year, with BEAT conducting outreach in environmental justice neighborhoods in Pittsfield to promote free trees, free planting, and the energy-saving benefits they provide, thanks to this statewide program of the MA Dept. of Energy Resources!

We host monthly **Pittsfield Green Drinks**, take part in **Third Thursdays** all summer, and our **Enviro Expo** was a huge success this year (back again in 2018)! The owl pictured was rescued by Adirondack Wildlife.

The BEAT News is our weekly e-newsletter with everything a local environmentalist needs to know!

With a subscription list of 961 and 52 editions per year, The BEAT News is the best provider of environmental news in western Mass. **If you wish to subscribe to The BEAT News, please visit our website or email news@thebeatnews.org.**

Did you see this photo in a recent edition of The BEAT News? If not, sign up now!!





Remembering Josie Janssen

Josie was never afraid to get wet and dirty hauling trash out of the Housatonic River at many of BEAT / HVA's river cleanups. She also dug and pulled and bagged trash at other cleanups and supported us at many other events. *Josie, we will miss you!*



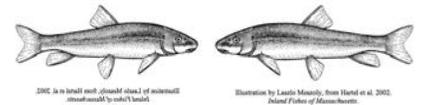
Save the Date!

Second Annual Climate Fair!
Earth Day weekend, April 21, 2018
The Stationery Factory, Dalton, MA

There are so many opportunities for you to get involved!

- Learn to certify a vernal pool • Help with a wetland survey
- Track and monitor wildlife • Help with stream crossing surveys
- Distribute posters, brochures & flyers • Donate money or goods
- Website maintenance • Table at events

Leave a legacy to BEAT in your will. Bequests are donations made through your will or living trust that will help protect the environment for wildlife after you are gone. Bequests are easy to write, revocable (you can change your will at any time), cost nothing during your lifetime because they are paid upon your death, and personal - you create your own special legacy to support the work that matters to you. Please contact Jane at jane@thebeatnews.org or call 413-230-7321.



*¿Hablas español? Si tienes preguntas de como ayudar con nuestra misión, puedea contactar-nos electrónicamente a elia@thebeatnews.org.
Parlez-vous français? Si vous avez des questions ou voulez à l'en savoir plus au sujet de la façon aider dans notre mission, vous pouvez contactez-nous par l'email chez bruce@thebeatnews.org.*

Check out BEAT's 5-out-of-5 star rating at www.GreatNonProfits.org!

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