



The BEAT News

Because an informed and engaged public is
the environment's best defense.

August 21, 2019

Dear Friend,

We had a wonderful time this past weekend at both the river cleanup and Barrington Stage's climate symposium. Our small but mighty volunteer force showed up and hauled mattresses and other trash from the river. Thank you! We couldn't do it without you (literally). There was a wonderful conversation at the symposium featuring experienced voices and engaged community members. Thank you!

We're looking forward to [our second Birds & Trees](#) walk and talk coming up next Wednesday. Join us at Springside Park bright and early to bird by ear and talk about trees!

That's it for now, folks.

Thank you for all you do to protect the environment,

Jane, Elia, Rose, Jake, Mary, Isabelle, Weyessa (Ace), and Elizabeth

Birds & Trees

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 28 • 8 - 9AM

SPRINGSIDE PARK, PITTSFIELD, MA

**BIRDING BY EAR, TALKING ABOUT TREES
WITH BEAT & DCR**

Join the Berkshire Environmental Action Team (BEAT) and the Dept. of Conservation & Recreation (DCR) for a morning walk and talk at Springside Park. We'll identify our local birds by ear, learn about the trees growing on the Common, and talk about the natural history of the Berkshires. ****Meet outside Springside House****

FREE

INFO : THEBEATNEWS.ORG



Please help support this newsletter. Thank you!

In The News

Berkshire Conservation District Announces No-Till Farmland Initiative

BERKSHIRE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Berkshire Conservation District is pleased to announce the receipt of grant funding from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA), Division of Conservation Services, Conservation District Innovation Grants Program, and the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR) for a project to increase the use of no-till seeding methods by farmers throughout the county. This approach to planting helps reduce soil erosion, conserve water, improve soil health and increase carbon sequestration while educating local and regional farmers as well as the public about the benefits of these farming methods. [READ ON](#)

Pittsfield armed with more money as it

readies to remove Mill Street Dam

AMANDA DRANE | THE BERKSHIRE EAGLE

Work on the Mill Street Dam is now scheduled to start next week, with about \$1 million more tacked onto the price tag. This year, the project cost was estimated at \$1.9 million. But the bids came in higher than expected, said Jim McGrath, the city's parks and natural resource program manager. The lowest bid went to SumCo Eco Contracting, whose bid was \$2,582,950. [READ ON](#)

By the numbers : Bees

MASS AUDUBON

Many populations of native bees and other pollinators in Massachusetts are experiencing dramatic declines thanks to climate change, pesticide exposure, loss of habitat, and more. But you can help by asking your state legislators to support the Pollinator Protection bill. [READ MORE & SEE THE INFOGRAPHIC](#)

An ocean plastics field trip for corporate executives

ROWAN JACOBSEN | OUTSIDE ONLINE

Recycling is broken. The oceans are trashed. As the plastics crisis spirals out of control, an unlikely collection of executives and environmentalists set sail for the North Atlantic Gyre in a desperate attempt to find common ground. The subtropical island of Bermuda does not see many icebreakers, but on a warm May day, Dave Ford is standing on one, welcoming his uneasy guests aboard. Technically, the RCGS Resolute, 400 feet long and eight decks high, is an ice-strengthened expedition ship, one class below an icebreaker. [READ ON](#)

Find more climate and energy articles featured in this week's No Fracked Gas in Mass Weekly News Check-In. Find the news and subscribe here.

Don't burn trees to fight climate change - let them grow

BILL MCKIBBEN | THE NEW YORKER

Of all the solutions to climate change, ones that involve trees make people the happiest. Earlier this year, when a Swiss study announced that planting 1.2 trillion trees might cancel out a decade’s worth of carbon emissions, people swooned (at least on Twitter). And last month, when Ethiopian officials announced that twenty-three million of their citizens had planted three hundred and fifty million trees in a single day, the swooning intensified. Someone tweeted, “This should be like the ice bucket challenge thing.” [READ ON](#)

Eggshells

CHARLEY EISEMAN | BUGTRACKS

On Monday I spotted these little eggshells on a tall blue lettuce (*Lactuca biennis*) plant growing under the black cherry (*Prunus serotina*) tree in my yard: [CLICK LINK TO SEE PHOTOS] There aren’t many insect eggs I would identify to species with confidence, but these brown-rimmed hockey pucks were without a doubt deposited by a polyphemus moth (*Antheraea polyphemus*). This makes four giant silk moth (*Saturniidae*) species I have now found in my yard. [READ ON](#)

Keep up with the fight against fossil fuels at the No Fracked Gas in Mass Newsletter

SUBSCRIBE HERE

JOBS

We list jobs related to the environment from a variety of organizations.

Email news@thebeatnews.org to submit an open position.

- Tree Program Canvasser** | Berkshire Environmental Action Team | Pittsfield
- Administrative Assistant** | Great Barrington Land Conservancy | Great Barrington / Remote
- Trail Construction Assistant** | Berkshire Natural Resources Council | Pittsfield
- Berkshires Campus Organizer** | MassPIRG | Berkshire County
- Regional Coordinators** | Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program | Western Mass
- Membership Coordinator** | Urban Sustainability Directors Network | Remote
- Research Coordinator** | Urban Sustainability Directors Network | Remote
- Board of Supervisors** | Berkshire Conservation District | Berkshire County
- Director of Policy** | The Trustees | Boston
- Development Associate** | Sierra Club MA Chapter | Boston
- Grant & Contract Manager** | Northeast Community Center | Millerton, NY
- TMDL Coordinator** | Mass DEP | Worcester
- Water Quality Monitoring Volunteers** | Housatonic Valley Association | Pittsfield & Dalton
- Temporary Solar Installer & Temporary Solar Electrician** | PV Squared | Greenfield
- Land Stewardship Coordinator** | The Nature Conservancy | Great Barrington
- Network Weaver** | Fix | New England
- TerraCorps & Community Engagement Positions** | Just Roots | Greenfield
- Community Engagement Coordinator** | Kestrel Land Trust | Amherst
- Stormwater Coordinator** | MassDEP | Boston
- Berkshire Watershed Director** | Housatonic Valley Association | Stockbridge
- Conservation Commissioners** | Town of Stockbridge | Stockbridge
- Program Manager** | Collaborative on Health & the Environment | Remote
- Experienced Solar Technician** | BPVS | North Adams, MA
- Corporate Sponsor Director** | NOFA/Mass | Remote
- Membership & Database Coordinator** | NOFA/Mass | Remote
- Organic Food Guide Coordinator** | NOFA/Mass | Remote
- River Stewards of Tomorrow** | Housatonic Valley Association | Stockbridge, MA
- VT & NH Community Organizer** | Toxics Action Center | Vermont & New Hampshire

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

We list events from a variety of local and regional organizations and individuals.

BEAT events are in **bold**. Submit events to news@thebeatnews.org

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 21

- A Zero-Waste Bathroom - North Adams**
- Mountain Mindfulness Yoga - Lanesborough
- 350MA-Berkshire Node Meeting - Pittsfield
- Nature Walks for Health and Happiness - Lenox
- Evening at the Beaver Ponds - Lenox
- It’s not easy being green: artist conversation - Great Barrington
- 1st meeting of the Belchertown 4 Bees Committee - Belchertown

THURSDAY, AUGUST 22

- Nice & Easy Trail Hike - Lanesborough

Housatonic Evening Paddle - Lenox
Pesticide Action Call - Conference Call

FRIDAY, AUGUST 23
Discover Greylock Hike - Lanesborough
Campground Critters - Lanesborough
Evening Nighthawk Watch - Pittsfield

SATURDAY, AUGUST 24
CCC Ghost Camp Walk - Lanesborough
Scenic Summit Tours - Lanesborough
Creatures of the Night - Lanesborough
Night Hike - Lanesborough
Free Hike w/ Transportation - Lenox
Animals A to Z - Lenox
Fantastic Fungi - Sheffield

SUNDAY, AUGUST 25
Sunday Scavenger Hunt - Lanesborough
Scenic Summit Tours - Lanesborough
Canoeing the Housatonic River - Lenox
Clam River Hike - Sandisfield
Sunday Open House at The Millers River Environmental Center - Athol

TUESDAY, AUGUST 27
Trails & Tales Hike - Lanesborough
Birding at The Mount - Lenox
The Ecology of Bumblebees with Dr. Rob Gegear - Northampton

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 28
Birds & Trees - Pittsfield
Mountain Mindfulness Yoga - Lanesborough
Evening at the Beaver Ponds - Lenox

THURSDAY, AUGUST 29
Nice & Easy Trail Hike - Lanesborough

FRIDAY, AUGUST 30
Discover Greylock Hike - Lanesborough
Campground Critters - Lanesborough

SATURDAY, AUGUST 31
Scenic Summit Tours - Lanesborough
Night Hike - Lanesborough

[Complete Community Calendar](#)

ENVIRONMENTAL MONITOR

August 7, 2019

The Environmental Monitor provides information on projects under review by the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) office, recent MEPA decisions of the Secretary of Energy & Environmental Affairs, and public notices from environmental agencies.

Berkshire Index

- Adams – [Quarry Minerals Management Area](#) – ENF Certificate – Requires Mandatory Environmental Impact Report – issued 8/2/19
- Adams – [Notice of Issuance of a Draft Operating Permit Renewal \(pdf\)](#) – Specialty Minerals air quality permit – comments due 9/6/19
- Becket – [Notice of Intent to Initiate an Aquatic Plant Management Plan \(pdf\)](#) – Buckley Dunton Lake using mechanical hydro rake and harvester – posted 8/7/19
- Lee – [Notice of Intent to Initiate an Ecological Restoration Project \(pdf\)](#) – Hop Brook Wildlife Management Area – posted 8/7/19
- Richmond – [Notice of Intent to Initiate an Ecological Restoration Project \(pdf\)](#) – Fairfield Brook Wildlife Management Area – posted 8/7/19
- Alford – [Strassler, Robert- Pond Dredging](#) – ENF Certificate – Does Not Require an Environmental Impact Report – issued 7/11/19

Pioneer Valley Index

- Buckland, Florida, Monroe – [Notice of Submission of a Yearly Operational Plan \(pdf\)](#) – Great River Hydro, LLS vegetation management plan – comments due 9/20/19 at 5pm
- Orange – [Notice of Intent to Initiate an Ecological Restoration Project \(pdf\)](#) – Tully Mountain WMA & WCE Habitat Project – posted 8/7/19
- Russell – [Notice of Application for a 401 Water Quality Certification \(pdf\)](#) – repair of double culvert (# R13022-BCH-DOT-BRI) under I-90 – posted 8/7/19
- Southampton – [Notice of Application for a 401 Water Quality Certification \(pdf\)](#) – Application by Mr. Glenn West to remove the Lyman Pond Dam at 285 College Highway in Southampton on the Manhan River – posted 8/7/19
- South Hadley – [South Hadley Falls Urban Redevelopment & Renewal Plan \(URRP\)](#) – comments due 8/27/19
- Chicopee – [Notice of Issuance of a Draft Operating Permit Renewal \(pdf\)](#) – Chicopee Electric Light Clean Air Act permit – comments due 8/23/19
- Agawam – [Tennessee Gas Pipeline 261 Upgrade Projects](#) – FEIR – comments due 7/26/19

Statewide Index

- [Notice of Application of Title 5 Innovative Technology \(pdf\)](#) – Use of the Jet Drip Dispersal System for the treatment and subsurface disposal of sewage from facilities with design flows of less than 10,000 gallons per day – posted 7/24/19

PUBLIC NOTICES

Public Notices listed here are from a variety of sources, from town conservation commissions and select boards to state and federal agencies. These listings are for Berkshire, Hampshire, Hampden, and Franklin counties. Listings are only posted if they are environmental in nature. You can find all public notices for Massachusetts [here](#).

Public Notices





29 Highland Ave - Pittsfield, MA - 01201 | (413) 230 7321 | team@thebeatnews.org

