



The BEAT News

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

August 28, 2019

Dear Friend,

This week we said goodbye to one of our stellar program associates from this summer. Weyessa (Ace) is headed back to college to finish his studies on the environment and photography. But don't despair! He will be back at September Pittsfield Green Drinks to talk about his work on water quality in Ethiopia.

Coming up in a just a few short weeks we are SO EXCITED to co-host the [10th annual Berkshire Bioblitz](#). This year we've partnered with the City of Pittsfield to work at Springside Park from Saturday, September 14 - Sunday, September 15. Bring the kids and join us!

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

YOU'RE INVITED

10TH ANNUAL

BERKSHIRE BIOBLITZ



**SATURDAY SEPT. 14
- SUNDAY SEPT. 15**

**SPRINGSIDE PARK
PITTSFIELD, MA**

a 24 hour biological survey



BERKSHIRE BIOBLITZ

nature walks, animal tracking
invasive species identification
live animal exhibits

SATURDAY AFTER DARK
owl prowl & moth light show

FAMILY FRIENDLY!

Please help support this newsletter. Thank you!

In The News

Longmeadow voters say no to gas pipeline project in

residential neighborhood

CHRIS GOUDREAU | VALLEY ADVOCATE

Town Meeting voters in Longmeadow overwhelmingly approved a change to to the town’s zoning bylaws Tuesday, which would prohibit a proposed Tennessee Gas Company meter station project in a residentially zoned neighborhood at the Longmeadow Country Club. More than 125 residents lifted their green voting cards into the air during the Special Town Meeting vote with only a solitary resident voting against the zoning change. [READ ON](#)

Monarchs splitting exoskeleton for the fifth and final time

MARY HOLLAND | NATURALLY CURIOUS WITH MARY HOLLAND

In the Northeast there appears to be an amazingly large number of Monarch larvae this year, and most of these larvae will complete their metamorphosis by transforming into a beautiful green chrysalis. Once mature, the larva, or caterpillar, wanders about and finds a suitable spot (usually protected and stable) to spend the next two weeks hanging precariously in the wind. It then spins a silk mat in this location, and puts a silk “button” in the middle of the mat. [READ ON](#)

Dow Chemical official tapped to head New England EPA region

STEPHEN LEE | BLOOMBERG ENVIRONMENT

The EPA appointed former Dow Chemical Co. lobbyist Dennis Deziel on Aug. 22 as administrator for its New England region. Deziel has been director of federal government affairs at Dow Chemical since August 2014, according to his LinkedIn page. Prior to that, he served as deputy assistant secretary for program planning and budget in the Energy Department’s Office of Environmental Management in the Obama administration. [READ MORE](#)

Micro fiber art

CHARLEY EISEMAN | BUGTRACKS

I’m mainly writing this post because of one picture I wanted to share, but first I’ll provide a little context. In the moth genus Bucculatrix, most species start out life as leafminers, forming short linear mines. Bucculatrix locuples is typical in this respect, but is the only species known to feed on alders (Betulaceae: Alnus spp.). Here are vacated mines of two larvae (the one on the right is a little harder to discern because of brown splotches caused by an unrelated injury to the leaf): [READ ON & SEE THE PHOTOS](#)

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.

Wildflower planting project is saving taxpayers millions in mowing

DAVID WILLIAMS| WOSU PUBLIC RADIO

If you drive Ohio highways you may have noticed more flowers and taller grass on the side of the road. The Ohio Department of Transportation has begun planting wildflowers along highways across the state with the goal of creating habitats for pollinators. Each site requires \$400 to get started, but ODOT press secretary Matt Bruning said the project will save Ohio taxpayers millions. “Just last year, we’ve already saved about \$2.28 Million in just reducing our mowing of these areas, and that number’s going to continue to grow as we continue to expand these.” [READ ON](#)

How many fires are burning in the Amazon?

The fires raging in the Amazon are nearly double over last year, but remain moderate in the historical context. The 41,858 fires recorded in the Amazon as of Aug. 24 this year are the highest number since 2010, when 58,476 were recorded by the end of August. But 2019 is well below the mid-2000s, when deforestation rates were very much higher. However, this year’s numbers come with an important caveat: the satellites used for hotspot tracking in Brazil have limited capacity to detect sub-canopy fires. [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
- Board of Supervisors** | Berkshire Conservation District | Berkshire County
- Director of Policy** | The Trustees | Boston
- Grant & Contract Manager** | Northeast Community Center | Millerton, NY
- Water Quality Monitoring Volunteers** | Housatonic Valley Association | Pittsfield & Dalton
- Temporary Solar Installer & Temporary Solar Electrician** | PV Squared | Greenfield
- Network Weaver** | Fix | New England
- Berkshire Watershed Director** | Housatonic Valley Association | Stockbridge
- Program Manager** | Collaborative on Health & the Environment | Remote
- Experienced Solar Technician** | BPVS | North Adams, 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 28
- Birds & Trees - Pittsfield**
 - Solar Info Session - Williamstown
 - Mountain Mindfulness Yoga - Lanesborough
 - Evening at the Beaver Ponds - Lenox
 - Paddleboard Social - Stockbridge

- 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

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

Canoeing Upper & Lower Goose Ponds - Lee
Training: Nonviolent Direct Action - Troy, NY

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

Creatures of the Ancient Sea - North Adams

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

Birding at the Mount - Lenox

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

FREE Birding - Pleasant Birding at Pleasant Valley - Lenox
Evening at the Beaver Ponds - Lenox
Great Barrington Green Drinks - Great Barrington

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

Endangered Species Act Defense Virtual Townhall - Webinar

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

FREE Birding - Canoe Meadows Migrants - Pittsfield
Urban and Community Forestry Challenge Grant Info Session - Pittsfield
Kidleidoscope Story Hour - Butterflies - Turners Falls

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

Plant, Tree and Wild Edible Hike - Windsor
Paddle Trip on the Housatonic River - Lenox
Art in the Barn - Lenox
New! Fantastic Fungi - Lenox
Free Housatonic River Paddle / House Tour - Stockbridge
Artist Reception: Speaking for the Trees and a Tree Walk - Turners Falls

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

Natural and Cultural History of Wahconah Falls - Dalton
Boreal Forest Ecology Slideshow & Summit Walk - Windsor

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

Conserving Grassland Birds in New England - Pittsfield
Killer Heat in the United States: The Future of Dangerously Hot Days - Webinar

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

Bob Presutti’s Pruning Class - Pittsfield
Birding at The Mount - Lenox

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

Conservation of North Pacific Albatrosses - Athol
Green Night : Green Roofs Update - Northampton
Half Day Discovery Day: Self-guided Game Day - Turners Falls
The Chickadee’s Guide to Gardening: Why Native Plants Matter to Songbirds and the Food They Eat - Webinar

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12
Edible Perennial Gardening and Landscaping with Naturalist John Root - Turners Falls

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 13
Life in the Quarry - North Adams
Kidleidoscope Story Hour – River Otters - Turners Falls
Great Falls Coffeehouse Presents: Banjo Blue - Turners Falls

SEPTEMBER 14 - 15
10th Annual Berkshire BioBlitz - Pittsfield

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14
Natural Bridge History Tour - North Adams
2nd Annual Pollinator Celebration Day - Amherst
Growing Up WILD : Professional Development Workshop - Amherst
Training: Nonviolent Direct Action - Northampton
Alvah Crocker: From the Rugged Hand of Poverty to Visionary Leader - Turners Falls

Complete Community Calendar

ENVIRONMENTAL MONITOR

August 21, 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

- Egremont – [Notice of Application for a 401 Water Quality Certificate \(pdf\)](#) – Bank Disturbance within an Outstanding Resource Water and also within an Area of Critical Environmental Concern by Alice Kessler Harris and Bertram Silverman of 74 Jug End Roadrepairs to eroded stream bank along Karner Brook – posted 8/21/19
- Hinsdale – [Notice of Intent to Initiate an Ecological Restoration Project \(pdf\)](#) – partial removal of Watson Road Dam – posted 8/21/19
- 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

Pioneer Valley Index

- Worthington – [Notice of Intent to Initiate an Ecological Restoration Project \(pdf\)](#) – Wildlife Habitat Management on property owned by Gary Roy and Kathleen Adamczyk, Ring Road – posted 8/21/19
- 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 Certificate – Adequately and Properly Complies with MEPA – issued 8/2/19

Statewide Index

- nothing new

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](#).

