



The BEAT News

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

September 4, 2019

Dear Friend,

This September, millions of us will walk out of our workplaces and homes to join young climate strikers on the streets and demand an end to the age of fossil fuels. Stay tuned for youth-led events in the Berkshires on Friday, September 20th and join them in solidarity.

Next week is the [10th annual Berkshire Bioblitz!](#) Tell your neighbors! Come on out!

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

High bids stall work on West Side Riverway Park

AMANDA DRANE | THE BERKSHIRE EAGLE

Bids for a planned park on Dewey Avenue came in high and now the city is working to scale back the project's scope. Jim McGrath, the city's park and open space program manager, told the Conservation Commission on Thursday that in order to bring the project within budget, new plans for the West Side Riverway Park will not include a pedestrian bridge over the river. [READ ON](#)

Something you don't see every day

CHARLEY EISEMAN | BUGTRACKS

Last week Julia and I conducted a survey for leaf-mining moths at Black Rock Forest in New York’s Hudson Highlands region. I think we identified around 70 species, but as is often the case with fieldwork, some of our most interesting sightings had nothing to do with what we were looking for. [READ ON](#)

Do plastic bag taxes or bans curb waste? 400 cities and states tried it out.

MATTHEW ZEITLIN | VOX

Plastic bags are forever. The thin sacks that hold our groceries, toothpaste, and takeout meals have little hope of being recycled, and instead just might be reused as liners for our trash cans or containers for our dogs’ waste, after which they find themselves either blown into storm drains and rivers or hopelessly clogging landfills. [READ MORE](#)

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.

A promising fall beechnut crop

MARY HOLLAND | NATURALLY CURIOUS WITH MARY HOLLAND

Beechnuts, high in protein and fat, are the primary fall and winter food for many forest wildlife species including Red, Gray and Flying Squirrels, Eastern Chipmunks, Black Bears, Blue Jays, Tufted Titmice, Wild Turkeys, and Ruffed and Spruce Grouse. The dependence of these animals on this food source makes them vulnerable to the American Beech’s cyclical nut production. [READ ON](#)

What does '12 years to act on climate change' (now 11 years) really mean?

BOB BERWYN | INSIDE CLIMATE NEWS

We've been hearing variations of the phrase "the world only has 12 years to deal with climate change" a lot lately. Sen. Bernie Sanders put a version of it front and center of his presidential campaign last week, saying we now have "less than 11 years left to transform our energy system away from fossil fuels to energy efficiency and sustainable energy, if we are going to leave this planet healthy and habitable." [READ ON](#)

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

SUBSCRIBE HERE

JOB

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
- 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, SEPTEMBER 4
- FREE Birding - Pleasant Birding at Pleasant Valley - Lenox
 - Evening at the Beaver Ponds - Lenox
 - Bureau of Forestry Pre-Harvest Forest Tours - Lee
 - Great Barrington Green Drinks - Great Barrington

- THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 5
- Green Drinks: Berkshire Zero Waste Initiative - Williamstown
 - DOER Presentation : Solar Massachusetts Renewable Target (SMART) - Lenox
 - Endangered Species Act Defense Virtual Townhall - Webinar

- FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 6
- Nice and Easy Trail Hike - Lanesborough
 - Campground Critters - Lanesborough
 - FREE Birding - Canoe Meadows Migrants - Pittsfield
 - Urban and Community Forestry Challenge Grant Info Session - Pittsfield
 - Kidleidoscope Story Hour - Butterflies - Turners Falls

- SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7
- Creatures of the Night - Lanesborough
 - 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
- Bee Friendly Williamstown Mulching Party - Williamstown
 - Natural and Cultural History of Wahconah Falls - Dalton
 - Housatonic Heritage Hike, October Mt. State Forest - Lee

Boreal Forest Ecology Slideshow & Summit Walk - Windsor

Get your Geek On - Athol

Alien Invaders in the Catskills - Mt. Tremper, NY

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

Trails and Tales Hike - Lanesborough

Bob Presutti’s Pruning Class - Pittsfield

Birding at The Mount - Lenox

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

Mountain Mindfulness - Lanesborough

Ashmere Island Canoe and Kayak Trip - Dalton

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

Nice and Easy Trail Hike - Lanesborough

Edible Perennial Gardening and Landscaping with Naturalist John Root - Turners Falls

Tree Growth & Development in a Changing Climate - Webinar

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

Life in the Quarry - North Adams

Full Moon Fright Hike - Lanesborough

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

Mountain Mindfulness - Lanesborough

Creatures of the Night - Lanesborough

2nd Annual Pollinator Celebration Day - Amherst

Growing Up WILD : Professional Development Workshop - Amherst

Training: Nonviolent Direct Action - Northampton

Northfield Family Energy Day - Northfield

Alvah Crocker: From the Rugged Hand of Poverty to Visionary Leader - Turners Falls

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

Early Bird Birding with Jeff Johnstone - Athol

Explore the Nature & Culture of Petticoat Hill - Williamsburg

Hudson Valley Ramble Forest Walk - Millbrook, NY

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

Trails and Tales Hike - Lanesborough

Town Ecology for the Land of Towns and Villages - Petersham

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

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](#).

Public Notices



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