

The BEAT News!

"because an informed and engaged public is the environment's best defense"

August 18, 2021

Hi Friend ,

This summer our stewardship department has been working diligently to make the Berkshires a cleaner and greener place to live.

We have recently:

- watered trees for the city of Pittsfield (more green clean air)
- sampled stormwater pipes (monitoring chemical/bacteria in our watersheds for cleaner water)
- installed temperature loggers in cold water streams (ecosystem productivity)

We have taken on a very broad scope of work and have made incredible progress, with the generous help of the community and volunteers.

Get involved & join us at our next river cleanup of the West Branch of the Housatonic River on August 29th starting at 1pm, please contact me at noah@thebeatnews.org for more information or to RSVP!

Sincerely,
Noah Henkenius - Stewardship Manager

Upcoming Events



**BERKSHIRE ENVIRONMENTAL
ACTION TEAM & HOUSATONIC
VALLEY ASSOCIATION**

RIVER CLEAN UP

WACONAH PARK PITTSFIELD

SUNDAY, AUGUST 29, 2021
1:00 - 4:00 PM

Help save our rivers by joining us for our second river cleanup in the West Branch of the Housatonic this August! Plan to meet at Wahconah Park in Pittsfield, Massachusetts!

Be prepared to potentially get your feet wet! Muck boots and waders are recommended, please do not wear open toed shoes.

RSVP: Noah@thebeatnews.org

BEAT 


HVA
hvatoday.org



BEAT
Berkshire Environmental
ACTION TEAM
August 2021

GREEN DRINKS
pittsfield

**SHOREBIRD CONSERVATION
IN NEW ENGLAND**

THE INTERNATIONAL SHOREBIRD SURVEY
with Lisa Schibley

TUESDAY AUGUST 17 | 6PM VIA ZOOM

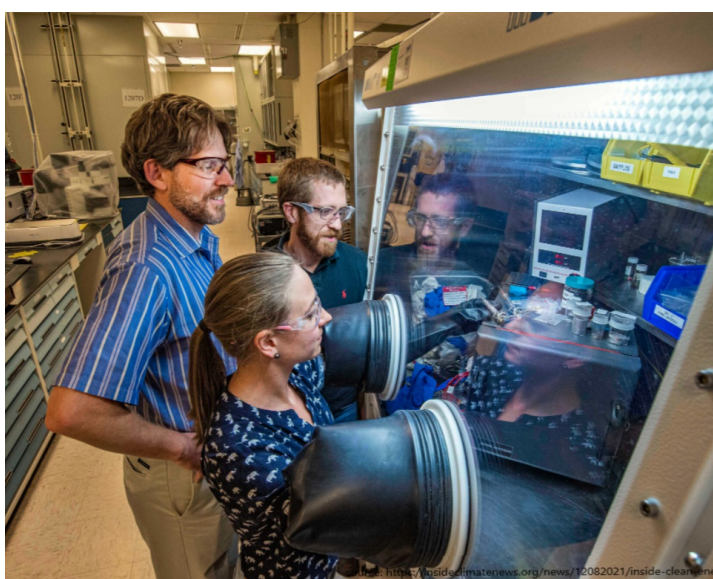


Spotlight: Invasive Spotted Lanternfly



Recent find in Worcester County emphasizes importance of vigilant reporting of pest; Spotted lanternfly (*Lycorma delicatula*, “SLF”) is an invasive sap-feeding insect from Asia that was first found in the United States in 2014, in the state of Pennsylvania. While the main host plant of this pest is tree-of-heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*), the spotted lanternfly attacks many different trees, shrubs, and vines, and has the potential to impact a broad range of agricultural commodities, including apples, peaches, grapes/wine, hops/beer, maple syrup, and ornamental plants. [Read More](#)

In The News



Inside Clean Energy: In a Week of Sobering Climate News, Let’s Talk About Batteries

Dan Gearino | Inside Climate News

Some of the most exciting developments have been in alternatives to lithium-ion batteries for grid storage, with researchers seeking low-cost ways to store electricity from wind farms and solar arrays. The combination of batteries and renewable energy holds the promise of providing electricity around the clock and replacing fossil fuel power plants. [Read More](#)



Study: Weakening Atlantic Ocean current nears critical, irreversible point

Ryan Chatelain | Spectrum News

The study by Niklas Boers with the Potsdam Institute of Climate Impact Research in Germany found that man-made climate change is destabilizing the Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation, or the AMOC.

The AMOC sends warm water from the tropics northward at the ocean’s surface and cold water southward at the ocean’s bottom, contributing to Europe’s relatively mild temperatures and influences weather patterns worldwide

Boers said the loss of the AMOC’s stability has approached a critical, irreversible point that could bring extreme cold, raise sea levels along the U.S. East Coast

and disrupt seasonal monsoons that provide water to much of the world. [Read More](#)



Administration to replace wetlands regulations

Laura Bies | The Wildlife Society

The Environmental Protection Agency and the Army Corps of Engineers [announced](#) initial plans to replace a rule finalized during the Trump administration defining the “waters of the U.S.”—or WOTUS—under the [Clean Water Act](#). The regulatory definition of “waters of the U.S” determines the scope of Clean Water Act protections for water bodies against pollution discharge. [Read More](#)



Record Levels of Harmful Particles Found in Great Lakes Fish

Andrew Blok | EcoWatch/Environmental Health News

The fish, a brown bullhead, contained 915 particles—a mix of microplastics, synthetic materials containing flame retardants or plasticizers, dyed cellulose fibers, and more—in its body. It was the most particles ever recorded in a fish. [Read More](#)



What Happens to Wildlife Swimming in a Sea of Our Drug Residues?

Tara Lohan | The Revelator

Wastewater exposes plants and wildlife to hundreds of chemical compounds. Researchers are learning about potential side effects and solutions. [Read More](#)

Community Calendar

We list events from a variety of local and regional organizations and individuals. BEAT events are in **bold**. Berkshire County events are listed north to south by location, out of county events are listed alphabetically by location. Submit events to news@thebeatnews.org



JULY 30 - AUGUST 18
Story Walk® The Busy Tree - Turners Falls

AUGUST 3 - SEPTEMBER 1
Broadening Our Landscape Vision: Ecology, Culture, and Art - Online

AUGUST 6 - SEPTEMBER 1
Great Hall Exhibit: Light, Breath, Form - Turners Falls

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 18
Mushrooms with John Wheeler - Adams

THURSDAY AUGUST 19
Housatonic Evening Paddle - Lenox

AUGUST 20 - SEPTEMBER 6
Butterfly Story Walk® Gotta Go! Gotta Go! - Turners Falls

FRIDAY AUGUST 20
Put Peakers in the Past Standout - Pittsfield
Kidleidoscope Story Hour: Bobcats - Turners Falls

SATURDAY AUGUST 21
Butterfly StoryWalk® Gotta Go! Gotta Go! and Butterfly Crafting - Turners Falls

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 25
The Climate Activist Toolkit Pt. 3 - Online/Zoom

Complete Community Calendar

Speak Out for Clean Air!



Pittsfield Generating’s peaker power plant is filing for renewal of their Air Quality Permit, which would give them permission to keep polluting our air - we must stop it!

When: Every Friday, 4:30pm - 5:30pm
Where: At the corner of Thorndyke and Dalton Ave. in Pittsfield

Contact Info: rose@thebeatnews.org from [No Fracked Gas in Mass](#)

The fight against fossil fuels is here!
SUBSCRIBE HERE for the No Fracked Gas in Mass newsletter

More articles on climate and energy in the [Weekly News Check-In](#)

Jobs

We list jobs related to the environment from a variety of organizations.
Email news@thebeatnews.org to submit an open position.

[Communications & Digital Coordinator](#) | Neighbor to Neighbor Massachusetts | Remote/Hybrid
[Research Assistant - Rangeland](#) | Woodwell Climate Research Center | Falmouth
[Chief Program & Academic Officer](#) | Sea Education Association | Woods Hole
[Postdoctoral Researcher Position: Aquatic Biodiversity](#) | UMASS Amherst | Amherst
[Apprentice Farm Conservation Planner](#) | American Farmland Trust | Wareham (posted 8/1)
[Field Marine Biologist/ At-Sea Monitor](#) | East West Technical Services (EWTS) | Cape Cod, New Bedford, Gloucester (posted 7/30)
[Part time Enviro-Science Educator](#) | “e” inc. | Boston (posted 7/30)
[Internship in Nature-based Early Education](#) | Boston Outdoor Preschool Network | Boston

(posted 7/30)
[Soil Health Program Manager](#) | American Farmland Trust | Northampton (posted 7/12)
[Conservation Easement Stewardship Manager](#) | American Farmland Trust | Northampton (posted 7/7)
[Conservation Coordinator](#) | The Nature Conservatory | Northampton (posted 7/6)
[Political & Legislative Coordinator](#) | Mass Sierra Club | Remote & Boston (posted 7/2)
[Property Worker](#) | Mass Audubon | Lenox (posted 6/28)
[Operations Manager](#) | Mass Audubon | Easthampton (posted 6/28)
[Community Engagement Coordinator](#) | Mass Audubon | Springfield (posted 6/28)
[Administrative Assistant](#) | Great Barrington Land Conservancy | Remote (posted 6/26)
[TerraCorps Openings](#) | TerraCorps | New England (posted 6/26)
[Executive Director](#) | Hoosic River Watershed Association (HooRWA) | Williamstown (posted 6/22)
[Deputy Director](#) | Community Action Works | Currently Remote
[Organizing Coordinator](#) | Community Action Works | Currently Remote

Environmental Monitor

July 23, 2021

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:

- **Mount Washington - [Becker Pond Dam Removal](#) - SEIR Certificate** - Adequately and properly complies with MEPA - issued 7/2/21
Sheffield - [Notice of Intent to Initiate an Ecological Restoration Project](#) - use of drawdown for control of invasive species and flood control in Mill Pond - posted 7/23/21

Pioneer Valley Index

- **Westfield - [West Parish Filters Clearwell and Backwash Pumping Station Project](#) - ENF** - comments due 8/12/21
Holyoke - [Notice of Submission of a Yearly Operational Plan](#) - City of Holyoke Gas & Electric to use herbicides to control vegetation - posted 7/23/21
Ware - [Notice of Intent to Initiate an Aquatic Plant Management Program \(pdf\)](#) - Beaver Lake using herbicides - posted 7/9/21
Ludlow - [Stony Brook Solar Project](#) - ENF - remote site visit 7/21/21 - comments due 7/29/2021
Chicopee - [Chicopee Abbey Brook Restoration Project](#) - ENF Secretary's DROD - Secretary Proposes to Grant an EIR Waiver - comments due 7/23/21

Statewide Index

- nothing new

We couldn't do our work without you.
Thank you for helping protect the environment!
~Support our programs & our future today~

CALLING ALL WILDLIFE ENTHUSIASTS!

The new and expanded edition of Sue's *Wildlife & Habitats* anthology is out now!

Sue has taught over 60 Berkshire Wildlife Trackers for BEAT for the past 5 years.

The proceeds for which go entirely to [Keeping Track](#) a non-profit dedicated to monitoring potential habitats and threatened regions.

[For more information and how to order.](#)



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](#).

[BEAT Public Notices PAGE](#)

How are we doing? We'd love your feedback on this newsletter. Send us your thoughts or suggestions by replying to this email. Also, send it to your friends, or tell them to subscribe here. Thanks!



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