



The BEAT News

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

August 11, 2021

Hi Friend,

In this week's newsletter, we've got important climate news updates and rare bird sightings in the Berkshires to share with you!

On the 29th, we are hosting a river clean up starting at Waconah Park in Pittsfield. We are seeking one or two kayak donations (used or new) for our water quality monitoring program and for future Kids in Kayaks events. All donations are tax deductible and benefit future enrichment programs for community. Please contact Jane at jane@thebeatnews.org.

Thank you for all you do to protect the environment,
Sarit - Education and Outreach Coordinator



Kids in Kayaks, Housatonic River, 2019

Speak out for Clean Air! Come join our 'Put Peakers in the Past Coalition' for this stand-out protest to let folks know about Pittsfield Generating's peaker power plant. They are 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

Read all about it at [No Frack Gas in Mass](#)





We couldn't do our work without you. [Click to contribute.](#)

In The News

Seven Berkshire County towns among those left vulnerable by state's new biomass rules, observers say

DANNY JIN | THE BERKSHIRE EAGLE

(feat. Jane Winn, BEAT & Rosemary Wessel, No Fracked Gas in Mass)

New state regulations would effectively prevent new biomass facilities* in 90 percent of the state, although 35 towns would remain open to new facilities. In Berkshire County, seven towns — Becket, Monterey, Mount Washington, New Marlborough, Otis, Sandisfield and Sheffield — are not protected by the new rules. (*wood-burning energy facilities, which scientists say are dirtier than fossil fuel plants) [READ MORE](#)

The dirty dam truth

RYAN GELLERT | THE BOSTON GLOBE

Hydropower is often marketed as the kind of clean, renewable energy we’re supposed to want. It’s what dam developers have been claiming for decades. But a growing body of scientific research shows just the opposite...In Massachusetts, the recent removal of [three dams on the Mill River](#) reconnected more than 30 miles of blocked fish habitat, reduced the risk of flooding, and removed public safety hazards. [READ MORE](#)

Pretty in pink | Berkshire birders notch rare first sighting of roseate spoonbill

LARRY PARNASS | THE BERKSHIRE EAGLE

Not in 121 years. That’s how long it’s been since the first Massachusetts sighting of a bird species took place in Berkshire County, rather than another part of the state...This weekend, a roseate spoonbill from southern climes swooped in across a flooded field in Sheffield, joined a flock of white-suited great egrets for a breakfast of frogs and fish — and allowed local birders to make history. [READ](#)

Global Climate Panel’s Report: No Part of the Planet Will be Spared

BOB BERWYN | INSIDE CLIMATE NEWS

A [new IPCC science assessment](#), coming before COP26 in November, called for immediate action and showed that this summer’s extremes are only a mild preview of the decades ahead. Amidst a summer of fires, floods and heat waves, scientists on Monday delivered yet another reminder that burning more fossil fuels in the decades ahead will rapidly intensify the impacts of global warming. Only pulling the emergency brake right now on greenhouse gas emissions can stop the planet from heating to a dangerous level by the end of the century, the scientists’ report concluded. [READ MORE](#)

At Orchards and Vineyards, Birds Are Outperforming Pesticides

COLIN A. YOUNG | STATE HOUSE NEWS SERVICE

Despite ideal growing conditions, the cherry orchards here are beset by pests—a plethora of insects; deer mice and voles that gnaw the bark and roots of fruit trees; and flocks of fruit-eating birds that swoop into orchards, especially as sweet cherries ripen in early July. “The damndest thing you ever saw,” Nugent says of the birds. “They keep flapping their wings to stay in the tree. You get a cherry tree with six or eight seagulls on it and the limbs will be drooped down from their weight. It’s almost a comical sight.” [READ MORE](#)

State lawmakers are pushing on energy policy. Here are 4 issues to watch

GREG BREINING | LIVING BIRD MAGAZINE

There is a good chance Gov. Charlie Baker will be poring over an omnibus energy and climate bill a year from now —with lawmakers, advocates and industry representatives waiting eagerly for the signing ceremony. What's topping energy list: State lawmakers hope to shape an omnibus energy and climate bill this session. It's likely to focus on: Offshore wind, Energy storage, Interconnection/grid modernization, Electric vehicles. [READ MORE](#)

Down about climate change? Here are four ways local organizers say you can do something about it

DANNY JIN | THE BERKSHIRE EAGLE
(feat. Jane Winn, BEAT & Rosemary Wessel, No Fracked Gas in Mass)

Scrolling through such gloomy projections can lead to a sense of “[climate despair](#),” a condition of feeling helpless against impending doom. But, people are not powerless. An individual in Berkshire County cannot singlehandedly stop climate change, an effort that will require action from governments across the world. But, local organizers say, there are actions that everyday people can take to shake off defeatism and hold those in power accountable. [READ MORE](#)

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

SUBSCRIBE HERE

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

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](mailto: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 11
Housatonic Heritage – Semi-Annual Meeting: Summer 2021 - Online/Zoom
The Climate Activist Toolkit Pt. 2 - Online/Zoom

THURSDAY, AUGUST 12
Housatonic Evening Paddle - Lenox
Virtual Undergraduate Research Symposium - Online/Zoom
Butterflies & Skippers: Tracking Nature's Clock - Online/Zoom

FRIDAY AUGUST 13
Put Peakers in the Past Stand-Out Protest - Pittsfield
Kidleidoscope Story Hour: Beavers - Turners Falls

SATURDAY AUGUST 14
Summer Ecology Workshop: Forest Fungi - Pittsfield
Art Naturally Series: Discover Nature Through Story and Art - Turners Falls
Environmentalist BILL McKIBBEN / Author SUE HALPERN - New Marlborough

AUGUST 15 - 21
Mushroom Identification for New Mycophiles: Foraging for Edible and Medicinal Mushrooms - Maine

MONDAY AUGUST 16
Building the Bridge - North Adams

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 18
Mushrooms with John Wheeler - Adams

Complete Community Calendar

JOBS

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

- [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
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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.



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

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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