Hi Friend,

Fall is here in full swing! The environmental events are kicking off with plenty of ways to get outdoors - explore and learn. This week there are important online webinars about biodiversity, toxins in water, and citizen science. BEAT is sponsoring two walks this weekend in Stockbridge (on Saturday) and Lenox (on Sunday) with Elizabeth and Noah - And, an exciting art and nature event called Berkshires as Living Laboratory in Dalton (on Sunday). More information can be found on our community calendar or in our events section below.

Keep in mind - BEAT is now able to recycle your batteries! Contact us as team@thebeatnews.org for more information on when/where to drop them off.

I selected some neat articles this week on deep-sea carbon consuming siphonophores, sparrow birding, coastal management and conservation in Mass, and dragonflies.

Thanks for reading, catch you next week!

Sincerely,
Sarit - Education & Outreach Coordinator

In The News

What's a Siphonophore and Why Is There One on the UN This Week?

Tiffany Duong | EcoWatch

So, what is a siphonophore?.. Most of these animals live in the twilight zone of the sea — deep, dark waters 200 to 1000 meters below the surface...This little-known deep-sea creature is also a "critical agent of carbon removal from the atmosphere," The New York Times reported. Siphonophores come up to the surface at night to feed when it is easier to hide from predators. They eat carbon-rich
organisms before migrating down to hide when the sun comes up. In doing so, they sequester carbon that would otherwise be released into the atmosphere...

Every day, through this vertical migration, siphonophores bring carbon — in the form of their food — from the surface down to the twilight zone. According to Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute (WHOI), which partnered with the arts collective to produce the UN projection, this biological pump prevents carbon from returning to the air as a heat-trapping greenhouse gas. Instead, it is sequestered in biological material that can sink to the ocean's depths. In the deep, as long as earthquakes and human activities like deep-sea mining or dredging don’t disturb it, this carbon can remain stored for thousands of years.

Great care of the Great Marsh
Heather Alterisio | Newburyport News

Wildlife refuge staff members have been digging runnels this week – short, small channels in which water can ebb and flow – as part of a project designed to ensure the health and longevity of the salt marshes. The goal of the project at the Parker River National Wildlife Refuge is to restore the hydrology of the marshes, which have changed a lot over the past eight years or so due to sea level rise and human-made alterations. Read More

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

Take 5: Sorting Out Sparrows
Ryan D. | Mass Audubon

There are some birds that scream for attention, like Northern Cardinals or (more literally) Blue Jays. Sparrows are not that kind of bird. Sparrows are subtle, nuanced, and notoriously tricky to tell apart from one species to another. Commonly referred to as “Little Brown Jobs” (LBJs for short), sparrows mostly just run around, eat seeds, and try to stay out of trouble. Read More

Some Dragonflies May Be Benefiting From Global Warming
Bridget Reed Morawski | EcoWatch

A new report finds that nearly half of the species of dragonflies and damselflies frequently found in the United Kingdom aren't just tolerating the symptoms of the climate crisis — they’re thriving. Dozens of different types of dragonfly and damselfly, which are subspecies of the same class of insect, are frequently found in the UK, but only 46 are considered residents or regular migrants to the region. Specifically, 41% of resident or regular migrant species "have significantly increased" their recorded populations since 1970 amid rising temperatures. During that time, some species expanded their territories across the UK, while others made the jump from southern regions of mainland Europe for the first known time. Read More
Every Saturday and Sunday (now till October 3rd)
The 19th Annual HOUSATONIC HERITAGE WALKS – The Berkshires and Litchfield County

Wednesday, September 29
Mindful Outdoor Experience with Colleen Mollica - Granville
Becoming an Outdoor Citizen with John Judge, AMC President - Online

Thursday, September 30
Addressing the Biodiversity Crisis in the US: 30×30 and Climate Connectivity - Online
PFAS in Water (Toxic chemical)101 – Virtual Teach In
Resilience and Preparedness in a Changing Climate - Online

Friday, October 1
Mass Audubon – Free Birding at Canoe Meadows - Pittsfield
Early bird birding with Jeff - Athol

Saturday, October 2
BEAT Event: AUTUMN FLORA OF SOUTHERN BERKSHIRE COUNTY: AROUND THE LAUREL HILL TRAIL - Stockbridge
Annual Westside Neighborhood Clean-Up - Pittsfield
12th annual Tamarack Hollow Berkshire Drum and Dance Fest - Windsor

Sunday, October 3
BEAT Event: BIRD WALK AT THE HOUSATONIC RIVER VALLEY WILDLIFE MGMT. AREA - Lenox
Berkshires as Living Laboratory (BEAT co-sponsor) - Dalton

More Events Next Week! See Calendar for more!

BEAT is Hiring: Water Quality Associate Position
Protected Species Observer (PSO) | Smultea Environmental Sciences | Boston
Ecological Horticulturist | Norcross Wildlife Foundation | Wales
Postdoc: Chronic Wasting Disease Risk Assessment | UMass | Amherst
Deputy Director for Policy | Massachusetts Rivers Alliance | Cambridge
Urban Ecologist | Mass Audubon | Lincoln
Click here for more jobs

Environmental Monitor
September 15, 2021, 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.
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.