

The BEAT News!

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

September 29, 2021

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



Credit: UN Photo / Eskinder Debebe

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](#)



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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](#)



[Click Here for the Community Calendar](#)

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: 30x30 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!](#)



[Click Here for the Jobs Board](#)

[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.

Berkshire Index:

- **Savoy** - [FHMS Broadband Antenna Array on Borden Mountain](#) - **ENF** - comments due 9/14/21

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

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](#)



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