

The BEAT News!

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

September 8, 2021

Hi Friend ,

Have you thought about Hydrogen as an energy source? Please join us at next week's Green Drinks (online) and bring your questions! Cathy Kristofferson, from the Pipe Line Awareness Network for the Northeast, tackles one of climate change's most popular misconceptions about using hydrogen as an energy source (and how industry is hyping false solutions) and the future of clean renewable energy for Massachusetts. [Read more here and how to register](#)

Our New England summer is almost to a close. We still have so many wonderful outdoor activities to check out to keep yourself active as the weather cools down. All this month, in collaboration with other local organizations, we have free guided walks and birdwatching events to participate in throughout Berkshire county. Check out our calendar below for more on the Annual Housatonic Heritage Walks.

I hope to see you soon at one of our events,
Sarit - Education and Outreach Coordinator



Pulling back the curtain on
The Hydrogen Hoax
with Cathy Kristofferson

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21 | 6PM VIA ZOOM

BEAT **GREEN DRINKS**
pittsfield

In The News



source: <https://live959.com/3-berkshire-county-towns-and-pittsfield-will-share-in-295k-in-climate-change-money/>

State grants \$295K to the Housatonic Stream Restoration for Regional Flood Resilience Project in Pittsfield, Lenox, Stockbridge and New Marlborough

Building on its commitment to creating a more climate change resilient Commonwealth, the Baker-Polito Administration today announced \$21 million in grants to cities and towns through the [Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness \(MVP\) Program](#), representing a doubling of the program budget since last year. To date, this brings total awards through the MVP program to over \$65 million. The grant program, which was created in 2017 as part of Governor Charlie Baker's [Executive Order 569](#), provides communities with funding and technical support to identify climate hazards, develop strategies to improve resilience, and implement priority actions to adapt to climate change. The grants are in addition to the Administration's proposal to invest \$900 million in funding from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) into key energy and environmental initiatives, including \$300 million to support climate resilient infrastructure. [Read More](#)

Bad hare days: Monterey lays out welcome mat for an imperiled rabbit

Felix Carroll | The Berkshire Eagle

On a ragged hillside here, sunlight now shines where it hasn't in 60 years, and with it, the birth of a young forest: tree saplings, sedge and berry bushes all emerging in shoots of green astonishment. And coming soon, if they find their way here: New England cottontail rabbits. Wildlife biologists say the native rabbit has dwindled to the point of consideration for protection under the Endangered Species Act. But, before they push for that, they have an idea, and that idea is having its day here in Monterey. [Read More](#)

Invasive snakehead caught in Canton

MassWildlife | Division of Fisheries and Wildlife

On August 27, an angler caught a northern snakehead from Reservoir Pond in Canton. After obtaining and analyzing the specimen, MassWildlife confirmed this fish was a snakehead, an invasive species in Massachusetts. This fish was most likely released by a pet owner when it grew too large for its aquarium. Possession and liberation of snakeheads are both illegal in Massachusetts. Transferring exotic fish into local waterways can cause a host of problems, including competition with native species and spread of disease. This recent catch is the fifth confirmed snakehead documented in Massachusetts since 2002. [Read More](#)

Rains made the mosquito population explode this year, but a Pittsfield City Council vote allowed the pests free reign

Meg Britton-Mehlisch

The summer's significant rainfall brought more than just floodwaters and downed tree branches. The wet conditions triggered a hatch of years' worth of resting mosquito eggs and resulted in a population explosion in late July and early August. "The mosquitoes basically cover you at this point," said Chris Horton, superintendent of the Berkshire County Mosquito Control Project. "And they're all trying to bite you at once." Horton estimated that, during the past month, he has received more than 3 dozen calls about what has become a "severe infestation" in parts of the city. [Read More](#)



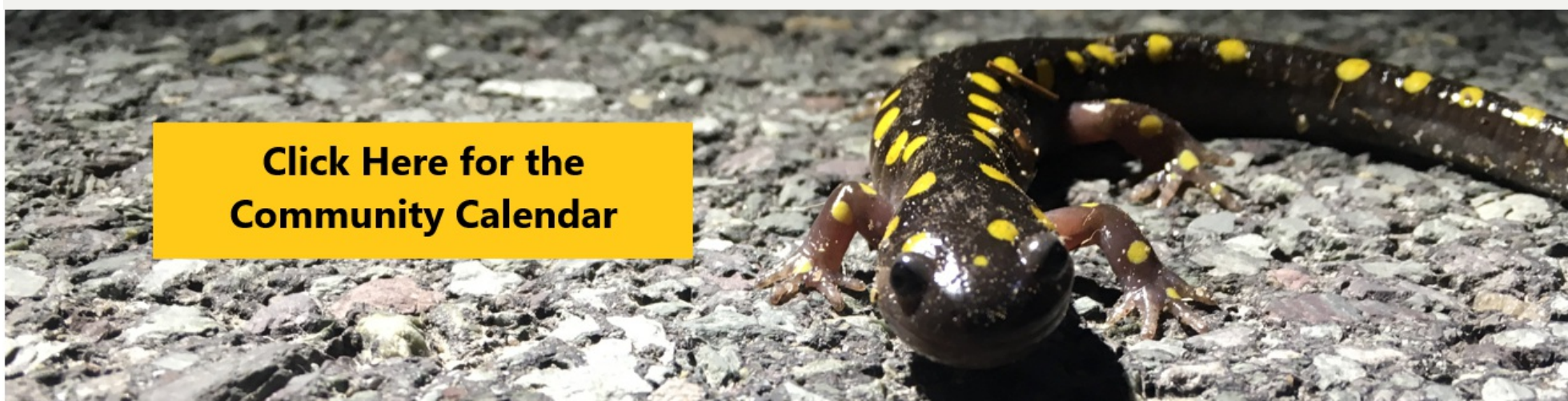
Wildlife Advisory



Advisory: Report Dead Birds and Remove Feeders;

Bird feeder recommendation updated. Public asked to consider alternatives to safeguard wildlife health and safety.

MassWildlife is providing an update on the bird illness in other states and modifying its recommendations regarding bird feeding. In mid-July, due to an unknown illness in birds from other states in the mid-Atlantic and mid-west region, MassWildlife requested the public report bird mortalities and stop using bird feeders and bird baths. [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 8

Mass Audubon - Free Birding at Pleasant Valley - Lenox

Friday, September 10

Mass Audubon - Free Birding at Canoe Meadows - Pittsfield

Saturday, September 11

Leisurely Paddle Down the Housatonic - Stockbridge

Mass Audubon - Hawk Watch at Greylock Glen - Adams

Sunday, September 12

MassRivers Annual Celebration! - Westwood



[Click Here for the Jobs Board](#)

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](#)

Environmental Monitor

August 25, 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

Pioneer Valley Index

- **Charlemont** - [Notice of Intent to Initiate an Ecological Restoration Project](#) - **Rice Brook habitat enhancement** - click on link, then click on attachments at the top fo the page - posted 8/25/21
- **Westfield** - [West Parish Filters Clearwell and Backwash Pumping Station Project](#) - **ENF** - comments due 8/12/21
- **Ludlow** - [Stony Brook Solar Project](#) - **ENF Certificate** - Does not require an Environmental Impact Report - issued 8/9/21

Statewide Index

- [Notice of Federal Consistency Review - EPA proposes to reissue Draft NPDES Permit 2022 Construction General Permit for Stormwater Discharges from Construction Activities](#) - (click on this link, then click on attachments) - posted 8/25/21
- **DFW** - [Notice of Release of the 15th Edition of the Natural Heritage Atlas](#) (click on this link, then click on attachments) - posted 8/11/21

**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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