

The BEAT News!

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

October 27, 2021

Hi Friend ,

Welcome to Bat Week! We'll take a look at why bats are crucial to our environment. Thanks to MassWildlife and Mass Audubon, there are many resources available to learn and take action to support bat conservation!

Tonight we are co-hosting a special event with Mothers Out Front Massachusetts. The "Future of Clean Heat " Action Call workshop starts at 6PM on Zoom. It is open and free to the public. For more information and how to register: [Click Here](#)

BEAT is working in partnership with Berkshire Community College to investigate stormwater pollution.



All the rainwater that runs off the land into our wetlands and waterways from a storm is called stormwater. Stormwater often carries all sorts of pollutants - from chemicals to plastic - and is a major source of pollution for our wetlands and waterways. BEAT is working on ways to monitor and reduce stormwater pollution.

BEAT board member Bruce Winn and Executive Director Jane Winn went out with Berkshire Community College engineering students Rosa and James and José Colmenares (their faculty member) to check out their prototype "first flush" stormwater capture device. The idea is to find out what is in the first major pulse of stormwater that comes through our stormwater pipes and flows into the river.

To try to get an idea of how much flow happens throughout a storm, we are going to try putting a time lapse camera up at a few sites before each storm to try to be able to see the flow throughout a storm.

Bat Week in Massachusetts



Mass Audubon: **About Bats**

Bats are truly remarkable animals as well as our *only* flying mammals. Unfortunately their unwarranted reputation has prevented many people from appreciating how beneficial and unique they are. Get the facts about bats—their appearance, life cycles, behaviors, and roles in healthy ecosystems. [Read more](#)

There are nine species of bats that have historically lived in Massachusetts, several of which are state listed as Endangered. [Get to know them](#)

*source: <https://www.massaudubon.org/learn/nature-wildlife/mammals/bats>

MassWildlife Guides: **How To Support Bat Conservation**

- A Guide to Bat Houses:** plans for building a bat house, installation tips, and advice for attracting bats to your bat house.
- Bat Myths Debunked:** learn more about the fascinating and beneficial features of bats. Educate yourself and others to help dispel myths and fears about bats.
- Reporting bat colonies to MassWildlife:** Be a citizen scientist and spread the word
- Massachusetts Homeowner's Guide to Bats**

*source: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/masswildlife-monthly-october-2021>

Saving seaweed with machine learning

Mary Beth Gallagher | MIT News

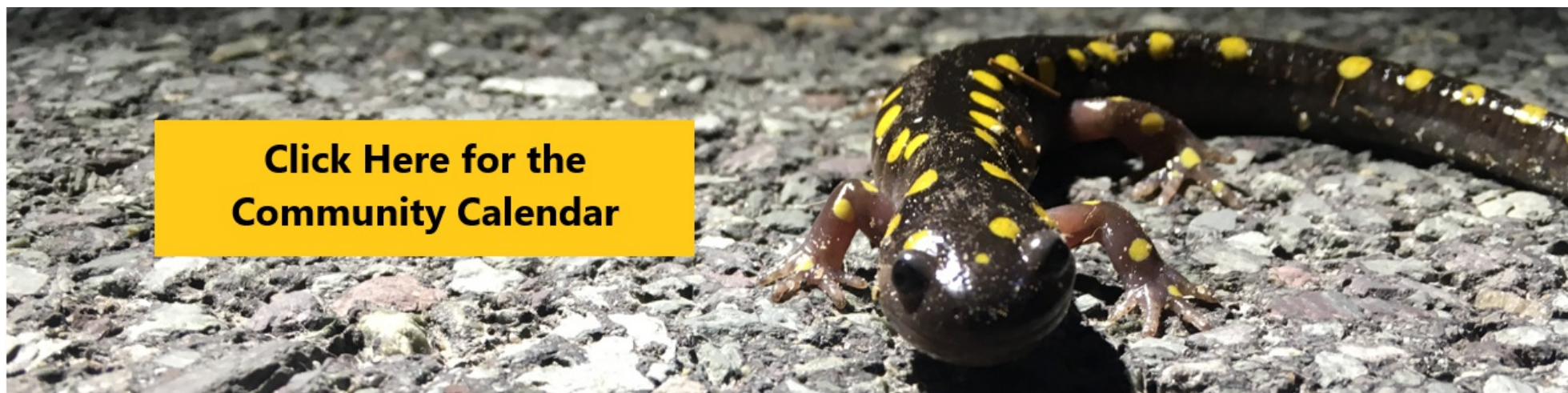
PhD candidate Charlene Xia is developing a low-cost system to monitor the microbiome of seaweed farms and identify diseases before they spread....seaweed combats various environmental threats. It helps fight climate change by absorbing excess carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, and can also absorb fertilizer run-off, keeping coasts cleaner. As with so much of marine life, seaweed is threatened by the very thing it helps

mitigate against: climate change. Climate stressors like warm temperatures or minimal sunlight encourage the growth of harmful bacteria such as ice-ice disease. Within days, entire seaweed farms are decimated by unchecked bacterial growth. To solve this problem, Xia turned to the microbiota present in these seaweed farms as a predictive indicator of any threat to the seaweed or livestock. "Our project is to develop a low-cost device that can detect and prevent diseases before they affect seaweed or livestock by monitoring the microbiome of the environment," says Xia. [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](#)



**Click Here for the
Community Calendar**

Ongoing till October 31

Great Hall Art Exhibit: Migrations - Turners Falls

Ongoing till November 10

STORY WALK® Series: From Apple Trees to Cider, Please! - Turners Falls

Wednesday, October 27

BEAT Event: Future Of Clean Heat - Action Meeting - Online

National Rivers & Trails Connectivity & Corridors - Online

Thursday, October 28

Ecology Center's 50th Anniversary Celebration - Online

Friday, October 29

Canoe Meadows Volunteer Day - Community Gardens Clean-up

Saturday, October 30

Halloween Night Hike - Easthampton

[See Calendar for more!](#)



Click Here for the Jobs Board

Education Coordinator - School and Summer Environmental Education Programs | Mass Audubon | Lenox

ACE: Assistant Communications and Outreach Specialist - USFWS Northeast Regional Office | American Conservation Experience | Hadley

Farmland Preservation Specialist | Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources | West Springfield

Land Stewardship Coordinator with New England Forestry Foundation | TerraCorps | Littleton

Fellowship in Nature-based Early Education | Boston Outdoor Preschool Network | Boston

Plant Sale Coordinator | Berkshire Conservation District | Hybrid Remote/Pittsfield

Protected Species Observer (PSO) | Smultea Environmental Sciences | Boston

Ecological Horticulturist | Norcross Wildlife Foundation | Wales

Postdoc: Chronic Wasting Disease Risk Assessment | UMASS | Amherst

[Click here for more jobs](#)

Environmental Monitor

October 22, 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:

- **Windsor** - [Windsor State Forest Dam Repairs & Nature-like Fishway](#) - **ENF** - Comments due 10/28/21
- **Windsor** - [Notice of Intent to Initiate an Ecological Restoration Project](#) - **Eugene Moran Wildlife Management Area** - posted 10/8/21
- **Egremont** - [Notice of Application for a 401 Water Quality Certificate](#) - **culvert replacement under Rts 23/41 and grouting of rip rap at Mill Pond Dam** - posted 10/8/21
- **Pittsfield** - [NOI Ecological Restoration Aquatic Plant Management Pittsfield at Morewood Lake](#) - posted 10/8/21
- **Adams** - [Hoosic River Bank Stabilization and Erosion Control Project](#) - **Notice of Project Change** - comments due 10/12/21
- **New Marlborough** - [Harnett Pond](#) - **ENF** - comments due 10/22/21

**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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