

The BEAT News!

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

October 6, 2021

Hi Friend ,

Thanks to all who joined Jane, Noah and Elizabeth this past weekend at the Housatonic Heritage walks! This Saturday, October 9th, BEAT is co-sponsoring the event "Berkshires as Living Laboratory", which aims to increase inclusion and accessibility to natural and cultural resources. Please join these artist- and scientist-led programs to experience new perspectives on the histories, current conditions, and barriers to inclusion. Imagine possible futures along BNRC trails! We hope to see you there with us.

This week's newsletter takes a look at the various efforts our state is taking on stewardship, monitoring and climate. Articles include new monitoring by MassWildlife on the Connecticut River, bee-friendly initiatives in Great Barrington, a peek into gas companies (while we try to shift to fossil free), covid and wildlife extinction and why libraries are so important to climate justice and equality.

We are hiring, please share: [Water Quality Associate Position](#)

Elia Del Molino from Greenagers joins us for a presentation this October 19th for Green Drinks Pittsfield (online). For more information and how to register, please click here:

<https://tinyurl.com/GreenDrinksOctober>

*Sincerely,
Sarit - Education & Outreach Coordinator*

Citizen Science: Greenagers, Land Stewardship and Youth Engagement

with Elia Del Molino

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 19
6PM VIA ZOOM



GREEN DRINKS BEAT
pittsfield Berkshire Environmental
ACTION TEAM

In The News



Monitoring juvenile shad on the Connecticut River

Marion Larson | MassWildlife

American shad are anadromous, meaning they spend most of their lives in the ocean, but return to fresh water to spawn. During these migrations, shad must travel long distances... This fall, MassWildlife biologists are completing the fifth year of data collection to learn about the relationship between juvenile and adult shad numbers in the Connecticut River. This project is in collaboration with the US Fish and Wildlife Service, Vermont Fish and Wildlife, and New Hampshire Fish and Game. Shad populations in the Connecticut River have substantially decreased when compared to historic abundance due to a variety of factors, including climate change, overfishing, river alterations, pollution, water withdrawals, and dams. There are currently four main-stem dams on the Connecticut River (Holyoke, Turners Falls, Vernon, and Bellows Falls) which each have varying impacts on adult upstream migration, juvenile production, and eventual outmigration of juvenile shad back to the Atlantic Ocean. [Read More](#)

Flower plantings throughout downtown GB will support pollinator species

The Berkshire Edge

Great Barrington is doing its part to create a bee-friendly habitat in its downtown through the installation of pollinator plantings. In coming weeks, flowering plants will be installed at the base of the town's sentinel of about 80 deciduous trees, mostly on Main Street. Flowers to be planted will include black chokeberry, foxglove, aster, orange butterfly weed, lupine, and blue vervain. This project evolved from the [Pollinator-Friendly Community Resolution](#) passed by the 2016 Annual Town Meeting. That resolution calls for creation of a local ecosystem that sustains native pollinators: bees, butterflies, beetles, flies, ants, and certain birds. These creatures are vital to the pollination of food crops; in Massachusetts bees pollinate 45 percent of the state's food crops. [Read More](#)

As Massachusetts envisions a fossil fuel-free future, gas companies are quietly investing billions in pipelines

Sabrina Shankman | The Boston Globe

More than 21,000 miles of aging gas pipelines lie under the streets in Massachusetts, nearly enough to encircle the earth. When researchers began discovering about a decade ago that tens of thousands of leaks across that vast network discharged tons of hazardous methane into the air, the Legislature went to work. A law was passed, and in short order, gas companies embarked on a massive, years-long upgrade. Since then, the gas companies have slogged through a slow, expensive process of digging up pipes and replacing them with new ones meant to last more than half a century. Costs soared. And something else happened: The state passed a climate law that effectively called for the end of natural gas. [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](#)

What Covid and the ivory-billed woodpecker being declared extinct have in common

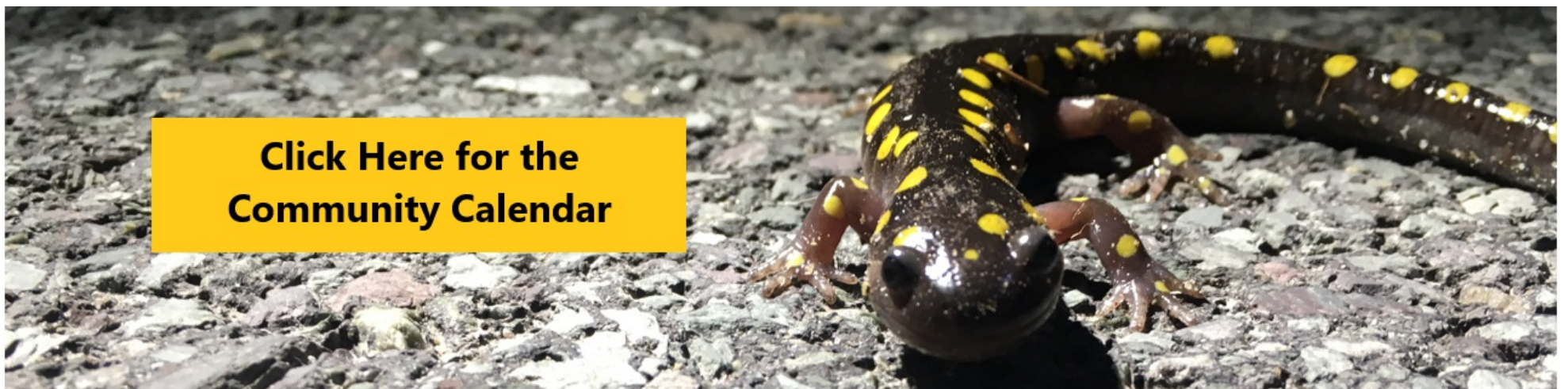
Dr. Alexis Drutchas | Think

For too long, we have treated the natural world as an infinite commodity. In the wake of unchecked human population growth and consumption, we've destroyed natural habitats for the sake of creating housing in cities and suburbs, and for vast commercial farms that produce agriculture and livestock. This habitat erosion decimates wild animal populations and renders surviving animals homeless — both of which ultimately endanger humans, as well. In the most recent example, the [U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service](#) proposed removing 23 more animals and plants from the endangered species list Wednesday — [because they're extinct](#). Included on this list is the ivory-billed woodpecker, which spanned from coastal North Carolina to East Texas before logging and slaughter for private collectors and hat-makers dwindled the population. Hawaii had a total of eight birds listed as extinct, including the Kaua'i 'o'o, which is known to have a beautiful flute-like call, because invasive species and warming temperatures allowed mosquitoes carrying diseases to access elevations they were once unable to reach. [Read More](#)

Why Libraries Are Essential to Climate Justice

Sarah Sax | Yes!

"Libraries are essential," said the Rev. Vernon K. Walker, senior program manager at [Communities Responding to Extreme Weather](#). The nonprofit helps turn libraries, churches, and small businesses into climate resilience hubs—trusted community organizations meant to help educate people on extreme weather and provide a physical refuge during and after disasters. "Particularly for libraries that tend to be in Black and Brown communities, and particularly in libraries that are in inner cities, they are critical, essential, and needed," Walker said. [Studies show](#) that people of color are at higher risk of illness or death than White people. That's because they often live in hotter areas with less access to air conditioning and a greater likelihood of [service disconnections](#), or in neighborhoods where energy companies sometimes [deliberately shut off](#) power to avoid larger disruptions. Underserved and low-income communities can face natural hazards more safely with updated infrastructure, according to [a growing body of research](#) on disaster resilience. Equally poor areas with inadequate community infrastructure or none at all [have much higher death rates](#). And libraries are part of a community's infrastructure: The Federal Emergency Management Agency, or FEMA, [has formally recognized](#) them as "essential community organizations." [Read More](#)



**Click Here for the
Community Calendar**

Wednesday, October 6

[Long-distance movements of wild ungulates - Online](#)

Thursday, October 7

[Flying Deer Nature Center Speaker Series presents Connections to the Land and Bodies: A Migrant and Multicultural Perspective with Johana Castillo - Online](#)

Friday, October 8

[Early bird birding with Jeff - Athol](#)

Saturday, October 9

[BERKSHIRES as LIVING LABORATORY \(BEAT co-sponsor\) - Hinsdale](#)

Sunday, October 10

11th Annual Run For The Hills 5k/10k Race - Great Barrington Land Conservancy - Great Barrington

Monday, October 11

Indigenous People's Day 2021 - Great Barrington

Tuesday, October 12

Voyagers, Visitors and Home with Dale Monette - Online

More Events Next Week! [See Calendar for more!](#)



[BEAT is Hiring: Water Quality Associate Position](#)

[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 Deputy Director for Policy](#) | [Massachusetts Rivers Alliance](#) | [Cambridge Urban Ecologist](#) | [Mass Audubon](#) | [Lincoln](#)
[Click here for more jobs](#)

Environmental Monitor

September 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:

- **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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