

The BEAT News!

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

November 10, 2021

Hi Friend,

We did it! We now OWN our Environmental Leadership & Education Center as of 9:30 am on Monday, November 9th! We have been moving forward with plans for renovations to make the building fully accessible and net zero energy, but actually owning the property feels great. Thank you to everyone who helped make this happen! Please view [our Capital Campaign update](#).

And in other news - Rose and Jane were guests on Community Action Work's podcast feature called "Stories from the Frontlines; The Wider the Net, the Stronger the Fight". Listen now [by clicking here](#).

Please join us: Next week's featured presenter for November Green Drinks is Drew Jones. He is the Manager of Hopkins Memorial Forest (HMF) in Williamstown and is a Wildlife Biologist. He'll discuss some of the ongoing work at HMF, as well as the role of long term, place-based ecological research in our rapidly changing ecosphere. See what's happening next door in the Berkshires! This event is free. Registration is required, [please click here](#).

Have a wonderful week,

Jane

Spotlight: A game-changer for wildlife.

For the first time in United States history, there will be dedicated federal funding for wildlife crossings. The complete [Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act](#) just passed by Congress is a vast collection of national infrastructure programs and spending measures designed to bring buildings, bridges, roads, water delivery systems and other infrastructure up to date and more resilient to the impacts of climate change here in the United States. Wildlands Network is proud to announce that, due to our leadership, the Act contains \$350 million in federal funding for a "Wildlife Crossings Pilot Program" to reduce wildlife-vehicle collisions - these hotspots contribute to the death of millions of animals annually, as well as hazardous—and sometimes deadly—conditions for drivers. [Read More](#).

This is great news from our friends at the Wildlands Network! BEAT works alongside many organizations to make it safer for wildlife to cross roads. We have partnered with The Housatonic Valley Association and the Hoosic River Watershed Association (HooRWA) in surveying stream crossings in Berkshire County. The information is collected in a North Atlantic Aquatic Connectivity Collaborative database where everyone can view it - including environmental advocates, town & regional planners, and transportation designers including MassDOT (the Massachusetts Department of Transportation.) Now every road construction project that involves a road-stream crossing becomes an opportunity for improvement for wildlife movement, habitat connectivity, and public safety. Well designed stream crossings allow wildlife to move, meeting their daily, seasonal and dispersal needs which is especially important in this time of climate change.

In The News



A Pittsfield nature photographer's close encounter with a bobcat family off South Mountain Road

Larry Parnass | The Berkshire Eagle

"Almost never." That's how often Pittsfield nature photographer Mark E. Thorne gets close enough to capture a bobcat, the state's only wild cat. This past weekend, Thorne got lucky. He spent more than four minutes documenting a female bobcat and two of her kits as the animals paused off South Mountain Road, within the city limits. After decades photographing wildlife in Berkshire County, that in itself would be notable for Thorne, a self-employed electrician. His latest encounter wasn't fleeting, as it typically is with this elusive creature, which is more common in Western Massachusetts than people know. [See Photos and Read more.](#)

Right whale population down 30 percent over past decade

Colin A. Young | State House News Service/Boston Globe

The North Atlantic right whale population has shrunk by 30 percent over the last decade, capped off by a roughly 8 percent annual decline to an estimated 336 whales remaining in 2020, the North Atlantic Right Whale Consortium announced Monday. The population estimate of 336 right whales is the lowest for the endangered species in nearly 20 years, the group said, and is thought to include fewer than 100 breeding females. The species had an estimated 481 whales in 2011, but the count has been on the decline since. [Read More.](#)

Birding along the Atlantic

Clellie Lynch

A blazing sun rises over the Atlantic, sparkling silver over the constantly moving water. There's not a cloud in the sky. Already it is quite warm, for late October. As we enter the Parker River National Wildlife Refuge near Newburyport, a hunting harrier sweeps up off the dunes, across the road in front of us, and flies low, tuning this way and that, searching for a furry morning meal. A twinkling amorphous fling of shorebirds passes over the extensive marsh. Wonderful to be near the sea and shore again! This 4,660-acre refuge on and around Plum Island near the New Hampshire border includes the eight-mile-long barrier island between the river and the ocean, a haven for migratory birds on their journey south. The refuge, created in 1942, is an important stopover and breeding area for birds on the Atlantic Flyway along this densely populated coast. [Read more.](#)

Owl habitat cuts by Trump appointees used 'faulty' science

Matthew Brown and Gillian Flaccus | AP News

Political appointees in the Trump administration relied on faulty science to justify stripping habitat

protections for the imperiled northern spotted owl, U.S. wildlife officials said Tuesday as they struck down a rule that would have opened millions of acres of forest in Oregon, Washington and California to potential logging. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service reversed a [decision made five days before Trump left office](#) to drastically shrink so-called critical habitat for the spotted owl. The small, reclusive bird has been in decline for decades as old-growth forests disappear. The Associated Press obtained details on Tuesday's action prior to it being made public. Government biologists objected to the changes under Trump and warned they would put the spotted owl on a path to extinction, documents show. [Read more.](#)

Concern about gas pipeline proposed from Longmeadow to Springfield

And Another Thing Team | New England Public Media

A proposed natural gas pipeline from Longmeadow to Springfield, Massachusetts, has some residents of both communities up in arms. But utility Eversource insists the five-mile pipeline is safe and essential to assure reliable service. What's called the [Western Massachusetts Natural Gas Reliability Project](#) is a proposed pipeline that would take one of four routes from Longmeadow to a regulator station in Springfield. [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**

Events with BEAT:

Friday, November 12: [Virtual Volunteer Fair - with BEAT](#) - Online

Tuesday, November 16: [Green Drinks Pittsfield - What's Happenin' in Hopkins Forest, Williams College's Environmental Field Station?](#) - Online

Community Calendar:

Ongoing till November 10

[STORY WALK® Series: From Apple Trees to Cider, Please!](#) - Turners Falls

Wednesday, November 10 to Saturday, November 13

[Williamstown Rural Lands "Funding Our Future" 2021 Autumn Auction](#)

Wednesday, November 10

[2021 Fall WasteWise Forum Webinar](#) - Online

[Saving Ocean Biodiversity & Confronting the Shifting Baseline Syndrome](#) - Online

[Advocacy Hour: Sierra Club MA Campaign Updates](#) - Online

[A Deeper Dive into the Personal Nature Essay](#) - Online

[Talking Trash and Recycling](#) - Online

Friday, November 12

[Hiking 101 for Families](#) - Online

Saturday, November 13

[The Northwest Connecticut Waterfowl Census](#) - Sheffield

[Aquatic Mammal Walk: Newcomb Pond](#) - Cropseyville, NY

[Ecology Walk at Hand Hollow Conservation Area](#) - East Chatham, NY

Sunday, November 14

[Bob's Way Hike](#) - Monterey

[Campaign Rally & March: Fix the New England Electric Grid](#) - Holyoke

Monday, November 15

[Ask Me Anything about Recycling in MA](#) - Online

Tuesday, November 16

[Annual Conference & Meeting: Creating Health Equity by Building Community Power](#) - Online

[Be Inspired! Volunteers Leading the Way in Waste Reduction](#) - Online

[Tuesday Treks: Dyken Pond Center](#) - Cropseyville, NY

[Fireside Chat With Environmentalist And Author Bill McKibben \(Boston Globe Climate Week\)](#) - Online

Wednesday, November 17

[An Inside Look At The 2021 UN Climate Change Conference \(Boston Globe Climate Week\)](#) - Online

[Ask Me Anything about Recycling in MA](#) - Online

[Advocacy Hour: Sierra Club MA Campaign Updates](#) - Online

[A Deeper Dive into the Personal Nature Essay](#) - Online

[Managing Pests while Protecting Pollinators](#) - Online

[See Calendar for more!](#)



[Science Educator](#) | Manomet | Plymouth/Hybrid

[Research Fellow](#) | UMASS Family, Forest Research Center | Amherst

[Aquarium Internship](#) | Maria Mitchell Association | Nantucket

[Director of Market Transformation](#) | Building Decarbonization Coalition (BDC) | Remote

[Social Media Lead](#) | Power Shift Network | Remote

[Conservation Technician](#) | Housatonic Valley Association (HVA) | Stockbridge

[Assistant Director, Fundraising and Community Engagement](#) | Berkshire Natural Resources Council | Hybrid/Berkshires

[Grants Specialist: Foundation, Corporate, and Government Awards \(half-time\)](#) | Berkshire Natural Resources Council | Hybrid/Berkshires

[Volunteer and Outreach Assistant \(part-time\)](#) | Berkshire Natural Resources Council | Hybrid/Berkshires

[Sustainability Coordinator](#) | Town of Austerlitz, NY

[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

[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

Pioneer Valley Index:

Buckland - [Notice of Intent to Initiate an Ecological Restoration Project](#) - posted 10/22/21

Agawam - [Tuckhoe Farm Dam Rehabilitation Project](#) - ENF - comments due 11/12/21

Westfield - [James Hardie Building Products Manufacturing and Distribution Facility](#) - ENF - comments due 10/28/21 - site visit 10/25/21

Hampden - [119 Chapin Rd](#) - ENF - comments due 10/12/21

West Springfield - [Memorial Avenue \(Route 147\) Reconstruction](#) - ENF - comments due 10/12/21

Palmer - [Roger Reed Fish Hatchery Upper Dam Repairs and Pipeline Replacement](#) - ENF Certificate - Does not require an Environmental Impact Report - issued 10/8/21

Statewide Index:

nothing new

**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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