

The BEAT News!

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

November 17, 2021

Hi Friend,

We are excited to welcome Chelsey Simmons who is taking over as BEAT's new Education & Outreach Coordinator as we say goodbye to Sarit. Chelsey has been working with Noah on stormwater pipe screening in Pittsfield and will now be jumping in to take over producing this newsletter and running Pittsfield Green Drinks.

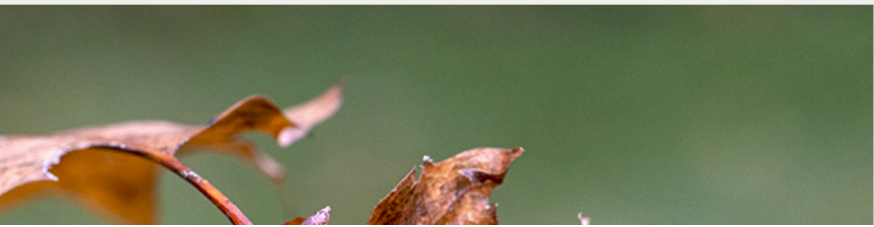
Thank you to Drew Jones who gave a fascinating Pittsfield Green Drinks presentation about all the different research projects going on at [Hopkins Memorial Forest](#) in Williamstown. So many different, long-term studies in such an interesting location. If you haven't explored the trails, please make time to visit. You'll be glad you did. And thank you to everyone who attended Green Drinks. If you missed it, sorry, there is no recording this time. But do join us next month on the 3rd Tuesday, December 21st, to hear what BEAT has been up to this year and what we have planned for 2022.

Just before Green Drinks, BEAT received a call from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) alerting us to a spill by Specialty Minerals, Inc. into the Hoosic River. The spill did not alter the pH, but did make the river cloudy. At 5 pm, as it was getting pretty dark, DEP was on the scene and trying to determine if this spill led to any fish kill. We really appreciate DEP proactively letting us know about this issue and we'll let you know if we learn anything more.

Thank you for all you do to protect the environment!

Jane, Rose, Jake, Noah, and Chelsey

In The News





© naturally curious

Oak Apple Galls

Mary Holland | Naturally Curious with Mary Holland

"Galls are abnormal plant growths that are caused primarily by insects, but also by fungi, mites, nematodes and bacteria. Each gall insect has a specific plant host which produces a distinctive-looking gall. Of the 2,000 gall-producing insects in the United States, 1,500 of them are gall wasps or gall gnats. Of the over 800 different gall-makers on oaks, over 700 are gall wasps." [Read More.](#)

Hinsdale sets start date for review of RV park proposal

Larry Parnass | The Berkshire Eagle

"Representatives of a national recreational vehicle camping group will be back in Hinsdale soon to pitch their vision for Camp Emerson.

The town's Zoning Board of Appeals will take up the company's special permit application at 6:30 p.m. Nov. 30 in the auditorium of Nessacus Regional Middle School Auditorium, at 35 Fox Road in Dalton." [Read More.](#)

How Thinking like a Watershed System can Help Save Narragansett Bay

Daegan Miller | UMass News

"New research from UMass Amherst suggests that changing land-use practices can blunt some of the worst impacts of climate change. The Narragansett Bay, which covers almost 150 square miles along the coast of Rhode Island and Massachusetts, is New England's largest estuary, and it is under threat from both changing patterns of land use in New England and global climate change. Recently, researchers at the University of

Massachusetts Amherst [published the results of a new study](#) that connects land use, the coast and the climate, to identify various workable interventions that could guide the Bay's restoration." [Read More.](#)

December is the Start of Bird Feeding Season

iBerkshires

"The Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department recommends that people wait to put up bird feeders until Dec. 1 to avoid attracting bears. (...) While watching your bird feeders, you can participate in one or more bird monitoring projects by looking up the Audubon Christmas Bird Count, the Great Backyard Bird Count and Project Feeder Watch—all three collect important information to understanding bird populations." [Read More.](#)

Trash in America

Adrian Pforzheimer, Frontier Group and Alex Truelove | U.S. PIRG Education Fund

"The United States produces too much waste. (...) The U.S. produces more than 12% of the planet's trash, though it is home to only 4% of the world's population. [1] (...) Natural resources are continually extracted to produce goods that are used in the U.S. – often only briefly – before they are thrown into landfills, incinerators or the natural environment. This system of consumption and disposal results in the waste of precious resources and in pollution that threatens our health, environment and the global climate." [See Graphics and Read More.](#)

Countries' climate pledges built on flawed data, Post investigation finds

Chris Mooney, et al. | The Washington Post

"Across the world, many countries underreport their greenhouse gas emissions in their reports to the United Nations, a Washington Post investigation has found. An examination of 196 country reports reveals a giant gap between what nations declare their emissions to be vs. the greenhouse gases they are sending into the atmosphere. The gap ranges from at least 8.5 billion to as high as 13.3 billion tons a year of underreported emissions — big enough to move the needle on how much the Earth will warm. The plan to save the world from the worst of climate change is built on data. But the data the world is relying on is inaccurate." [See Graphics and 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 19

Cutting & Pulling Invasive Hardy Kiwi – Volunteer with BEAT

Community Calendar:

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](#)

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 18

[Snakes Alive! - Online](#)

[Mystery Revealed: The Story of Plastic Bag Recycling - Online](#)

[Can The Massachusetts Tech Scene Help Solve The Climate Crisis? - Online](#)

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 19

[Night Out at the Museum: Astronomy in the Moonlight - Pittsfield](#)

[Tremendous Trees: Rensselaer Plateau - Cropseyville, NY](#)

[Lichens - Online](#)

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 20

[Family Woodland Discovery Hike at The Boulders - Dalton](#)

[Unveil the Trail – Greenagers - Monterey](#)

[Mindful Nature Walk: Shinrin-Yoku - Cropseyville, NY](#)

[Fauna & Flora Hike - Peru](#)

[Chow Time at the Aquarium - Pittsfield](#)

[How Animals Prepare for Winter - Cropseyville, NY](#)

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 21

Volunteer Trail Work Day at Tamarack Hollow - Windsor

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 22

MAPC Net Zero Playbook - Online

Beyond Plastics: Groundbreaking Report on The New Coal - Online

MCAN: Net Zero For All - Online

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 23

Tuesday Treks: Dyken Pond Center - Cropseyville, NY

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 24

Advocacy Hour: Sierra Club MA Campaign Updates - Online

See Calendar for more!



Click Here for the Jobs Board

[Project Manager, Fine Gardener/Horticulturist, Organic Lawn Care Technician, Landscape](#)

[Construction and Garden Maintenance Team Members and Leaders](#) | Nature Works

[Zero Waste Campaign Associate](#) | US PIRG | Boston, MA

[Development and Communications Manager](#) | Wild Seed Project |

Hybrid/North Yarmouth, ME

[Executive Director](#) | ClimateXChange | Boston (possibly elsewhere)

[Visual Design Manager](#) | Open Space Institute | Albany, NY

[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

[Click here for more jobs](#)

Environmental Monitor

November 10, 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:

Becket – [Notice of Application for a 401 Water Quality Certificate](#) – culvert under Rts 20 & 8 over a tributary to Shaw Pond – submitted 11/10/21

Windsor – [Windsor State Forest Dam Repairs & Nature-like Fishway](#) – **ENF Certificate** – Does Not Require an Environmental Impact Report – issued 11/08/21

New Marlborough – [Harnett Pond](#) – **ENF Certificate** – Requires a Single Environmental Impact Report – issued 10/29/21

Pioneer Valley Index:

Cummington – [Bryant Cemetery Expansion](#) – **ENF** – comments due 11/30/21

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 Certificate** – Does Not Require an Environmental Impact Report – issued 11/08/21

Hampden – [119 Chapin Rd](#) – **ENF Certificate** – Does not require an Environmental Impact Report – issued 10/22/21

West Springfield – [Memorial Avenue \(Route 147\) Reconstruction](#) – **ENF Certificate** – Does not require an Environmental Impact Report – issued 10/22/21

Statewide Index:

[Notice of Submission of a Yearly Operational Plan](#) – **National Grid** – comments due 12/24/21

**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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