

## Curious About Conservation? March 2019

### Summary:

Link to Nurseries for native plants near your zip code.

<https://www.audubon.org/native-plants>

Wasted: The Story of Food Waste n Phoenixville Colonial theater March 27, 2019

Anthony Bourdain, Mark Bittman, Mario Batali and Dan Barber, among others stun the viewer in:

“An informative and entertaining documentary produced by celebrity chef Anthony Bourdain, “Wasted!” takes you around the world, showing the 1.3 billion tons of food that gets thrown out each year and the people fighting hardest to prevent it. Released 2017. My own comment: **Never put vegetable waste in garbage. According to this film, it takes 25 years for a head of lettuce to decompose in many landfills.**

[https://smile.amazon.com/gp/product/B075RPZHQR/ref=oc\\_dp\\_txt\\_1](https://smile.amazon.com/gp/product/B075RPZHQR/ref=oc_dp_txt_1)

Court cites Dr Seuss's The Lorax in rebuke to US Forest Service (Heard this on the news didn't pick it up in monthly screen): I think it's worth revisiting....

**Dr. Seuss wrote in 1970: “UNLESS someone like you cares a whole awful lot,...Nothing is going to get better...It's not.”**

“The Lorax” - Video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8V06ZOQuo0k>

Man Who Developed Cancer After Roundup Use Awarded More Than \$80 Million in Damages

<https://www.ecowatch.com/roundup-cancer-lawsuit-2633020482.html?rebelltitem=1#rebelltitem1>

A Key To Peace In Afghanistan? Consider Conservation, Says One Scientist

<https://www.npr.org/2019/03/31/693228402/a-key-to-peace-in-afghanistan-consider-conservation-says-one-scientist>

Study: Chimps' varied 'culture' matters for conservation

<https://www.theitem.com/stories/study-chimps-varied-culture-matters-for-conservation,324017>

“Nearly 400 Migratory Birds Were Killed by One Texas Building in a Single Night..” Try to close drapes at night during migratory seasons to keep those travelers from being distracted by your lights rather than guided by stars.

<https://www.audubon.org/news/nearly-400-migratory-birds-were-killed-one-texas-building-single-night>

Affordable, self-heating homes of the future, inspired by the past

<https://www.csmonitor.com/Environment/2019/0327/Affordable-self-heating-homes-of-the-future-inspired-by-the-past>

“... Buy that Volt!” March 31 was last day to receive tax credits for electric vehicles. Urge for legislators to reinstitute this law.

[https://www.greencarreports.com/news/1122366\\_obama-buy-that-volt](https://www.greencarreports.com/news/1122366_obama-buy-that-volt)

Federal Court Directs EPA to Uphold Clean Water Act in Baltimore

<https://www.nrdc.org/media/2019/190327-0>

Michigan governor halts Great Lakes pipeline tunnel project

<https://www.wthr.com/article/michigan-governor-halts-great-lakes-pipeline-tunnel-project>

Appeals judge halt PennEast construction in New Jersey

<https://www.kallanishenergy.com/2019/03/27/appeals-judge-halt-penneast-construction-in-new-jersey/>

Florida bill would make banning plastic straws illegal

<https://thehill.com/homenews/state-watch/432650-florida-bill-would-make-banning-plastic->

[straws-illegal](#)

8 simple ways to reduce your plastic use.

<https://www.nbcnews.com/better/lifestyle/8-simple-ways-reduce-your-plastic-use-ncna984396>

Trader Joe's Is Eliminating a Million Pounds of Plastic From Its Stores

<http://www.grubstreet.com/2019/03/trader-joes-plastic.html>

Here's What Those Plastic Recycling Numbers Really Mean

<https://www.rd.com/home/what-the-numbers-on-plastic-mean/>

Going Zero Waste Blog

<https://www.goingzerowaste.com/blog/>

## Curious About Conservation in the News March 2019: Life

### Bring More Birds to Your Home with Native Plants: Nurseries Near your zip code.

<https://www.audubon.org/native-plants>

### Wasted: The Story of Food Waste.

2017 video Anthony Bourdain and Mark Bittman, Mario Batali, Dan Barber, among others.

**. " A HEAD OF LETTUCE TAKES 25 YEARS TO DECOMPOSE IN a Dry A LAND FILL."**

**FOR THE SHRMP WE PURCHASE MANY TIMES A MULTIPLE OF THOSE SHRIMP ARE THROWN AWAY AS JUNK FISH. ARTIC CHAR USED TO BE SUCH A FISH. THE BRITS ARE MAKING BEER OUT OF THE ENDS OF SANDWICH LOAVES. They say iT'S SWEET...**

**LOTS OF WASTE OCCURS ON FARMS AND IN GROCERY STORES BECAUSE OF THE FEAR OF REJECTION BY THE CONSUMER AT THE END.**

[https://smile.amazon.com/gp/product/B075RPZHQR/ref=oc\\_dp\\_txt\\_1](https://smile.amazon.com/gp/product/B075RPZHQR/ref=oc_dp_txt_1)

### **A Key To Peace In Afghanistan? Consider A part of Band-e-**

## **Amir, Afghanistan's first national park, in Bamiyan province. Conservation, Says One Scientist**

*Afghanistan was the easiest place I did conservation because the people there understood the link between natural resources and their security, human security and national security.*

*Alex Dehgan*

*Conservation and protecting wildlife, he says, can provide common ground, even among enemies...Even if the Taliban is in charge, they still have to govern, they still have to deal with water quality, sanitation issues, trans-boundary water issues, and with the health of their people and with keeping the livestock alive. And ultimately, that requires science and technology and effective systems to solve that. So while I think they would be less receptive than the current government, I still think there could be a place for it.*

<https://www.npr.org/2019/03/31/693228402/a-key-to-peace-in-afghanistan-consider-conservation-says-one-scientist>

## **Court cites Dr Seuss's The Lorax in rebuke to US Forest Service**

<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2018/dec/15/court-cites-dr-seuss-the-lorax-in-rebuke-to-us-forest-service>

## **The Lorax : Video of Dr. Seuss book : The Lorax**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8V06ZOQuo0k>

## **Study: Chimps' varied 'culture' matters for conservation**

As researchers learn more about Homo sapiens' closest living genetic relatives, they are also discovering more about the diversity of behaviors within chimpanzee groups - activities learned, at least in part, socially, and passed from generation to generation.

These patterns are referred to as "traditions" - or even animal "culture." In a new study, scientists argue that this diversity of behaviors should be protected as species themselves are safeguarded, and that they are now under threat from human disturbance.

"What we mean by 'culture' is something you learn socially from your group members that you may not learn if you were born into a different chimpanzee group," said Ammie Kalan, a primatologist at the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology in Leipzig, Germany.

"As chimpanzee populations decline and their habitats become fragmented, we can see a stark decline in chimpanzee behavioral diversity," said Kalan, co-author of the sweeping new study published Thursday in the journal Science.

<https://www.theitem.com/stories/study-chimps-varied-culture-matters-for-conservation,324017>

## **Nearly 400 migratory Birds were Killed...in One Night**

The dangerous impact of artificial lights from towers and skyscrapers have long been known to scientists. Birds are drawn to the artificial lights that occupy their airspace, and their navigational compasses are short-circuited by the unusual presence of light. A well-

lit high-rise building can kill hundreds of migratory birds in a single night, and it's common to find thousands of lifeless birds at the base of skyscrapers after a busy period of migration.

<https://www.audubon.org/news/nearly-400-migratory-birds-were-killed-one-texas-building-single-night>

## Renewable Resources, March 2019

### Affordable, self-heating homes of the future, inspired by the past

Passive heating and cooling have long helped wealthy homeowners keep energy costs low. A new project in Maine aims to bring that same innovation – and its rewards – to low-income residents.

<https://www.csmonitor.com/Environment/2019/0327/Affordable-self-heating-homes-of-the-future-inspired-by-the-past>

## Obama, buy that Volt!

March 31 2019 was last weekend you could get a tax credit for an electric car. Could be why there's been an explosion of Teslas on the road in this area? Write your legislators and urge this credit be reinstated.

March 31, 2019

Barack Obama, whose administration widely supported policy fostering more fuel-efficient vehicles, greener energy, and the path to more vehicles that plug in.

This weekend marks the last one for which buyers of the Chevrolet Volt can claim the full federal electric vehicle tax credit. It's also a time when new dealer stocks of the Volt are dwindling.

Given that, there's just one little thing that we'd like to hold Obama to. Back in 2012, he sounded pretty decided on at least one of the vehicles he'd put in the garage after being president: the Chevy Volt.

"Five years from now when I'm not president anymore, I'll buy one and drive it myself," Obama promised auto workers – 1,500 of them – at a UAW event in Detroit in 2012.

[https://www.greencarreports.com/news/1122366\\_obama-buy-that-volt](https://www.greencarreports.com/news/1122366_obama-buy-that-volt)

## Water: Curious About Conservation in the News? March 2019

### Toxic chemicals threaten water supply in seven

## municipalities

Three years ago, town wells near Fort Devens — which sits about 50 miles northwest of Boston — tested positive for toxic manmade chemicals, some well in excess of what public health officials consider safe.

It wasn't until last year that officials shut down the most contaminated well, the source of a million gallons of drinking water a day.

In Massachusetts, the chemicals have been found in the drinking water of seven municipalities. In four — Ayer, Barnstable, Mashpee, and Westfield — they exceed what the EPA considers safe. The chemicals were also found in Danvers, Harvard, and Hudson.

<https://mailchi.mp/bostonglobe.com/toxic-chemicals-threaten-water-supply-in-seven-mass-municipalities?e=6fd9ce589e>

## Federal Court Directs EPA to Uphold Clean Water Act in Baltimore

“Across the country, our rivers and streams are polluted by the permanent runoff from our already-built urban environment,” said **Jeff Odefey, Director, Clean Water Supply Program at American Rivers**. “This victory is an important step in finally getting to the source of that problem and increasing accountability for property owners.”

<https://www.nrdc.org/media/2019/190327-0>

## Michigan governor halts Great Lakes pipeline tunnel project

A law that Michigan's Republican-led Legislature hurriedly passed during a lame-duck session in December authorizing construction of an oil pipeline tunnel beneath the channel linking lakes Huron and Michigan is unconstitutional, the state's Democratic attorney general said Thursday.

Shortly after Dana Nessel issued her first legal opinion since taking office in January,.. Nessel said the bill violated the state constitution because it went beyond what the bill's title reflected. Nessel and Whitmer were elected in November after criticizing the pipeline tunnel plan during their campaigns. After both were inaugurated, Whitmer asked Nessel to assess the constitutionality of the bill...Whitmer said in a statement that she agrees with Nessel's opinion, which carries the force of law unless overruled by a court...

**"The Great Lakes are our most precious resource in Michigan, and because of their significance, I've instructed state departments and agencies to halt any actions in furtherance of the law," Whitmer said.**

<https://www.wthr.com/article/michigan-governor-halts-great-lakes-pipeline-tunnel-project>

## Plastic : Curious About Conservation in the News? March 2019

### Florida bill would make banning plastic straws illegal



© Getty Images

A bill in Florida that advanced through a state Senate committee Monday would prohibit local municipalities from banning plastic straws for five years.

[The Tampa Bay Times reported](#) that the bill, when first introduced in the committee, would have actually forced restaurants and other dining establishments to only give out plastic straws when requested by a customer...[The Tampa Bay Times reported](#) that the bill, when first introduced in the committee, would have actually forced restaurants and other dining establishments to only give out plastic straws when requested by a customer...The bill was amended during its committee hearing after state Sen. Travis Hutson (R), the bill's sponsor, said he realized he was going too far and considered the initial bill "government overreach." The amended bill if passed would establish a study to be conducted by the state Department of Environmental Protection to examine the impact of plastic utensils... "So what I did was [file an amendment that would put a moratorium but give us a study,](#)" ...The study would also look into the impact a plastic straw ban would have on people with disabilities who "may rely on single-use plastic straws for feeding and hydration," [according to the Orlando Sentinel.](#) Additionally, the bill would fine local governments \$25,000 if they violate the five-year moratorium on passing plastic straw bans.

<https://thehill.com/homenews/state-watch/432650-florida-bill-would-make-banning-plastic-straws-illegal>

## Trader Joe's Is Eliminating a Million Pounds of Plastic From Its Stores

Following an online Greenpeace petition started late last year and signed by 91,000 people, Trader Joe's [announced](#) that it would be cutting back on plastic waste. The grocer is a widely known company with hundreds of stores, so this is not insignificant [news](#) in the world of pointless waste. Some of these plans went into effect late last year, and others are being enacted this year, as Trader Joe's goes about eliminating one million pounds of plastic from its stores. In an email to EcoWatch, the grocer's public relations director described the changes as "better managing our environmental impact."...Back in December, Trader Joe's posted a statement to its website explaining that it would no longer offer single-use plastic bags to customers, replace the plastic produce bags and Styrofoam packages with compostable alternatives, and avoid using compounds like BPA in packaging. But Trader Joe's says this is just the beginning. To eliminate what amounts to a literal mountain of plastic, the grocer will reduce how much produce it sells in plastic packaging, replace Styrofoam trays with recyclable ones, replace plastic sleeves and plastic flower bags with renewable ones, and eliminate non-recyclable plastic and foil from tea packaging.

Sources

<http://www.grubstreet.com/2019/03/trader-joes-plastic.html>

## 8 simple ways to Reduce your plastic use.

Bags, straws, coffee lids, and to-go containers are common items that make up over [8 million tons](#) of plastics that pollute our oceans, posing a threat to both wildlife and human health. Few of our plastics make it to recycling centers — the [Environmental Protection Agency reported in 2015 that just 9 percent of all plastics were recycled.](#)

Experts say the number-one way to reduce plastic waste is to cut back on the amount we use in our daily lives.

Reducing plastic doesn't only help the environment — it also enriches your savings, according to [Kathryn Kellogg](#), author of "101 Ways To Go Zero Waste."...“Compared to the average

American, every year of zero waste living, I've saved on average about \$6,000," Kellogg tells NBC News.

#### WHAT SHOULD YOU CUT BACK?

The best place to find out is in your trash can, according to Lauren Singer, founder of the zero-waste blog [Trash is for Tossers](#).

"See what you're throwing away," Singer says, "and then pick one thing, find a solution to it, implement it into your life, and once it feels natural, choose something else, and go little by little."

<https://www.nbcnews.com/better/lifestyle/8-simple-ways-reduce-your-plastic-use-ncna984396>

8 simple ways to Reduce your plastic use.

## Here's What Those Plastic Recycling Numbers Really Mean

It turns out that those numbers aren't random. Recyclable plastics have the numbers one to seven as a code for the type of plastic resin. This information won't change how or what you recycle—you should follow your local rules—but it is helpful for those who collect, sort, and process recycling, per [greenmatters.com](#). Although the code is often mistaken as a universal sign of recyclability, collectors don't accept every plastic type or number—including these [15 things you should never throw in the recycling bin](#).

<https://www.rd.com/home/what-the-numbers-on-plastic-mean/>

## Going Zero Waste Blog

Great resource for recycling clothes PRODUCTIVELY: Everything from Bras to Wedding Dresses have links on this site. An important point made early Thrift shoes don't have room for many of their donations. And, if you take the time you might make some money on E-Bay, for instance.

<https://www.goingzerowaste.com/blog/>