

## Curious About Conservation in The News February 2019

Please do not copy casually...Thank you! :-)

### Summary February 2019

Check out the story about condoms with a conservation twist given out on Valentines Day; The ten year old who petitioned Pope Francis to go Vegan for Lent. Her Ted talk is great. As well as new foods available that kick start vegetarian trends.

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GCA/NAL Conference:



**Sharing time with other GCA members who are interested in Conservation is always invigorating. I urge you to regularly visit the GCA Website and browse. It is huge, but very worthwhile: <https://www.gcamerica.org/>**

Our visit to Washington coincided with Congress passing the Lands Package including **Lands & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)**. See below : <https://www.chicagotribune.com/news/nationworld/politics/ct-senate-conservation-bill-20190212-story.html> This came on top of the passing the **Reviving America's Scenic Byways Act**. See below: [http://www.scenic.org/storage/PDFs/Beyond\\_Aesthetics.pdf](http://www.scenic.org/storage/PDFs/Beyond_Aesthetics.pdf) Now we must work on passing the **Botany Bill** (Not yet carrying this year's bill numbers for the House or Senate) **which provides financial support to botanists who are few and far between, especially those who can do the necessary identification of plant species such as Invasives versus native plants. The bill would require that only natives can be planted on Federal Land. As an aside you might check out: ( <https://www.wsj.com/articles/rhododendron-hydrangea-america-doesnt-know-anymore-1534259849> )** Because the Federal Government controls large portions of the Continental U.S. adding knowledgeable botanists who can instruct in weeding invasives and planting native plants would be a big boost to our native insects and the wildlife that depends upon this intricate circle of life.

Additional we are pursuing the **Deferred Maintenance of the National Parks. H-R 1225, and S-500** (Is also critical for simply making our parks accessible to the general public as well as other important elements, such as the Botany Bill.) The Deferred Maintenance bill requests \$6.5 billion for our enormous park system. It is down from the over 10 billion requested last year when it didn't pass... ..

We saw **Congressman John Lewis** as we walked through the capitol underground walkway. He allowed us to stop and talk. Phoebe Driscoll had met him years ago on behalf of GCA about billboard control. He was active in the fight against advertisements promoting

alcohol and cigarettes in the inner cities. He smile as he recalled referring to them as "**pollution on a stick.**"

Senator Toomey justified being one of eight senators who voted voting against Reviving America's Scenic Byways, because he said the local rural community depended upon billboards . Cindy Tilson (from Pittsburgh, and a member of the Garden Club of Allegheny) found a great article about **economic benefits of restricting billboards** <http://www.scenic.org/billboards-a-sign-control/the-truth-about-billboards/100-billboard-control-is-good-for-business> There is also and great article from 2011 arguing for their **control:** [http://www.scenic.org/storage/PDFs/Beyond\\_Aesthetics.pdf](http://www.scenic.org/storage/PDFs/Beyond_Aesthetics.pdf)

Additionally:

- **Katherine Hayhoe, PhD.** Professor of Climate Science Texas Tech University. Named one of TIME's 100 Most Influential People And Fortunes's 50 World's Greatest 50 Women Leaders And Christianity' Today's 50 Women to Watch. She gave a very interesting, funny talk on the struggle to get people to listen to her thoughts on Climate Change.
- **David Yarnold**, President and CEO National Audubon Society. A Pulitzer Prize winning advocate for the environment He is a regular contributor to The New York Times, Forbes and Politico. As Diector of the Environmental Defense Fund, He worked wire Walmart, the Carlyle Group Ad brought carbon trading to China. He has begun a social media movement called: "**Conservation Has No Party**" <https://www.audubon.org/content/david-yarnold>
- **Toddi Steelman: Stanback Dean Nicholas Scool of the Environment; Duke University .** She is a wildfire Expert.
- **Mark Bittman** of cookbook fame: "How to Cook Anything." He did what he called "the history of food in a half an hour!" His bottom line: eat organic vegetables. If you have a choice between an non-organic apple and organic meat, eat the apple.
- **Sarah Fleming and her colleague Doug Adams**, described the retrieval of the native ecosystem of Sandy Hook New Jersey, a large spit of land that goes out into the New York, New Jersey coast line.
- **Mark Falzone** President Scenic America, Washington, D.C. He gave an Update on the Scenic Byways Act: S-349 and H-R- 831. Check out your representatives position on this legislation by Googling H-R831, 116th Congress got to actions and Click on roll call.
- **Alison Whipple Rockefeller:** an Alumna of the **STUDENT CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION**, Founding Chair of the Rachel Carson Award and Founder of the National Audubon Women in Conservation Program. She is sponsoring an effort to add information about our National Parks and public lands to the U.S. Citizenship exam including "Ten Principles of Conservation".
- **Diane Lewis. MD.** author of The Healthy Yard Project an award winning environmental activist. You can go onto the GCA website and sign the pledge.

The presentations we are privileged to hear at the Capitol never disappoint: **Congressman Earl Blumenthal of Oregon**, delights, as does **Senator Sheldon Whitehouse**, whose wife is an oceanographer is always marvelous to hear. **These legislators are full throated supporter of all things good environmentally.**

But we we treated to many other great Legislators: Lee Zeldin, Senator Boozman supported LWCF.Representative Derek Kilmer has proposed " Preventing Pollution through Partnership Act"Representative Suozzi Of New York, on the Ways and Means Committee.Senator Capito

Of West Virginia, supporter of LWCF; Senator Todd Young, member Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee, which has oversight of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Representative Jared Huffman: on the House Select Committee on Climate Crisis. Congressman Garrett Graves Of Louisiana who pointed out that 40% of our population lives along the coast. **Representative Donald McEachin Virginia a member of the Committee on Natural Resources, and Subcommittee on Federal lands** .Congressman French Hill co-sponsored LWCF. **Senator Chris Van Hollen Maryland** who works to **protect the Chesapeake**. **Congressman Mike Quigley of Illinois** who introduced our **BOTANY BILL**. **Brian Fitzpatrick of PA 1st District and supporter of LWCF**.

- In each of the three years I've attended the conference, We've heard from **C-Change**, out of Princeton New Jersey. **They give an amazing non-partisan , fact based talk about climate change.** They are now expanding their program and looking for anyway to get out the message to the general public. Phoebe Driscoll is pursuing a possible C-Change presentation at Bryn Mawr College.

At the closing gala dinner we we treated to an enthusiastic lecture by **James Porter PhD** of the University of Georgia's Odum School of Ecology. The talk was called **Coral's the Orchids of the Sea**". **He has a film on NetFlicks Called "Chasing Corals"** He made a forceful argument that this nursery for approximately 25% of all sea life is threatened with extinction due to the rising ocean temperatures.

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### Conservation

Billboard Control is Good for Business

<http://www.scenic.org/billboards-a-sign-control/the-truth-about-billboards/100-billboard-control-is-good-for-business>

Beyond Aesthetics: How Billboards Affect Economic Prosperity

[http://www.scenic.org/storage/PDFs/Beyond\\_Aesthetics.pdf](http://www.scenic.org/storage/PDFs/Beyond_Aesthetics.pdf)

United State Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Threatened & Endanger

Protected Plants for all Scientific Names In Pennsylvania

<https://plants.usda.gov/java/threat?stateSelect=US42&statelist=states>

Winter is a surprisingly good time to bird-watch

It's easier to spot birds this time of year, especially if you put up a feeder.

<https://www.google.com/search?q=Winter+is+a+surprisingly+good+time+to+bird-watch+It%27s+easier+to+spot+birds+this+time+of+year%2C+especially+if+you+put+up+a+feeder.&oq=Winter+is+a+surprisingly+good+time+to+bird-watch+It%27s+easier+to+spot+birds+this+time+of+year%2C+especially+if+you+put+up+a+feeder.&aqs=chrome..69i57.9479j0j4&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8>

Border Wall Construction Imminent at Most Diverse Butterfly Center in U.S.

[https://www.ecowatch.com/no-border-wall-butterfly-center-2628185754.html?](https://www.ecowatch.com/no-border-wall-butterfly-center-2628185754.html?utm_source=EcoWatch+List&utm_campaign=02df592519-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_49c7d43dc9-02df592519-85327165)

[utm\\_source=EcoWatch+List&utm\\_campaign=02df592519-](https://www.ecowatch.com/no-border-wall-butterfly-center-2628185754.html?utm_source=EcoWatch+List&utm_campaign=02df592519-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_49c7d43dc9-02df592519-85327165)

[EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN\\_COPY\\_01&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_49c7d43dc9-02df592519-85327165](https://www.ecowatch.com/no-border-wall-butterfly-center-2628185754.html?utm_source=EcoWatch+List&utm_campaign=02df592519-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_49c7d43dc9-02df592519-85327165)

Pope Francis Offered \$1 Million to Go Vegan for Lent

<https://www.ecowatch.com/pope-francis-vegan-2628388509.html>

29 Delicious Vegan Dinner Recipes  
<https://cookieandkate.com/2018/29-vegan-dinner-recipes/>

These vegan chicken nugget brands will fool your meat eating Friends  
<https://www.peta.org/living/food/vegan-chicken-nuggets/>

8 Detox Salad Recipes to Kick-Start Healthy Eating  
<https://www.ecowatch.com/detox-salad-recipes-2628643507.html?rebellitem=1#rebellitem1>

California salmon group ( Golden Gate Salmon Association (GGSA)) calls for state action in advance of Interior secretary confirmation  
<https://www.undercurrentnews.com/2019/02/05/california-salmon-group-calls-for-state-action-in-advance-of-interior-secretary-confirmation/>

Trump to Declare 'National Emergency' to Fund Wall Threatening Borderland Communities and Wildlife  
<https://www.ecowatch.com/trump-national-emergency-border-wall-2629034603.html>

Western Monarch Ecology and Conservation – San Francisco, CA  
<https://xerces.org/2019/02/11/western-monarch-ecology-and-conservation-san-francisco-ca/>

Researchers Are Cooling Down Sea Turtle Nests for Conservation Purposes  
<https://www.labroots.com/trending/plants-and-animals/14024/researchers-cooling-turtle-nests-conservation-purposes>

Renewable Energy Rewrites Rules of Global Geopolitics As Influence Of Fossil Fuel Producers Falls

Puerto Rico Renewable Energy Plan Calls For Solar, Storage, & “Midi” Grids. <https://cleantechnica.com/2019/02/10/puerto-rico-renewable-energy-plan-calls-for-solar-storage-midi-grids/>  
BP’s vision of the near future sees renewable power and natural gas dominating energy  
<https://www.cnbc.com/2019/02/14/bp-forecast-sees-renewables-and-natural-gas-dominating-energy.html>

Uwchlan becomes sixth Chesco municipality to set renewable energy target  
[https://www.dailylocal.com/news/local/uwchlan-becomes-sixth-chesco-municipality-to-set-renewable-energy-target/article\\_a59334e4-2fb1-11e9-a22d-bf99b4a26144.html](https://www.dailylocal.com/news/local/uwchlan-becomes-sixth-chesco-municipality-to-set-renewable-energy-target/article_a59334e4-2fb1-11e9-a22d-bf99b4a26144.html)

Millions of tons of plastic waste could be turned into clean fuels, other products  
<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2019/02/190206131956.htm>

Plastic bags could be banned in Connecticut — and sooner than you think  
<https://www.courant.com/news/connecticut/hc-news-plastic-bag-ban-debate-20190208-iwqa55e5iza7peyx42gsljk6ii-story.html>

Fossil Fuels:  
Wolf Issues Statement on DEP Pipeline Bar  
( restricts Energy Transfer Pipeline in connection with Sunoco’s Mariner II pipeline)

Pa. halts permits for Texas-based pipeline company building Mariner East  
[https://www.dailylocal.com/news/local/pa-halts-permits-for-texas-based-pipeline-company-building-mariner/article\\_c984272e-2be6-11e9-9c02-9779fb588cd7.html](https://www.dailylocal.com/news/local/pa-halts-permits-for-texas-based-pipeline-company-building-mariner/article_c984272e-2be6-11e9-9c02-9779fb588cd7.html)

Delaware County asks to join 'safety seven' suit challenging Mariner East pipeline  
<https://whyy.org/articles/delaware-county-asks-to-join-safety-seven-suit-challenging-mariner-east-pipeline/>

Senate backs biggest conservation bill in a decade, protecting millions of acres of land and adding four national monuments  
<https://www.chicagotribune.com/news/nationworld/politics/ct-senate-conservation-bill-20190212-story.html>

Yellowstone National Park recruiting for Youth Conservation Corps  
<https://kbzk.com/news/outdoors/2019/02/12/yellowstone-national-park-recruiting-for-youth-conservation-corps/>

How to Cut U.S. Emissions Faster?  
Do What These Countries Are Doing/[www.nytimes.com/interactive/2019/02/13/climate/cut-us-emissions-with-policies-from-other-countries.html?smid=fb-share&fbclid=IwAR1Fm1bS3CMBjObCwY7vWCy3N7Cj362JO7VGwMLpkDW0NOOfXun1wwbq8w98](http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2019/02/13/climate/cut-us-emissions-with-policies-from-other-countries.html?smid=fb-share&fbclid=IwAR1Fm1bS3CMBjObCwY7vWCy3N7Cj362JO7VGwMLpkDW0NOOfXun1wwbq8w98)

Preserving the Birthplace of Trout Fishing  
<https://natlands.org/news/preserving-the-birthplace-of-trout-fishing/?bblinkid=141090180&bbemailid=12287561&bbejrid=940880011>

Delaware River Restoration and Conservation Awarded \$6 Million for 2019  
<https://southjerseyobserver.com/2019/02/17/delaware-river-restoration-and-conservation-awarded-6-million-for-2019/>

## LIFE:



### SNOW GEESE FLYING OVER CHESTER COUNTY: COURTESY PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION

<https://www.pgc.pa.gov/InformationResources/AboutUs/ContactInformation/Southeast/MiddleCreekWildlifeManagementArea/Pages/MigrationUpdate.aspx>

## Waterfowl Migration Update

ADVISORY: Please note that these numbers are estimates and subject to rapid and dramatic change. Major weather events including snow and freezing temperatures can quickly impact the number of birds that can be found at Middle Creek. The best times to see Snow Geese on the lake are sunrise (before they leave to feed in neighboring fields) or sunset (as they return from feeding to roost). If you are unable to make it for sunrise/sunset there are still many other species of waterfowl that will be around Middle Creek for you to see including Tundra Swans, Canada Geese, and many species of ducks. These updates are submitted by Lauren Ferreri, [Middle Creek](#) manager. Learn more about the snow geese migration at Middle Creek in this [webinar](#).

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## 70,000 snow geese return to Middle Creek



Lancaster County residents who are inclined to look upward have noticed familiar skeins of white cutting across through the sky in recent days.

Yes, the snow geese are returning to Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area. And again, earlier than usual...As of Monday, Middle Creek counters estimated there were 70,000 snows feeding in fields and spending the night on the little bit of open water in the middle of the lake...Traditionally, some 250,000 snow geese pass through Middle Creek by mid-March as they return from points south to nesting grounds in the Arctic tundra of northern Canada, Alaska and Siberia.

: [https://lancasteronline.com/sports/outdoors/snow-geese-return-to-middle-creek/article\\_42b60420-0850-11e8-9eb6-4bb59e8403fa.html](https://lancasteronline.com/sports/outdoors/snow-geese-return-to-middle-creek/article_42b60420-0850-11e8-9eb6-4bb59e8403fa.html)

## United States Department of Agriculture Natural Threatened & Endangered Protected Plants for All Scientific Names In Pennsylvania



From White Monkshood to Indian Wild Rice, many plants which we enjoy are threatened or Rare: "629 records return" The list is staggeringly long. Many small typed pages.

<https://plants.usda.gov/java/threat?stateSelect=US42&statelist=states>

## Border Wall Construction Imminent at Most Diverse Butterfly Center in U.S.

Construction equipment has arrived to build a border wall through the National Butterfly Center in Mission, Texas, a protected habitat for more than 200 species of wild butterflies and other unique wildlife...A planned 5.5 mile section of concrete and steel border wall that is already funded will cut off 70 percent of the 100-acre property. The barrier will be built on top of a levee of the Rio Grande that runs through the sanctuary...An excavator and eight law enforcement units arrived around the center on Sunday, the National Butterfly Center wrote in a Facebook post..."Effective Monday morning, it is all government land," a Mission police department officer said, according to the post...Bulldozing for the wall, which is expected to be about three stories tall, will commence any day now, the center wrote in another post on Tuesday.[https://www.ecowatch.com/no-border-wall-butterfly-center-2628185754.html?utm\\_source=EcoWatch+List&utm\\_campaign=02df592519-EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN\\_COPY\\_01&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_49c7d43dc9-02df592519-85327165](https://www.ecowatch.com/no-border-wall-butterfly-center-2628185754.html?utm_source=EcoWatch+List&utm_campaign=02df592519-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_49c7d43dc9-02df592519-85327165)

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## Winter is a surprisingly good time to bird-watch

IT'S EASIER TO SPOT BIRDS THIS TIME OF YEAR, ESPECIALLY IF YOU PUT UP A FEEDER.

Admittedly, many fewer birds are around at this time, after something like 90 percent of them migrated away in autumn. But those that remain with us all winter are now easier to spot. Without leaves to hide them in tree canopies, and no longer engaged in summer's mad round of parenting duties, birds simply are easier to see as they go about their daily lives... A British study has found that songbirds with regular access to bird feeders in winter had greater nesting success in spring. Apparently, the extra food from feeders helped make female birds stronger and healthier, so they laid their eggs several days earlier in the season and more of their chicks managed to leave the nest as fledglings.

<http://www.startribune.com/winter-is-a-surprisingly-good-time-to-bird-watch/505366352/>

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<https://plants.usda.gov/java/threat?stateSelect=US42&statelist=states>

## Texas Judge Upholds Endangered Species Act Protections for Golden-cheeked Warbler



A federal judge in Austin yesterday ruled that the golden-cheeked warbler should remain protected under the Endangered Species Act. The Texas songbird is severely threatened by rampant urban sprawl.

In affirming the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's denial of a petition to take the golden-cheeked warbler off the endangered species list, the court found that the warbler continues to be threatened by habitat loss and fragmentation, predation and climate change.

[https://www.biologicaldiversity.org/news/press\\_releases/2019/golden-cheeked-warbler-02-07-2019.php](https://www.biologicaldiversity.org/news/press_releases/2019/golden-cheeked-warbler-02-07-2019.php)

## Pope Francis Offered \$1 Million to Go Vegan for Lent

"Farming and slaughtering animals causes a lot of suffering and is also a leading cause of climate change, deforestation, and species loss," Butler, who went vegan at the age of six, wrote in an open letter to the pontiff. "When we feed animals crops that humans can eat, it is wasteful. And with a growing world population, we cannot afford to be wasteful."

Whether or not he accepts, it's a fitting challenge for Pope Francis, who called on the world's 1.2 billion Roman Catholics to join the fight against climate change in his groundbreaking 2015 environmental encyclical, *Laudato Si': On the Care for Our Common Home*.

<https://www.ecowatch.com/pope-francis-vegan-2628388509.html>

## 29 Delicious Vegan Dinner Recipes



<https://cookieandkate.com/2018/29-vegan-dinner-recipes/>

## These Vegan Chicken Nugget Brands Will Fool Your Meat-Eating Friends



Every time you reach for a vegan chicken nugget instead of the kind made from animal flesh (and who knows what else), you're refusing to support the cruel slaughter of billions of chickens who suffer horribly throughout their short lives. Considering that [chickens](#) are arguably the most abused animals on the planet, they should be one of the first we remove from our plates... Eating compassionately is a choice you can make every time that you eat. So have no fear—vegan nugget brands are here.

<https://www.peta.org/living/food/vegan-chicken-nuggets/>

## 8 Detox Salad Recipes to Kick-Start Healthy Eating

Generally, detox eating plans aim to promote toxin elimination, improve circulation, and strengthen your body with healthy nutrients. Some of the foods that help with a [natural detox](#) are [cruciferous veggies](#) like broccoli and Brussels sprouts, fruits like blueberries, cranberries, and grapefruit, and high-fiber foods like apples.

<https://www.ecowatch.com/detox-salad-recipes-2628643507.html?rebellitem=1#rebellitem1>

## California salmon group calls for state action in advance of Interior secretary confirmation

### The Golden Gate Salmon Association (GGSA)

... reports to represent a combination of recreational and commercial salmon harvesters in California, as well as businesses, restaurants, a native tribe, environmentalists, elected officials, families and communities that rely on salmon. It reports that California's salmon industry is valued at \$1.4 billion in economic activity annually in a normal season.

Bernhardt's nomination will go to the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee for an initial hearing, and then a vote before



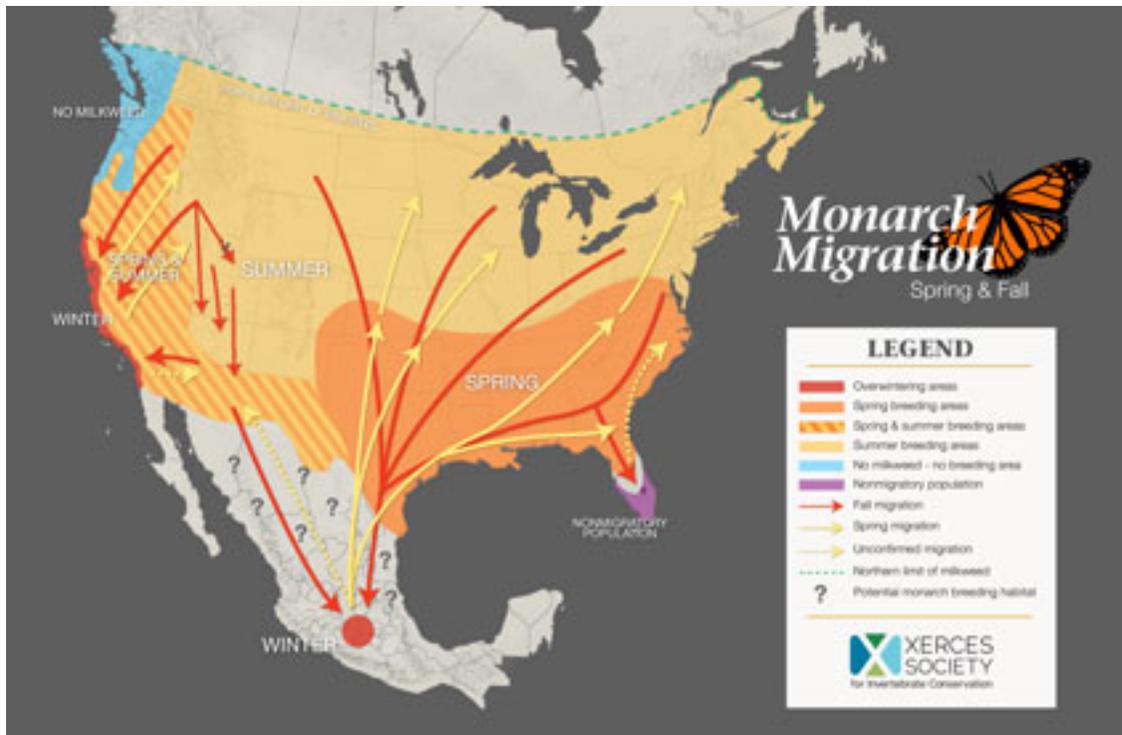
the full Senate, *The Hill* said. That panel's leaders, senators Lisa Murkowski, an Alaska Republican, and Joe Manchin, a West Virginia Democrat, voted to confirm him to the deputy secretary position in 2017, according to the newspaper.

<https://www.undercurrentnews.com/2019/02/05/california-salmon-group-calls-for-state-action-in-advance-of-interior-secretary-confirmation/>

## Monarch Conservation



Monarch butterflies (*Danaus plexippus plexippus*) are perhaps the most well-known and beloved butterfly species in North America. Their renowned long-distance, seasonal migration and spectacular winter gatherings in Mexico and California have heralded the transition from fall to winter for thousands of years. Monarchs are also culturally significant; they symbolize the returning spirits of the deceased in the November celebration of Dia de los Muertos. Throughout the northern states and Canadian provinces, meanwhile, their arrival announces the change from spring to summer. A once-ubiquitous sight in gardens, prairies, and natural areas from coast to coast, the monarch butterfly population has recently declined to dangerously low levels on both coasts—but particularly in the west.



Click the map to view and download a larger version [An Epic Migration on the Verge of Collapse](#)

Both the eastern and western migrations have experienced significant decline in a matter of decades. In the 1990s, nearly 700 million monarchs made the epic flight each fall from the northern plains of the U.S. and Canada to sites in the oyamel fir forests north of Mexico City. Now, researchers and citizen scientists estimate that there has been a **decline of more than 80%** in the east. In the west, the news is more dire. Monarchs have experienced a **decline of 99.4%** in coastal California, from an estimated 4.5 million in the 1980s to 28,429 as of January 2019.

<https://xerces.org/monarchs/>

## Researchers Are Cooling Down Sea Turtle Nests for Conservation Purposes



“The science is saying that hotter sand, linked to climate change, is to blame and this is causing concern for the future of that population,” elucidated Melissa Staines, a researcher from the University of Queensland. “In the Far North, nest temperatures above 29.1 degrees

Celsius generate mostly females, while sand temperatures above 34 degrees Celsius are fatal.”..

Various cooling techniques are being tested on Milman Island, but two of the most prominent involve cooling the surrounding sand with seawater every night and shielding nests from the daytime sunlight with shades crafted from palm fronds. The idea is to keep temperatures below 29.1 degrees Celsius to ensure a healthy ratio of males and females...It should be interesting to see whether the nest-cooling attempts work; after all, sea turtle nests are in distress all around the globe and the time to act is now.

<https://www.labroots.com/trending/plants-and-animals/14024/researchers-cooling-turtle-nests-conservation-purposes>

## 40,000 Endangered Species Condoms to Be Handed Out in Top Wedding Cities Valentine’s Day Distributions to Highlight How Safe Sex Saves Wildlife



## Trump to Declare 'National Emergency' to Fund Wall Threatening Borderland Communities Wildlife



and



The new study identified all threatened, endangered and "candidate" species (those being considered for protection) that have ranges near or crossing the border. These include 57 endangered species, 24 threatened species, 10 species under consideration for protection and two species of concern, golden and bald eagles. Construction of Trump's 1,200-mile wall—along with related infrastructure and enforcement—will have far-reaching consequences for wildlife, including cutting off migration corridors, reducing genetic diversity, destroying habitat and adding vehicles, noise and lights to vast stretches of the wild borderlands... "The border wall won't be effective at stopping people seeking a better life from getting to this country, but it will destroy habitat and divide wildlife populations," Greenwald said. "Building a wall across the entirety of the border would cause massive damage to one of the most biologically diverse regions in North America and would be a boondoggle of the highest order."

<https://www.ecowatch.com/trump-national-emergency-border-wall-2629034603.html>

## **Billboard Control is Good for Business**

More than 700 communities nationwide prohibit the construction of new billboards. Why? Because billboard control improves community character and quality of life -- both of which directly impact local economies. In fact, despite billboard industry claims to the contrary, communities and states that enact tough billboard controls enjoy strong economic growth. While some signs are necessary to provide direction and index our surroundings, most billboards merely contribute to visual clutter. For example, on one section of road in Hampton, Virginia, there were so many signs that a driver going 45 miles per hour would need to read 1,363 words per minutes just to understand all the information. That is five times the normal reading speed of a stationary person!

<http://www.scenic.org/billboards-a-sign-control/the-truth-about-billboards/100-billboard-control-is-good-for-business>

## **Beyond Aesthetics: How Billboards Affect Economic Prosperity**

This paper provides an approach and findings in an attempt to quantify the effects of billboards on real estate values in Philadelphia, and multiple measures of prosperity in 20 cities across the United States. Across these multiple measures, billboards were found to have negative financial and economic impacts. In Philadelphia, there is a statistically significant correlation between real estate value (as measured by sales price) and proximity to billboards. Properties located within 500 ft. of a billboard have a decreased real estate value of \$30,826. Additionally, homes located further than 500 ft. but within a census tract/community where billboards are present experience a decrease of \$947 for every billboard in that census tract. Income for strict sign control cities is higher than that for not-strict cities. Furthermore, the home vacancy and poverty rates for strict control cities are lower. Having strict sign controls does not negatively impact the economic prosperity of a city.

[http://www.scenic.org/storage/PDFs/Beyond\\_Aesthetics.pdf](http://www.scenic.org/storage/PDFs/Beyond_Aesthetics.pdf)

## **Millions of tons of plastic waste could be turned into clean**



## **fuels, other products**

"Our strategy is to create a driving force for recycling by converting polyolefin waste into a wide range of valuable products, including polymers, naphtha (a mixture of hydrocarbons), or clean fuels," said Linda Wang, the Maxine Spencer Nichols Professor in the Davidson School of Chemical Engineering at Purdue University and leader of the research team developing

this technology. "Our conversion technology has the potential to boost the profits of the recycling industry and shrink the world's plastic waste stock.

<https://phys.org/news/2019-02-millions-tons-plastic-fuels-products.html>

<https://www.courant.com/news/connecticut/hc-news-plastic-bag-ban-debate-20190208-iwqa55e5iza7peyx42>

## **POLITICSCOLORADO LEGISLATURE**

### **Plastic straws upon request and less Styrofoam: Colorado lawmakers to debate new, environmentally friendly food containers**



Colorado lawmakers want to change the way you eat and drink when you dine out and order in...Two bills that are expected to have their first legislative hearings by the end of the month would prohibit restaurants across the state from providing plastic straws without a customer's explicit request and provide local governments with more authority to set standards on food containers...Taken together, the bills represent another avenue for Colorado's legislature, controlled by Democrats, to address concerns about the environment.

<https://www.denverpost.com/2019/02/07/plastic-straws-ban-colorado/>

### **Plastic bags could be banned in Connecticut — and sooner than you think**



Plastic bag ban proposals haven't gotten very far in previous legislative sessions, but public awareness of the plastic waste issue is growing. There are now also bills before the General Assembly to ban helium balloons, disposable plastic trays and tableware...One increasingly powerful factor adding momentum to the anti-plastic bag movement in Connecticut right now

is money: cities, towns, businesses and consumers are facing higher costs because plastic bags are seriously fouling up recycling sorting machines and raising recycling fee



<https://www.courant.com/news/connecticut/hc-news-plastic-bag-ban-debate-20190208-iwqa55e5iza7peyx42gsljk6ii-story.html>

## National Geographic asks: “Can you solve the plastics problem? New prize invites idea

“We hope we can inspire people of diverse backgrounds to utilize their own resources, to try to solve the problems they see and reach their own says Fred Michel, the head of Sky Ocean Ventures, impact investment arm of the London-based Sky company. “And maybe—we hope—they’ll come up something amazing, something transformational.”



really goals,” an media with

<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/environment/2019/02/plastic-innovation-challenge-prize-clean-ocean/>

## Renewables

### Renewable Energy Rewrites Rules of Global Geopolitics As Influence Of Fossil Fuel Producers Falls



A new report from the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) highlights the way the energy landscape is changing, and the dangers and opportunities that it brings to different countries around the world. *A New World: The Geopolitics of the Energy Transformation* says

that the consequences of the shift from fossil fuels to renewable energy could be as momentous as the switch from biomass to coal and oil two centuries ago...“Unlike fossil fuels, renewable energy sources are available in one form or another in most geographic locations,” he pointed out. “This abundance will strengthen energy security and promote greater energy independence for most states. At the same time, as countries develop renewables and increasingly integrate their electricity grids with neighbouring countries, new interdependencies and trade patterns will emerge. The analysis finds oil and gas-related conflict may decline, as will the strategic importance of some maritime chokepoints.”...The race to gain leadership in clean energy is already well under way and new energy leaders are emerging, most notably China, which has boosted its geopolitical influence by becoming the world’s largest producer, exporter and installer of not just solar panels but also wind turbines, batteries and electric vehicles.

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/mikescott/2019/02/07/renewable-energy-rewrites-rules-of-global-geopolitics-as-influence-of-fossil-fuel-producers-falls/#39ccd3ff218d>

## Puerto Rico Renewable Energy Plan Calls For Solar, Storage, & “Midi” Grids

Ahead of a formal announcement on February 12, PREPA has released a draft of its plan to rebuild Puerto Rico’s electrical grid over the next 20 years. According to a report by the [Sierra Club](#), the proposals contained in that draft would divide the country into 8 regional grids that are neither maxi nor mini in size. Let’s call them midi-grids. The regional grids would be interconnected but capable of functioning independently in the event of another storm like Maria. They could be owned by the utility company or private groups.

<https://cleantechnica.com/2019/02/10/puerto-rico-renewable-energy-plan-calls-for-solar-storage-midi-grids/>

## BP's vision of the near future sees renewable power and natural gas dominating energy



- BP forecasts that the world's energy demand will grow by a third through 2040...Most of that new energy — as much as 85 percent — will come from burning natural gas and

drawing on renewable power...BP sees oil demand peaking around 108 million barrels per day in the 2030s, up from anticipated consumption of 100 million bpd this year...  
Connie J. Spinardi | Getty Images

In a not-too-distant future, renewable energy becomes the world's biggest source of power generation. A quarter of the distances that humans travel by vehicle will be in electric cars. U.S. dominance in the oil market begins to wane, and OPEC's influence is resurgent, as crude demand finally peaks.

That is the vision laid out by British oil and gas giant BP on Thursday in its latest Annual Energy Outlook. The closely followed report lays out a vision through 2040 for Earth's energy future, provided government policy, technology and consumer preferences evolve in line with recent trends.

BP forecasts that the world's energy demand will grow by a third through 2040, driven by rising consumption in China, India and other parts of Asia...By the end of the next two decades, BP thinks renewables will provide most of the world's electric power, as wind, solar and other renewable energy sources spread through the system at a faster pace than any fuel throughout the course of human history.

<https://www.cnbc.com/2019/02/14/bp-forecast-sees-renewables-and-natural-gas-dominating-energy.html>

## Uwchlan becomes sixth Chesco municipality to set renewable energy target



UWCHLAN—Uwchlan supervisors Monday night unanimously endorsed a transition to 100 percent renewable energy in line with international and national commitments to head off a worsening climate crisis...Representative Danielle Friel Otten (District 155) remarked “in Uwchlan Township, we are highly motivated by our own experiences with Mariner East. But, we are not the only frontline community. We are one of many across the commonwealth. In Washington Township, I met mothers who cannot open their windows because their children break out in rashes and their noses bleed. In Braddock, folks who live in the shadow of the Clairton Coke Works are under an air quality advisory until MAY. They are advised not to leave their homes because their air quality is so bad. We are connected by this issue across the state and it will take all of us to stand up to the fossil fuel industry and polluters to demand that the health, welfare and safety of our families are put first.”...The Uwchlan resolution cited the adverse environmental impacts associated with fossil fuels, especially on children. Chester County received “D”s and “F”s in the American Lung Association’s most recent “report card” on air quality.

[https://www.dailylocal.com/news/local/uwchlan-becomes-sixth-chesco-municipality-to-set-renewable-energy-target/article\\_a59334e4-2fb1-11e9-a22d-bf99b4a26144.html](https://www.dailylocal.com/news/local/uwchlan-becomes-sixth-chesco-municipality-to-set-renewable-energy-target/article_a59334e4-2fb1-11e9-a22d-bf99b4a26144.html)

## Fossil Fuels:

### Wolf issues statement on DEP pipeline bar

“...The permit bar by the Department of Environmental Protection is the latest step my Administration has taken to ensure pipeline operators and builders are accountable for the work they do in Pennsylvania. There has been a failure by Energy Transfer and its subsidiaries

to respect our laws and our communities. This is not how we strive to do business in Pennsylvania, and it will not be tolerated.”...The permit bar will affect the in-service date for the Revolution pipeline, which is currently not in service, and the Mariner East 2 pipeline. There are 27 approvals currently under review by DEP for Mariner East 2. The Revolution pipeline will remain closed until full compliance has been achieved...In addition to the permit bar, the governor called on the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC) to continue to hold Energy Transfer (ET) and its subsidiaries accountable to stringent safety requirements which the PUC is charged with enforcing. The governor noted that the budget he proposed earlier this week funds four new gas safety inspectors at the Public Utility Commission’s Pipeline Safety Division to increase the PUC’s capacity to hold pipeline operators accountable and ensure all safety requirements are strictly enforced...Finally, the governor has called on the General Assembly to address gaps in existing law which have tied the hands of the Executive and independent agencies charged with protecting public health, safety and the environment, calling for the speedy passage of the following legislation to protect the public: No state agency currently has authority to review intrastate pipeline routes, which can result in pipeline companies deciding to site through densely populated high-consequence areas. Many states have passed legislation providing an enhanced role in siting decisions to their utility or public service commission. Legislation should provide the Public Utility Commission with authority to regulate siting and routing of intrastate pipelines in Pennsylvania. Currently, pipeline operators are not required to provide information to schools which are in close proximity to a pipeline, including how to respond to a leak. Legislation should require this information for schools within 1,000 feet of a pipeline.

[https://www.dailylocal.com/news/local/wolf-issues-statement-on-dep-pipeline-bar/article\\_51883aa2-2bc9-11e9-a7cc-efa25b5e556a.html](https://www.dailylocal.com/news/local/wolf-issues-statement-on-dep-pipeline-bar/article_51883aa2-2bc9-11e9-a7cc-efa25b5e556a.html)

## **Pa. halts permits for Texas-based pipeline company building Mariner East**

The company building the series of Mariner East pipelines has once again run afoul of state regulators.

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection on Friday suspended all reviews of clean water permit applications and other new construction permits for Texas-based Energy Transfer Partners and subsidiaries until further notice due to non-compliance after an explosion in a pipeline in Beaver County.

ETP, along with its subsidiary Sunoco Pipeline LP, is building the Mariner East pipelines carrying hundreds of thousands of barrels of highly volatile liquid gases from the state's Marcellus Shale region through Chester and Berks counties to a facility in Marcus Hook.

[https://www.dailylocal.com/news/local/pa-halts-permits-for-texas-based-pipeline-company-building-mariner/article\\_c984272e-2be6-11e9-9c02-9779fb588cd7.html](https://www.dailylocal.com/news/local/pa-halts-permits-for-texas-based-pipeline-company-building-mariner/article_c984272e-2be6-11e9-9c02-9779fb588cd7.html)

## Delaware County asks to join 'safety seven' suit challenging Mariner East pipeline



A backhoe works at a construction site for the Mariner East 2 pipeline in Lebanon County. (Jon Hurdle/ StateImpact Pennsylvania)

Delaware County officials have asked to join an ongoing lawsuit over the safety of the Mariner East pipeline project. On behalf of the county's 563,000 residents, government solicitors Michael Maddren and Patricia Sons Biswanger filed the motion to intervene Thursday. "Sunoco's lack of adequate emergency planning and public awareness directly affects the ability of Delaware County to devise and implement an emergency evacuation plan," they wrote.

Delaware County is the largest public entity to try to join the legal action, started last year by seven residents of Chester and Delaware counties. Downingtown Area School District, Rose Tree Media School District, Twin Valley School District, East Goshen Township, West Whiteland Township, Uwchlan Township and Middletown Township have already intervened or requested to intervene.

<https://why.org/articles/delaware-county-asks-to-join-safety-seven-suit-challenging-mariner-east-pipeline/>

## National Parks:

### Senate backs biggest conservation bill in a decade, protecting millions of acres of land and adding four national monuments

The measure protects 1.3 million acres as wilderness, the nation's most stringent protection, which prohibits even roads and motorized vehicles. It permanently withdraws more than

370,000 acres of land from mining around two national parks, including Yellowstone, and permanently authorizes a program to spend offshore-drilling revenue on conservation efforts. The package is crammed full of provisions for nearly every senator who cast a vote Tuesday. Sen. Martin Heinrich, D-N.M., lauded the fact that it will create 273,000 acres of wilderness in his state, most of it within the boundaries of two national monuments that Trump threatened to shrink. Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee Chairwoman Lisa Murkowski, R-Alaska, who co-authored the bill, inserted a provision that allows native Alaskans who served in Vietnam to apply for a land allotment in their home state...Perhaps the most significant change the legislation would make is permanently authorizing a federal program that funnels offshore drilling revenue to conserve a spread of sites that includes major national parks and wildlife preserves, as well as local baseball diamonds and basketball courts. Authorization for the popular program, the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), lapsed months ago due to the partial government shutdown and other disputes. Liberals like the fact that the money allows agencies to set aside land for wildlife habitat. Conservatives like the fact that taxpayers don't have to foot the bill for it...Congress is now set to reauthorize the fund in perpetuity, though it will not make its spending mandatory. Congressional funding for the program has "fluctuated widely" since its inception in 1965, according to a 2018 Congressional Research Service report. Less than half of the \$40 billion that has piled up in the fund during its five decades of existence has been spent by Congress on conservation efforts.

<https://www.chicagotribune.com/news/nationworld/politics/ct-senate-conservation-bill-20190212-story.html>

## **Yellowstone National Park recruiting for Youth Conservation Corps**

Two, month-long YCC sessions will be offered June 9-July 10 and July 14-August 14. Sixty youth will be randomly selected from across the country to participate in the program. Applicants must be citizens of the United States and 15 years of age by June 9, but not over 18 years of age by August 14. Yellowstone recruits youth from all social, economic, ethnic, and racial backgrounds for the program....No previous wilderness experience is required. Applicants should possess a positive attitude, a willingness and ability to work in a physically active outdoor program, and get along well with others...Participants will be required to live in the park. Room and board will be provided at a minimal cost. Wages will be set at the federal minimum wage of \$7.25 per hour...YCC is designed to develop an appreciation for the nation's natural resources and heritage through unique educational, recreational, and work experiences.

<https://kbzk.com/news/outdoors/2019/02/12/yellowstone-national-park-recruiting-for-youth-conservation-corps/>

## **Air and Water: How to Cut U.S. Emissions Faster? Do What These Countries Are Doing.**

The United States is reducing its greenhouse gas emissions [far too slowly](#) to help avert the worst effects of global warming. But what would happen if the country adopted seven of the most ambitious climate policies already in place around the world? (This article has a great chart that won't copy to the newsletter. Worth clicking on the link to get it. IMHO)

[www.nytimes.com/interactive/2019/02/13/climate/cut-us-emissions-with-policies-from-other-countries.html?smid=fb-](http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2019/02/13/climate/cut-us-emissions-with-policies-from-other-countries.html?smid=fb-)

[share&fbclid=IwAR1Fm1bS3CMBjObCwY7vWCy3N7Cj362JO7VGwMLpkDW0NOOfXun1wwbg8w98](https://www.facebook.com/share&fbclid=IwAR1Fm1bS3CMBjObCwY7vWCy3N7Cj362JO7VGwMLpkDW0NOOfXun1wwbg8w98)

## Preserving the Birthplace of Trout Fishing



Greg Ferenbach

fly fishing on Brodhead Creek  
Photo: Alex Brash

MEDIA, Pa., February 12, 2019 – Natural Lands and Pocono Heritage Land Trust (PHLT) announced today the preservation of two nearby but separately owned parcels totaling 340 acres of land near the Brodhead Creek, a stream running through the Pocono Mountains known for its clear, cool water and healthy trout population. The properties are now under conservation easement, ensuring they will never be developed...The easements are supported by generous charitable contributions of the landowners, Alego ‘Bart’ Bartolacci and the Ferenbach family, and through the Open Space Institute’s Delaware River Watershed Protection Fund. The Fund is made possible with support from the William Penn Foundation through its Delaware River Watershed Initiative, which seeks to protect water quality in the Delaware River Basin...The 40-acre Bartolacci property is bordered on one side by Stony Run, a tributary of the Broadhead Creek. Both waterways are designated as “High Quality-Cold Water Fisheries” by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, and represent some of the state’s best wild trout waters...“Vivian loved this land. She was an accomplished fly fisherman and enjoyed being in nature,” said Bart Bartolacci of his late wife, Vivian. “It was always her dream to see it protected. To me, Viv and what she believed in is a great example of how individuals can make a difference.”

<https://natlands.org/news/preserving-the-birthplace-of-trout-fishing/?bblinkid=141090180&bbemailid=12287561&bbejrid=940880011>

## Delaware River Restoration and Conservation Awarded \$6 Million for 2019

On February 15th, the Delaware River Basin Restoration Program (DRBRP) announced that it received \$6 million in funding as part of the fiscal year 2019 Interior Appropriations bill approved by Congress and signed by the President, a \$1 million increase from last year. The DRBRP will provide much-needed technical assistance and grant funds to address the Delaware River Basin's environmental challenges...“From the Poconos down to Philadelphia – nonprofits, state, and local governments will be able to apply for fiscal year 2019 Delaware River Basin Restoration Program funding for site-specific projects that result in cleaner water, more green space, and restored wildlife habitat,” stated Jacquelyn Bonomo, President and CEO, PennFuture. “Restoring and conserving the basin is crucial for the Keystone state, as the Delaware River and its tributaries, such as the Schuylkill and Lehigh Rivers, encompass forty-three percent of the state’s population.

<https://southjerseyobserver.com/2019/02/17/delaware-river-restoration-and-conservation-awarded-6-million-for-2019/>



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