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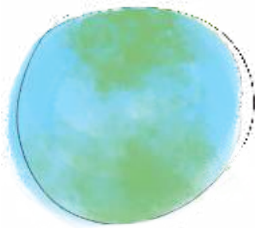
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bluedotTMliving

AT HOME ON EARTH

MARTHA'S VINEYARD



Every other week, Bluedot Living will share stories about local changemakers, Islanders' sustainable homes and yards, planet-healthy recipes and tips, along with advice from Dear Dot. Did your friend send you this? [Sign up for yourself here](#). Not interested? No problem — [click here](#) to be removed from Bluedot Living emails.

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SIMPLE / SMART / SUSTAINABLE / STORIES



As the impacts of climate change become more apparent on Martha's Vineyard and around the world, artist Cindy Kane has created a new work — a collection of painted suitcases called "Destination Unknown: Claiming the Baggage of Climate Change."

There is room, [Kane tells writer Kelsey Perrett](#), for hope. Kane's [show at the Granary Gallery](#) opens today.

Quick Links

Tired of scrolling? Here's what you'll find in this edition of the Bluedot Newsletter:

- [How to care for your great ponds](#)
- Lawns: One couple's [Green New Deal](#) and [electric mowing](#)
- Dear Dot: [Is locally brewed coffee better?](#)
- In case of heat emergency, [break out the blender](#)
- Win dinner at Atria on us! Just [sign up for our newsletter, The Hub](#).

This issue of the Bluedot newsletter is sponsored by [Island Grown Initiative](#).



Take Our Breath Away

Take a look at this painting of Johnny Hoy on one of the Island's great ponds, by Island artist Colin Ruel. It takes your breath away, doesn't it? That's the power of art, of course — to

evoke something in us that volumes of Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) reports can't. We at Bluedot think a lot about how to communicate the importance and inherent opportunities of addressing this climate crisis. We share words and photographs. Sometimes we use numbers that tell the tale, like those in [What. On. Earth.](#)

For lots of us, the climate crisis seems etched on our days as we witness changes: the earth beneath our feet on a favorite trail, the songbirds at our feeders, the throaty frogs in the trees, the tang of in-season berries. Stories, all of them.

We are ([guardedly](#)) hopeful at [the news late Wednesday night](#) that President Biden's climate initiatives may have a second life. We'll keep our eyes on what the House and Senate do over the next two weeks with this

clean energy and climate package.

Our Great Ponds are among our most distinctive features. And among our most imperiled. There's a lot to hope for when we think of the work being done on-Island to protect them. We're celebrating those efforts and urging Islanders to rally to the cause to preserve these treasures — not just for their beauty, but for the crucial role they play in the health of our communities. Martha's Vineyard Bank is celebrating these gems by hosting an exhibit, "The Art of the Great Ponds," at their Chilmark branch. Join us for an opening reception on August 12 at 5:30 pm. Show will be up until Sept. 1. [More info here.](#) —Leslie Garrett and Jamie Kageleiry



"Menemsha" by Robert S. Siffert

You're Invited!
The Art of the Great Ponds
Featuring Artists from the M.V. Hospital Permanent Art Collection

Opening **Friday, August 12 • 5:30 pm**
RECEPTION **MV Bank 517 South Rd., Chilmark**

Sponsored by Martha's Vineyard Bank

ADVICE

Need a bug net? A board game? A banjo? Make your way to West Tisbury Library's [Library of Things](#) and check it out! Want more news you can use on composting, recycling, and sustainable Island living? Consult our [Ultimate Simple, Smart, Sustainable Handbook to Martha's Vineyard](#).



Lawn and Disorder: Battle of the Blades

“Please know that I am not a lawn anarchist,” writes Bluedot editor Leslie Garrett. “I grew up with the suburban ideal of a lawn. I have fond memories of lying on my back outside, grass blades tickling my feet, my best friend Cathy beside me, the two of us staring skyward and sharing imaginings of elephants and bunnies in the clouds. A lawn is an invitation to recline, to kick a soccer ball. I get that. I am not anti-lawn at all. I am anti-*so-much*-lawn.” Can Garrett and her lawn-loving husband achieve a green new deal?

[READ MORE HERE.](#)

BUY LESS/BUY BETTER



Seastone Papers

Sandy Bernat's paper and paper products are about as organic as you can get: She creates all her products using a variety of plant materials — many of them grown on the Island — such as corn husks, gladiola, iris and daffodil leaves, and various wild grasses, including phragmites — a wildly invasive species. More recently she has started working with seaweed.

LEARN MORE



Dear Dot: How Do I Find Sustainable Coffee?

Dear Dot,

Coffee: How do I choose? It says locally brewed but does that mean it's better for the environment? What do all those labels mean? What should I look for?

-Curious Coffee Connoisseur

Dear Triple C,

I, too, am on a quest to reconcile my love of caffeine with my love for this planet. So over my sixth cup of coffee, I made a jittery call to Kim Elena Ionescu, Chief Sustainability and Knowledge Development Officer at Specialty Coffee Association, asking her to help us better understand the glut of sustainable labels — bird-friendly, shade-grown, organic, up-late-studying-friendly, etc — and figure out what actually has a positive impact...

[Read the rest of Dot's answer here.](#)

Got a question for Dot? Ask her at deardot@bluedotliving.com.

RIGHT AT HOME



HOME/BUILDING

If You Must Mow

Columnist Mollie Doyle says mowing with an electric mower, “is an *entirely* different experience. No gas spills or fumes. No noise. A nearly meditative experience. And using clean energy felt so much more in tune with the healthy grass I was trying to cultivate.” [Read more here.](#)

FOOD

Pineapple Coconut Whip

The heat goes on, so time to whip out the blender. Frozen pineapple with coconut water and hints of thyme creates a frothy, smooth, and tropical summer cocktail. [This recipe](#) is from *Eat Cool: Good Food for Hot Days* by Vanessa Seder of Portland, Maine. [Find more recipes at bluedotliving.com.](#)





QUIZ

Cut That Hair (Waste)!

How many pounds of hair clippings do salons in the U.S. throw away each day? Find the answer (and more about beauty waste) [in this story on Green Circle Salons](#) — and learn what [Maggie’s Salon in Vineyard Haven](#) is doing to reduce this staggering amount of waste on M.V.”

The Nature Conservancy 

TOGETHER WE'RE TACKLING CLIMATE CHANGE

Over the past 35 years, The Nature Conservancy has helped protect more than 1,500 acres on Martha's Vineyard. We're restoring unique habitats like rare sandplain grasslands for the survival of animals and plants.

[NATURE.ORG/MARTHASVINEYARD](https://www.nature.org/marthasvineyard)

How energy efficient is your home?



FIND OUT >>





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