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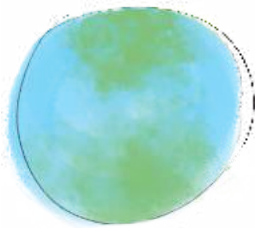
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AT HOME ON EARTH

MARTHA'S VINEYARD



Every other week, Bluedot Living Martha's Vineyard 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



Martha's Vineyard's great ponds are living stories of constant change — water coming and going, changing the shores, the colors, the species that inhabit them. We love the slight feeling of menace, a storm brewing, in Alison Shaw's 2017 "Tisbury Great Pond" photograph. We celebrate Islanders' efforts to capture the beauty of our ponds, our most distinctive landscape features, and those who work to preserve our treasures, in [Sam Moore's story about the ponds](#), and in ["The Art of the Great Ponds," an online exhibit](#) sponsored by Martha's Vineyard Bank.

Quick Links

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

- [Dot discusses decks: Wood? Plastic? All of the above?](#)
- [Lots of beautiful great pond art](#), and [people trying to save the ponds](#)
- [Depave! Turns out we need *more* dirt roads](#)
- [Crunchy summer pickles from purslane \(a weed!\)](#)
- [Chocolate is alive and well in Chilmark](#)

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



Summer Issue is Here!

When we saw Hannah Moore’s “After the Rain” watercolor, with its Eden-like pond busy with birds who call MV home, we knew we had our summer cover. “This painting is inspired by that moment after a much needed rain storm,” Hannah told us, “when the sun shines through the last of the mist and everything feels activated and lush. It features a snowy egret, least flycatchers, and a ruby-throated hummingbird.”

See Hannah’s work (and her father Andrew’s) at the [Moore Family](#)

[Gallery](#) in Harthaven this summer.

Those grins on our faces? All because the cleverly named Inflation

Reduction Act (which includes the most ambitious climate legislation ever enacted in the United States) passed in the House on Friday and we are expecting to see President Biden sign the legislation in the coming days. Getting to this point has been a whirlwind and the stakes couldn't be greater, something so many of those you see in the pages of *Bluedot Living* know well. People like this issue's [**Local Heroes, Tess Bramhall and Pam Goff**](#), who've dedicated much time and energy to preserving land on the Vineyard. (In a classic Vineyard "two degrees of separation," Local Hero Pam Goff is the grandmother of cover artist Hannah Moore.) Like all the artists and scientists who render the Great Ponds in their different but vital ways and who are [**featured in writer Sam Moore's incredible story**](#) on what, exactly, makes these ponds so great. People like all of you, who continue to care deeply about what happens here and elsewhere, and who routinely aim to do better, buy better, live better.

For now, let us bask in the momentum of this groundbreaking legislation. There is much work to be done but our toolbox just got a whole lot bigger. Want to help the Great Ponds and also get more *Bluedot* recipes, tips, and dispatches/good news from all over? [**Sign up for our new newsletter, The Hub**](#), and we'll donate 50 cents for every sign up to the [**Great Pond Foundation**](#). You'll also be entered in a raffle for a \$200 dinner at Atria.

Please check out Martha's Vineyard Bank's "Art of the Great Ponds" exhibit, up at their Chilmark Branch until Sept.1, curated from the Martha's Vineyard Hospital's permanent art collection by Monina von Opel. –*Leslie Garrett and Jamie Kageleiry*

The Art of the Great Ponds

Showing through September 1st

AT THE

MV Bank
Chilmark Branch,
517 South Road,
Chilmark

Sponsored by

MARATHA'S VINEYARD BANK 

A **bluedot** living EVENT



Woodcut, "Menemsha" by Robert S. Siffert

Featuring Island Artists from the Martha's Vineyard Hospital Permanent Art Collection, curated by Monina von Opel

HELP PROTECT WHAT WE TREASURE

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CLIMATE QUICK TIP

What to do with those plastic bags that seem to multiply by the week (beyond vowing to remember your shopping bags and avoid plastic completely)? Turn them into [Trex boards](#) by dropping them off at [the Edgartown dump's plastic bag recycling bin](#) (a sharp-eyed reader told us about it!).



De-Paving the Way

The road ahead — it’s so inviting, isn’t it? It can be easy to forget the actual pavement beneath our feet and our vehicles. But reimagining our paved spaces can go a long way toward not only reducing urban heat but also creating community and restoring justice. Innovations include a new type of pavement that keeps its cool. And a movement to “depave” parts of towns and cities is taking things even further — to replace pavement with green space that combats the UHI effect and contributes to the social health of a community.

[READ MORE HERE.](#)

BUY LESS/BUY BETTER



The Flanders Sisters Bring Chocolate Back to Chilmark

Local chocolate? Yes, please! [Salt Rock Chocolates](#) is a relative newcomer to the Vineyard, created when the Flanders sisters were mourning the loss of Chilmark Chocolates, where they had both worked. The sisters hand make each chocolate, influenced, they say, “by the colors and tastes of the Island we grew up on.”

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Felix Neck Summer Events
 Tuesday, July 19
Sanctuary Supper
An Evening Eating for the Planet
 Sunday, August 28
Amity Shark Race
Wooden Shark Fin Race
 Saturday, September 3
Foot It For Felix
5K Trail Run / Walk



Dear Dot: I Need a Deck Discussion

Dear Dot,

I want to put a deck on my home to have a place to enjoy the views and wildlife. I've read that composite decking is environmentally friendly because it is made from recycled materials and doesn't require chopping down trees. However, I'm skeptical of any materials containing plastics or chemicals. Are composites as eco-friendly as they seem?

-Sam, Massachusetts

Dear Sam,

Oh, how I long for the simple questions. Alas, it seems my fate (or, at the least, my job) to wade through the not-so-simple, to parse the rhetoric soaked in eco-friendly promises, to bear the weight of your and my consumer choices.

But perhaps we complicate things unnecessarily. I'm reminded, for instance, of a line from *Cradle to Cradle: Remaking the Way We Make Things*, a groundbreaking book published in 2002, that boldly urges us, when considering design and materials, to "stop trying to be less bad and ... start figuring out how to be good."

So, Sam, let us determine how that applies to your desired wildlife-viewing platform...

Trex or trees? Read the rest of Dot's answer here.

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

RIGHT AT HOME



TECH

Click Yourself a Forest

We plant trees while surfing the net. How? [We downloaded Ecosia](#), a free search engine, similar to Google. Ecosia takes the profit from its ad revenue to plant trees in biodiversity hotspots at risk from deforestation. More than 15 million users means that one tree is planted every 1.3 seconds. Go to [ecosia.org](https://www.ecosia.org).

FOOD

Purslane Quick Pickles

Pickles from weeds? Why not? "Whole purslane has thick, crunchy red stems and small, succulent, green oval leaves, and may be quick pickled for an interesting textural contrast," Catherine Walthers [writes about this recipe of Rebecca Gilbert's](#). "Purslane has a delicious mild lemony flavor." [Read more on Gilbert's "Weed Wisdom."](#)





Quiz: Great Ponds and Nitrogen—Is it the birds' fault?

According to studies by the Great Pond Foundation, What percentage of excess nitrogen in our great ponds is due to birds?

Want to cram before you take that test? [Read Anne Mazar's "Six Steps to Preserving our Great Ponds."](#)

50%+

1%

27%

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AT HOME OR ABROAD

HANDBOOK

Sure, we get a bit strident in our insistence that we all should be planting native species in our yards. But when Polly Hill Arboretum makes it so easy, what's stopping us? There's still loads of time to find our perfect plant companion at [Polly Hill's Native Plant Sale](#), which continues into October. Not sure which native suits *your* yard? [Polly Hill's site](#) offers a host of possibilities. For more on MV's eco offerings, consult Bluedot Living's [Ultimate Simple, Smart, Sustainable Handbook to Martha's Vineyard](#).



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