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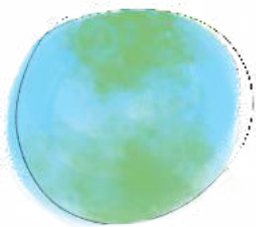
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AT HOME ON EARTH

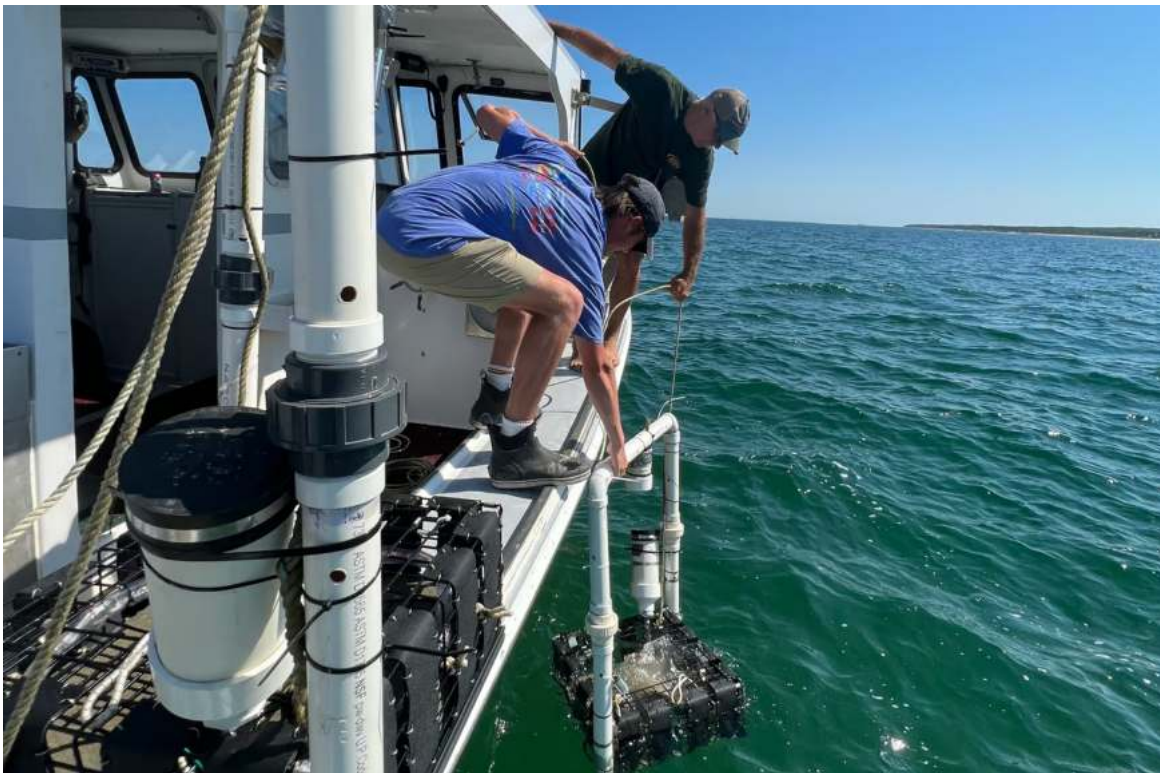
MARTHA'S VINEYARD



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



The MV Fishermen’s Preservation Trust shared an interesting Field Note about their efforts to develop new bait for the Island’s conch (whelk) fishery, which traditionally has relied on horseshoe crabs. Horseshoe crabs, it turns out, play vital ecological roles, so ideally we don’t want our whelk eating them all. This photo shows the Trust’s boat dropping a conch pot equipped with an underwater camera that captures day and night “Whelk TV” so the MVFPT can assess alternative baits. Tune in for **more info**.

This issue of the Bluedot newsletter is sponsored by **Great Pond Foundation**.

The coastal ponds of Martha’s Vineyard are globally rare and ecologically fragile treasures whose preservation and restoration are fundamental to the Island’s long-term sustainability. These living waters define both the spirit and the character of our community.



Help our ponds by visiting [GreatPondFoundation.org](https://www.GreatPondFoundation.org)

Quick Links

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

- **Harvesting community on Chappaquiddick**
- **Riding along in an electric Rivian**
- **Local gift idea: Althea Designs**

- **From our Hub site: Doggy doo bags that do right by the planet**
- **A meatless chili that'll warm you up**



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AT HOME ON EARTH

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Do you have a business that you'd like 5,000 sustainably minded readers to know about?

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Friends and Neighbors Want to See Us Thrive

On a recent rainy night, a neighbor showed up at our door with a bowlful of salad greens he'd picked earlier that

day at the **Community Greenhouse**, along with a peach balsamic vinaigrette he was excited for us to try. We're relatively new to the Island and we'd had a rough day of building-related hassles (and expenses!), so a delicious salad delivered with kindness was exactly the balm we needed. Our neighbor's gesture was thoughtful but not uncommon, we've discovered. Over the months that our project has dragged on, we've been guests at many of our neighbors' tables — generosity I plan to repay as soon as I have a functional kitchen, even though there's no expectation of reciprocation.

With a season of gratitude just around the corner, it seems the right time to revisit **Lily Walter's story of barter and bounty on Chappaquiddick**. Lily, too, was at one point a newcomer, working to establish a small-scale farm. She writes of those who dropped off freshly caught fish, or who provided tools and labor. The idea is that each neighbor's success benefits everyone. As she puts it, "These friends and neighbors wanted to see us thrive." Together, Lily's community creates something greater than the sum of its parts.

I feel similarly. The day after we'd shared an incredible meal at another neighbor's table, they needed help moving a large, heavy rug. We rolled up our sleeves, and yet another neighbor, noticing the commotion, lent his own brawn — and our motley middle-aged crew of bad backs and weak knees, together, got the job done.

—Leslie Garrett (and Jamie Kageleiry)



Monarch butterflies make their way to Mexico for the winter — via a route that involves traveling an incredible 3,000 miles from Canada or the Northeastern U.S.

[Learn how you can help these endangered travelers.](#)



Cruising with Currier

When Geoff Currier, Bluedot Living's Cruising columnist, heard that his old friend, former Tisbury selectperson Melinda Loberg, was driving a brand-new Rivian R1T electric truck, he knew he had to go for a ride. And he knew just where they had to go. Climb aboard as the car companions share childhood memories, as well as details of the truck that earned Rivian a place on Time Magazine's 100 most influential companies of the year.

[READ MORE HERE.](#)

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BUY LESS/BUY BETTER

She Sells Seahorses



We're already starting our holiday shopping, and trying to keep it local. Althea Freeman-Miller cuts these designs from linoleum blocks and mounts the prints on wood, tee shirts, coffee mugs, and cards, then sells them at her studio next to The Workshop on Beach Road in VH. Even better, Althea can make custom prints for you.

[LEARN MORE](#)



Dear Dot: What are the best dog poop bags?

Dear Dot,

We buy and use compostable doggie bags for our pup's poops. But we typically toss them in the garbage so is there any point to compostable bags? Are they still better than non-compostable or biodegradable bags?

-Deb, via email

Dearest Deb,

You've come to the right place with your doggie doo dilemma. I share my home with two Canine Dots, both large, both prodigious producers of poop.

Consequently, I have considerable experience with doody sacks.

Let's start by saying, please, all you hound huggers, for the love of all that's sacred, pick up your pup's poop. American dogs dump more than 10 million tons of poop each year ... teeming with bacteria, pathogens, and potential parasites, including various intestinal worms, giardia, salmonella, campylobacter, and more. All of these can harm local wildlife or get washed into waterways that provide drinking water ...

Read the rest of Dot's response on our Hub website.

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

RIGHT AT HOME



FOOD

Meatless and Delicious

There's no trick to putting together butternut squash, black beans, and corn to create **this meatless fall chili**. It's simple, hearty, and because it's plant-based, it's easier on the Earth than traditional chili — a scarily delicious treat just in time for your Halloween parties.

HOME

A Planet-Friendly Garden

It might already be time to put our gardens to bed for the winter, but lots of us are already dreaming about what we want to plant for next year. Do you know which plants are best suited for the ecosystem on Martha's Vineyard?

Gardener Abigail Higgins has a few things **she wants us to keep in mind as we plan.**





Flight School

What's the daily distance that the American Bird Conservancy says migrating birds travel at approximately the same speed as a car on the highway?

- Up to 500 miles
- Up to 600 miles
- Up to 850 miles



Hint: Find a cheat sheet to the answer, as well as tips on how to help migrating birds, in [this Dear Dot response](#).



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HANDBOOK

Wondering how to reduce your carbon footprint on Martha's Vineyard? Climate change planner Liz Durkee has **a handy how-to list**, which includes maintaining your vehicle (and using it less), eating less meat, and shortening your showers. For more info on composting, recycling, and buying second hand, consult our **Ultimate Simple, Smart, Sustainable Handbook to Martha's Vineyard**.

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