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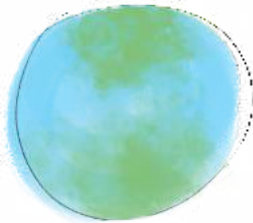
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AT HOME ON EARTH

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



In case you missed it in our summer issue that included “**The Art of the Great Ponds**,” we wanted to share this Colin Ruel painting of Johnny Hoy fishing, titled “Ahoy.” The image felt right for these lingering Derby days, and because we’ve got a great story by contributing editor Catherine Walthers about **Johnny’s love of the fish tautog** (which includes some recipes).

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

Quick Links

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

- **All About Right Whales**
- **Sixty Years of *Silent Spring***
- **Yummy tautog (that’s a fish) recipe and a fun fish tale**
- **Buy Better: Cozy, reconstructed sweaters**
- **Check out the Bluedot Hub, with dispatches and recipes from all over**

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Imagine Saving
Whales



Over the last couple of weeks, we've read some troubling news stories about whales. The Boston Globe ran [this report on a humpback whale](#) that was freed after being entangled in fishing gear near Hull, and two days later, shared [this story about Snow Cone](#), a

North Atlantic right whale spotted south of Nantucket, entangled in fishing rope. Snow Cone is one of fewer than 70 remaining breeding right whales, and the Globe's photographer was shocked at the decline in the whale's health since she'd been spotted a year before. The news sent us back to Sam Moore's story "[Whales in the Balance](#)," which describes Woods Hole scientist Michael Moore's book *We Are All Whalers*. We wanted to find out what we can do to help sustain whale populations. Turns out, we can make a difference, by [pushing legislators to pass "ropeless gear" laws](#) for the lobstering industry, by cutting back on our lobster consumption, and by educating ourselves on these amazing creatures.

"What we can do" is what we focus on at Bluedot. And we like to look around at other Islanders who do the same. Check out the Island Climate Action Network's (ICAN) newsletter, which will keep you updated on, well, climate action on the Vineyard. For instance, The MV Vision Fellowship just funded two new energy positions —an Energy Planner at the MVC, and an Energy Transition Coordinator at Vineyard Power. And learn all about "Climate Cafes" starting Oct. 16 at Rosewater. [Sign up for that newsletter here.](#)

And sign up for [Bluedot's new Hub newsletter](#), where we bring you dispatches from all over, more great recipes, and a lively marketplace full of "Buy Better" items.

We think "What you can do" often starts with "What you can imagine." John Lennon would have turned 82 today, and he once said that if "everyone demanded peace instead of another television set, there'd be peace."

Imagine that.

—Leslie Garrett and Jamie Kageleiry

CLIMATE QUICK TIP

Eco-labels aim to reassure us that our money is well spent. But it depends on the label, which can range from third-party verified and trustworthy to almost meaningless.

Check out the [guide on our national Hub website](#) and look for these legitimate and trustworthy labels: **USDA Organic**; **FSC**; **Energy Star**; **Fair Trade**; **1% for the Planet**; and **EWG (Environmental Working Group) Verified**.



Sixty Years of *Silent Spring*

In 1962, Rachel Carson published the book that launched the environmental movement in the U.S. “Before Carson’s public recognition and controversy,”

Kelsey Perrett writes in [a story about a statue of Carson in Woods Hole](#), “before the science advisory committees or *Silent Spring’s* [serialization in the New Yorker](#); before [the Atlantic articles](#) or the uncannily profound Fish and Wildlife brochures ... there was Woods Hole.”

“I had my first prolonged contact with the sea in Woods Hole,” Carson wrote, a quote now engraved beside her statue. “I never tired of watching the tidal currents pouring through the hole — whirlpools and eddies and swiftly racing water.”

[READ MORE HERE.](#)

BUY LESS/BUY BETTER

Beldan Radcliffe's Repurposed Sweaters



That nip in the air? Beldan Radcliffe's got you covered: She **deconstructs secondhand sweaters**, and makes new, collaged ones. "You might see a bit of an argyle or Fair Isle knit blended into the design," Gwyn McAllister writes, "or maybe even a fun stripe or floral weave. Edges are ruffled, flaring out at the bottom for a skirt effect. Some pieces have roomy hoods made from layered colors."

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Sign up today and we'll donate 50 cents to the Great Pond Foundation and enter your name to win a \$200 Atria dinner.



Dear Dot: Is there a wildlife-friendly way to get rid of mice?

Dear Dot,

About 15 years ago my house sitter threw away all the mouse poison I had left around our barn and the outside of our home. She rightly pointed out that I was potentially killing the wildlife and she feared that our cat might get

poisoned too. She needn't have worried about Jessie the cat since she isn't a hunter. But it isn't unusual for us to come home after a trip to a mouse nest in our car or engine. A mouse once popped out of our hood onto the ferry! I assumed they were attracted to our car by the Cheerios our then-toddlers dropped. But now we have teens and a new Cheerio-free electric vehicle and still we came home to a mouse nest in the glove box! What should I do?
-Rona, West Tisbury

Dear Rona,

Mice are wily. An adolescent mouse can squeeze into a space roughly the size of a dime. Give them a hint of cold weather and they're on the hunt for some cozy winter digs. And seldom-used cars — so many nooks and crannies! so easy to access! — act like a well-lit vacancy sign. (As appealing, apparently, is my fireplace where, as I tap away at my keyboard writing this, my cat captures a tiny mouse in his jaws. I had wondered about Bobcat's recent fascination with the fireplace. Now I get it.) But while utterly adorable — those little ears! those teensy whiskers — mice can be very destructive. Tim Hanjian, owner/operator of Eco Island Pest Control in Oak Bluffs, gets lots of calls about rascally rodents. Car parts, including wires, hoses and upholstery, are often made of organic materials such as soy, peanut oil, and rice husks, making them a veritable buffet for hungry critters. He recommends adopting more than one solution to thwart tiny intruders ...

Read the rest of Dot's response.

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

RIGHT AT HOME



FOOD

Tautog Has Local Fans

Catherine Walthers introduces us to one of the most sustainable local fish. Check out Vanessa Seder's [recipe for pan-seared tautog](#), but stay for some [fun tales from musician, fisherman, and mason Johnny Hoy](#), who shares how he came up with the name for his band "Johnny Hoy and The Bluefish."

HOME

Bounty at the Barnhouse

When fall comes, the Robinson family — Ben, Betsy, Odin, and Runar Finn — move out of the Barnhouse, a rustic compound in Chilmark, and back to their winter home. Mitigating climate change is a way of life that drives everyday decisions from meal planning (think local) to consumption.





Whale of a Home

How many species does a decaying whale carcass support with food and habitat?

100

175

200

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Hint: You can find the answer in **The Weight of Whales**.



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HANDBOOK

After cleaning out a sock drawer, one Bluedot editor was left with a pile of socks with holes or a missing companion. Turns out those no-longer-useful toe warmers can find new purpose as dog beds! For info on that — and where to rehome a whole lot of unwanted items, check the Bluedot Hub’s **“How to get rid of (almost) everything”** guide. And for more handy local info, consult our **Ultimate Simple, Smart, Sustainable Handbook to Martha’s Vineyard**.

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