

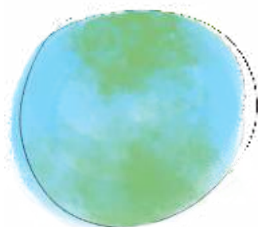
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bluedotliving™

AT HOME ON EARTH



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.

Distributed by [The Martha's Vineyard Times](#)
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SIMPLE / SMART / SUSTAINABLE / STORIES



You're thinking: Great photo! Where on Martha's Vineyard *is she?* She's in California, and we brought her here to tell you about our [new Bluedot "Hub" website](#) that will feature Field Notes, Dispatches, recipes, and eco-conscious items from all over the country (and soon, the world!) written by correspondents in those communities. Nicki Miller, who used to run Martha's Vineyard Magazine, but now lives in San Diego, brought us [this sweet piece about Laura McLean](#), the "Hot Mess" gardener (and therapist). Look for new dispatches each week.

“Climate and sustainability is going to be the new computer science. This is what the young people want to work on with their lives, for all the right reasons.”

— John Doerr, who made his estimated \$11.3 billion fortune investing in technology companies. Doerr recently donated \$1.1 billion to create a school at Stanford University that will focus on sustainability and climate change, [according to The New York Times](#).



Celebrating Mothers, and Mother Earth!

As any mother can attest, life is busy. As we move into Mother's Day weekend, that holds true for all of us at Bluedot Living.

For a start, we recently returned from Boston and the

NENPA Awards, where Bluedot Living won two first place awards (one for Dear Dot — so please **send your questions** to our newly award-winning columnist); two second prizes, including **best overall website**; and three thirds, including for best niche publication. Judges offered **these heady accolades**: “Though this publication is still in its infancy, it’s already extraordinary,” the judges wrote. “Beautiful, clean design, and full of much-needed information. Congratulations!” (Thanks!)

But no time to rest on our laurels — we’re busy getting ready for our Climate Week events so put these on your calendar: On Monday, May 9, learn how to **decarbonize your home** (whatever its size and wherever you are on your eco journey) at the West Tisbury Library. That evening, join a panel of experts talking about **retreating from the shore** — why, when, and how. Unfortunately, **an eco-cooking class** with Cathy Walthers on Friday, May 13 is already sold out so hold your own by following **any of her fabulous recipes**.

And please also check out our **new, just-launched Hub site**, where Bluedot is expanding our content to share stories of imagination, innovation, and good ol’ how-tos from around the country and the world. But no worries — Vineyard-specific content is still available right **here**.

Finally, come meet us at the Grange on May 14 for the Climate Week finale event and tell us your stories, your ideas, your recommendations for local heroes! We’re all ears. —*Leslie Garrett*

This issue of the Bluedot newsletter is sponsored by **MV Commission**.

The graphic features a teal background with two vertical green bars on the sides. The left bar contains the text "CONNECTED TO OUR PAST" and the right bar contains "COMMITTED TO OUR FUTURE", both written vertically in white. At the top center, the dates "MAY 8 - 14, 2022" are displayed in white, underlined. Below this, the words "CLIMATE ACTION WEEK" are written in large, white, sans-serif font. To the right of "WEEK" is a white silhouette of the island of Martha's Vineyard with a heart shape inside. Below the main title are three white wavy lines. At the bottom, the text "a week of events to educate, motivate, and inspire" is written in white, followed by a blue link "LEARN MORE >".

Take Action and Join Us May 8th–14th as we inspire, motivate, and educate the island through climate-related workshops, talks, tours, food, arts & entertainment! [Climate Action Week](#) is the community engagement portion of the Vineyard Climate Action Plan being developed by close to a hundred community members through the Martha’s Vineyard Commission. The Climate Action Plan’s goals and objectives will be on display at the Climate Action Week Finale Event at the Grange on Saturday May 14th from 10am–2pm along with info booths, giveaways, art & crafts, food, student presentations, a film screening by the MVFF, and more.

Climate Quick Tip

“Having a productive canopy is not enough. The shrub layer is particularly important for water infiltration and providing the physical structure necessary for the completion of many life cycles. To wildlife, brushcutting the understory is analogous to stripping away all the amenities of your home.” — BiodiversityWorks’ Angela Luckey [on the importance of good cover in your yard](#).

OAK TREES ARE A KEYSTONE OF VINEYARD ECOSYSTEMS



SUPPORTING MORE THAN **500**
CATERPILLAR SPECIES

Those caterpillar species are in turn integral to the diet of nesting birds!
[Learn more about why you should plant oaks here.](#)



Does the War in Ukraine Make You More Nervous about Nuclear Energy?

“The word nuclear elicits an emotional response from people because a lot of people still mainly associate the word nuclear with nuclear explosions, nuclear weapons, massive obliteration of cities, and so on. We’re not talking about that. It would be a completely different conversation if Putin decided to use nuclear weapons. That’s nothing to do with reactors. I think indeed, there is a lot of misunderstanding, a lot of exaggeration, bad information, really bad information, particularly about Chernobyl. I’m concerned like everybody else about what’s happening.” [Read our followup interview](#) with Jacopo Buongiorno, a nuclear scientist at MIT.

[READ THE ORIGINAL STORY.](#)

BUY LESS/BUY BETTER

Original Cyn is Actually a Very Good Thing



Cynthia McGrath's latest collection of jewelry has an interesting background: What appear to be intricately patterned gemstones are actually carved and polished pieces of the built-up residue left behind in mid-century car painting facilities — a byproduct called Fordite, made from thousands of layers of paint. We're buying some for ourselves for Mother's Day.

[LEARN MORE](#)


Dear Dot: Is some organic cotton a scam?

Dear Dot,

I recently read an article exposing some of the organic cotton market as fraudulent. I want to do the right thing but I don't want to support the bad guys. What should I look for to guarantee I'm buying organic?

–*Kelly, Vineyard Haven*

My dear concerned Kelly,

Much of what we have been told about organic cotton is being debunked or, at the least, challenged. For instance, we have long been told that organic cotton uses 91% less water than conventional, relying on rain rather than irrigation. But a summary reported in the industry magazine Apparel Insider noted that

climate — *where* the cotton was grown, not *how* — impacted water use.

But let's drill down to your basic question: what t-shirt should you buy, Kelly?

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

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



RIGHT AT HOME



HOME

Decarbonize Your House

Heat pumps help us reduce the carbon in our home. Find out more at this Bluedot-sponsored [Climate Week event](#). Whether we have a tiny cottage or an estate with a pool, Marc Rosenbaum of [EnergySmiths](#) will teach us how to reduce our carbon load and switch to renewable energy.

FOOD

Betta with Feta

Feta, the creamy, crumbly Greek specialty cheese, improves most salads, not just Greek ones. Try adding crumbled feta to sautéed greens, roasted vegetables, eggs, pasta, and dips for additional flavor. Get your [handmade local feta](#) at Mermaid Farm and Dairy on Middle Road in Chilmark.



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 >>>





ADVICE

Curious how food waste is put to work on the Vineyard? [Join Island Grown Initiative](#) for a Climate Week brainstorming session. Engage with concerns, ideas, and solutions. For more composting info, consult our [Ultimate Simple, Smart, Sustainable Handbook to Martha's Vineyard](#).

SPOTLIGHT



Think Global, Act Local

"I arrived home to find, in my refrigerator, what I had spent months awaiting: a box of chestnuts," [writes Adam Moore, Executive Director of Sheriff's Meadow Foundation](#) in our latest "Field Notes."

"These were American chestnuts, *Castanea dentata*, sent to me by the American Chestnut Foundation. Once the most important timber tree of eastern North America, the American chestnut now rarely grows taller than a shrub."

But some American chestnuts appear to display a natural resistance to the blight. Knowing that Sheriff's Meadow Foundation's Quansoo property had the acidic soil and open sun that chestnuts need," Moore says, "I signed us up."

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Bluedot Living: Time to retreat from the shore? Take some polls, Feta, and a new Bluedot website.

The Martha's Vineyard Times, 30 Beach Road, Vineyard Haven, MA 02568, United States

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