

Earth & Environment

Bi-Weekly News

June 12th - June 25th

Hi Earth & Environment team!
We hope your June has been lovely and full of joy.
Check out some more updates & happenings below!

UPCOMING EVENTS & HAPPENINGS

MONDAY 06/12

10:00am: [Alexis Helgeson Thesis Defense](#)

"Iteratively forecasting near-term terrestrial fluxes at Harvard Forest." CAS132.

12:00pm: [The State of Anti-Trans Legislation](#)

In the first 5 months of 2023, there has been a deluge of about 500 anti-LGBTQIA+ bills introduced across 46 states. Join the LGBTQIA+ Center for Faculty & Staff in learning about the current state of anti-trans legislation with National Center for Transgender Equality's (NCTE) Olivia Hunt (she/her), Director of Policy, and Kris Tassone (they/them), Policy Counsel. They will discuss the onslaught of anti-trans legislation, what is happening locally and nationally in response, and ways to address the realities of anti-trans sentiments and movements that are happening across the United States. This will be an informative, important, and timely program that is not to be missed. Allies are encouraged to attend.

RSVP via Zoom [here](#).

TUESDAY 06/13

6:00pm: [Building Ecological Wealth: A Queer Perspective on a Climate Future](#)

"Gen Z Environmental Justice Educator & Founder of [QueerBrownVegan](#) Isaias Hernandez will converse with Boston Public Library President David Leonard. Their 60-75 minute conversation will be followed by an audience Q&A from both the in-person and virtual audiences.

Isaias Hernandez was born in Los Angeles, California, also known as Tongva Land. He grew up in Section 8 housing, was a recipient of food stamps, and lived in a community that faced environmental injustice. These firsthand experiences are where he'd eventually find his passion for the environment, social justice, and equity. As he witnessed the ways pollution affected his body and community, he turned his anger and sadness into a solution: creating environmental education that would prioritize accessibility and intersectionality. Isaias had the opportunity to earn his B.S. in Environmental Science at the University of California, Berkeley, and began gaining experience in diversity inclusion work in environmental spaces, academic research, and creative work."

WEDNESDAY 06/14

3:00pm: [NSF Webinar: Navigating the Geophysics Program](#)

The Geophysics (PH) Program Directors will review the scope of the PH Program and other NSF relevant opportunities for the geophysical community in the context of recent changes within the program and new opportunities communicated by the Foundation through Dear Colleague Letters and new interdisciplinary programs, and a growing interest in increasing representation in the scientific enterprise. This webinar is organized in three parts:

- Scope of the Geophysics program
- Types of proposals reviewed in PH and the Merit Review process
- Tips for proposal preparation and other opportunities for geophysical research at NSF

Register in advance for this webinar [here](#).

7:00pm: [Charles River Flood Model Results Event](#)

Climate change isn't coming, it's here. Precipitation during heavy rain events increased by 55% between 1958 and 2016 in the northeastern United States. And, as our climate continues to warm, we will see even more severe storms. What does this mean for our communities? More flooding. Just a few more inches of rainfall could increase the Charles River's volume by millions of gallons during a heavy storm.

Join Charles River Watershed Association, the Charles River Climate Compact, Weston & Sampson, and Communities Responding to Extreme Weather (C.R.E.W.) to hear the latest on our efforts to plan for flooding in the Charles River watershed. Online option, [register here](#).

THURSDAY 06/15

3:30pm: [Talewise STEAM Program: Science Heroes](#) with BPL

Saving Earth Together! Come down to the North End Branch for a fun filled STEAM performance by Talewise!

Enjoy a one-of-a-kind live STEAM enrichment session for kids: Science and stories collide in this brand-new interactive STEM program! Two unlikely heroes must learn to WORK TOGETHER to stop a super polluting mastermind! Throughout the story, you'll help the Talewise performer conduct amazing science experiments all about air pressure, the laws of motion, chemical reactions, and much more! **Recommended for ages 5 – 12.**

FRIDAY 06/16

6:30pm: [Biophilia and Topology: A Re-Imagining of Landscape Architecture](#)

At its best, landscape architecture merges ecology and design to create landscapes that work with the site, not against it. Dr. Anette Freytag, a professor of the history and theory of landscape architecture, investigates how this profession can benefit from a deep understanding of the history of designing with nature and a new care for the plants involved. Dr. Freytag argues that two concepts - Biophilia and Topology - can help society to better deal with our current environmental crisis and improve wellbeing for all.

Located in person at the **Weld Hill Research Building**, 1300 Centre Street, Boston, 02131, and [online via Livestream](#).

SATURDAY 06/17

2:00pm: [African American Scientists with Muqeedah Salaam](#)

Join the Brighton BPL Branch for an all-ages history presentation by lecturer and historian Muqeedah Salaam. Highlighted notable figures include Garret Morgan, Lewis H. Latimer, Daniel Hale Williams, and more. From traffic signals to open heart surgery, these scientists and inventors made breakthroughs and advances in many fields.

2:00pm - 4:00pm: [Science Spotlights](#)

Meet up-and-coming scientists and learn about questions at the forefront of research today in this series of short talks!

2:00 pm: *Exploring Other Worlds with Victoria DiTomasso, Center for Astrophysics*

Take a look at distant planets outside of the Solar System! Retrace the steps to the discovery of the first so-called exoplanet, and see how astronomers like DiTomasso use the movement of stars to learn about the exoplanets that revolve around them.

3:00 pm: *Tales of Zircon: Adventures in Understanding Deep Time with Dr. Heather Kirkpatrick, Drabon Group*

Geologists use the rock record to understand what the Earth was like millions of years ago. But what happens when we explore periods of history so long ago that we no longer have these rocks? Kirkpatrick will discuss her work on using the chemistry of minerals to understand these long-ago times in Earth's history.

MONDAY 06/19

JUNETEENTH

10:00am - 5:00pm: [We Create The World: A Juneteenth Celebration](#)

Commemorate Juneteenth and support the ongoing movement for Black lives, liberation, joy, and imagination on this special day of art and community.

This year, the [Boston Ujima Project](#) and ICA/Boston have partnered to bring you We Create the World: A Juneteenth Celebration, a day packed with excitement, including films, music, and activities that highlight the Black experience.

TUESDAY 06/20

4:00pm - 9:00pm: [Summer Solstice: Night at the Harvard Museums of Science & Culture](#)

Join the Harvard Museums of Science & Culture on the longest day of the year—free of charge—to explore the galleries and new exhibitions at the [Harvard Museum of Natural History](#), the [Peabody Museum of Archaeology & Ethnology](#), and the [Collection of Historical Scientific Instruments](#).

Step outdoors to enjoy lively musical and circus performances, play mini-golf, and make a flower crown. Ice cream, mocktails, and snacks will be available to purchase from food trucks and vendors. Don't miss out on this popular event for all ages!

WEDNESDAY 06/21

3:00pm: [Predicting Mosquito-Borne Disease Transmission in a Rapidly Changing World](#)

Disease ecologist Courtney Murdock will focus on understanding the climate variables that influence mosquito-borne disease transmission. Deploying advanced models of climate-based disease spread, Murdock's research seeks to predict transmission patterns in order to respond to the epidemiological effects of the climate crisis. Online event; [register here](#).

5:00pm: [Xiaohui Zhu Dissertation Defense](#)

"Quantifying CDOM photobleaching rates in the global surface ocean." CAS132.

THURSDAY 06/22

10:00am & 2:00pm: [Center for Teaching & Learning Drop-In Hour](#)

Are you a faculty member teaching in summer 2023 who would like to discuss your course? Are you planning to teach in fall 2023, and would you like some help with your syllabus? (Also open to Grad students!)

Thursday morning sessions (10:00am-11:00am) take place at 141 Bay State Road, in Room B01 (Garden Level conference room).

Thursday afternoon sessions (2:00pm-3:00pm) take place on zoom - register by emailing ctl@bu.edu.

7:00pm: [The Engine Inside: Film Screening](#)

Boston Premiere (84 min.)

The new documentary feature film, "The Engine Inside" tells the stories of six everyday people from all over the globe, who reveal the unique power of the bicycle to change lives and build a better world. Through each character's story, the film uncovers the often-overlooked potential of this 200-year-old machine, exploring its impact on a wide-range of global issues such as physical and mental health, socio-economic inequality and climate change.

Hosted by Bicycle Film Festival, MassBike, & Greater Boston NEMBA. [Register here](#).

FRIDAY 06/23

1:00pm: [NSF Webinar: Geoinformatics](#)

Join this informational webinar to learn more about the Geoinformatics (GI) program. This webinar will describe the revised GI solicitation (NSF 23-594) and provide time for Q&A. The Geoinformatics program funds the deployment, operation, and sustainment of cyberinfrastructure (CI) resources to serve and support Earth Sciences research and education. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

Register [here](#).

ONGOING

[Climate Action: Inspiring Change](#)

Peabody Essex Museum (Salem, MA) Exhibition - Now through June 25th

How can we transform the climate crisis into hope for our shared future? PEM's timely exhibition brings together dynamic contemporary art, hands-on experiences and inspiring works by youth artists to help guide us toward making a difference for the planet.

On view in the Dotty Brown Art & Nature Center, this exhibition highlights local and regional climate issues and opportunities. Most of the 29 featured artists are based in New England — including works by 9 award-winning youth who participated in the [Climate Hope: Transforming Crisis](#) international student art contest in 2020 organized by [Bow Seat Ocean Awareness Programs](#).

SUMMER SPOTLIGHT SERIES

It's summer! This year, we'll be spotlighting students who are doing interesting / powerful / exciting work.

Tiare is in the **class of 2025**, majoring in Earth & Environment (Ecosystems Concentration) and minoring in GIS &

Remote Sensing and Philosophy!

Tiare is doing a Marine Research Internship at the [Bazaruto Center for Scientific Studies](#) (BCSS) in Mozambique this June! The BCSS is the first permanent Ocean Observatory focused on multi-ecosystem time series research in Africa.

Over the month of June, she'll be acquiring a PADI Scuba Diving Certification, monitoring and studying ecosystems with over 2,000 species of fish in the second most diverse coral reef in the world, and learning from renowned environmentalists and researchers at the observatory.



Tiare Sierra Rivera

E&E IN THE NEWS

Mark Friedl named William Goodwin Aurelio Professor in Mathematics and Science



The William Goodwin Aurelio Professorship in Mathematics and Science is given to an outstanding faculty member working in any mathematical or natural sciences field at BU.

E&E Professor Mark Friedl was nominated and awarded world-class research in ecology, micro-meteorology, and remote sensing. Professor Friedl has built a massive database of satellite observations to study changing patterns in land cover for use in global modeling, and is currently the director of the BU Center for Remote Sensing.

He has also served as our department chair, Director of Graduate Studies, Director of Undergraduate Studies, and associate chair, as well as chair of the Academic Program Review Committee. Within the professional community, Professor Friedl has served on multiple science teams for NASA.

Congratulations to Dr. Mark Friedl!

Asst. Professor Jeff Geddes quoted in *How Wildfires Alter the Air We Breathe, and the Forests They Burn*

"[Climate change creates](#) hotter, drier conditions, leading to longer and more active fire seasons—and, unfortunately, there's no sign they're going to slow down anytime soon. As large fire events become more common, what can people do to protect themselves?

"When I see this level of smoke from wildfires, my first

concern is how much worse and more common these events may become with climate change," says [Jeff Geddes](#). Many communities in the western United States have been experiencing this for years, but "people who are not used to worrying about the air they breathe will need to start preparing themselves and educating themselves about how to protect their health," he says."

[Read the full article.](#)



JUNETEENTH

Juneteenth is next week and we have the day off for the Federal Holiday!

"Juneteenth should be a day of celebration, reflection, and education, but it should also be a reminder that the bill is long overdue."



[Juneteenth Reminds Us That Reparations Are Due](#)

By Kevin L. Matthews II

"Weeks after the last cannon sounded and the gun smoke cleared in April 1865, slavery in most of the United States had come to an end—unless you were an enslaved person in Texas. It wasn't until June 19, 1865, 71 days after the surrender at Appomattox and 37 days after the Battle of Palmito Ranch, that 2,000 Union troops arrived in Galveston Bay, Texas, to announce that the Civil War was indeed over; and that all enslaved people were now free. In Texas, this was known as "Juneteenth," and it marks not only the day that freedom arrived for African Americans but the day that racism and White

supremacy in America made its first evolution from simple brute force to a more complex web of legislation, terrorism via the Ku Klux Klan, and harmful government policies.

...

Juneteenth should be a day of celebration, reflection, and education, but it should also be a reminder that the bill is long overdue."



Reconsidering Reparations

By Olufemi O. Táíwò

A closer look at reparations & the climate crisis:

- "Ties reparations for slavery and colonialism to the climate crisis
- Presents a compelling philosophical case for reparations for slavery
- Integrates a global history of racial injustice into a philosophical framework of colonialism and racism"

"[he] argues that **reparations should be seen as a future-oriented project engaged in building a better social order, and that the costs of building a more equitable world should be distributed more to those who have inherited the moral liabilities of past injustices.**"

You can find the book at your local library or [purchase it here](#).

Watch a [recording of Dr. Táíwò discussing his work](#).

OPPORTUNITIES

WRISE SOLAR POWER FELLOWSHIP

Hiring: Full Time, 2-Month Fellowship, Undergrad or Grad Students

[GRID Alternatives](#) and WRISE are partnering again for a Rising Solar fellowship program to give aspiring solar professionals from diverse backgrounds the opportunity to pursue a career in renewable energy. The program, part of GRID and WRISE's workforce diversity initiatives, is aimed at anyone identifying as a woman or marginalized gender training for careers in installation and design as well as college and graduate students studying renewable energy and related fields.

Rising Solar Fellows receive:

- free access to the [RE+ conference](#)
- specialized program content exclusively for fellows
- mentoring and networking opportunities
- and the chance to collaborate with and learn from a peer group of fellows

[Apply here](#).

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Hiring: Part Time, IT Student Trainee

If you have been thinking about starting your career focused on tackling climate change, reducing air pollution, and advancing environmental justice, there's never been a better time to join the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. This is a year-round part time position working 16-20 hours a week during the school year with the possibility of working additional hours during school breaks and summer.

[Apply here](#).

PLEASE NOTE: THIS OPPORTUNITY MAY END SOON - APPLY ASAP!

[Check out previous opportunities here](#).

ADVISING REMINDERS

FUN-GI SECTION



Meet the women working to grow local food systems on U.S. island territories

By Jessica Kutz

"Sommer Sibilly-Brown didn't set out to join the food sovereignty movement. The movement found her.

... It set her on a path to find answers and solutions to an important problem — an over-reliance on imported foods. She wanted her students to be able to eat food grown nearby and for the U.S. Virgin Islands to achieve a level of food sovereignty, or the ability to produce healthy and culturally relevant food on the islands.

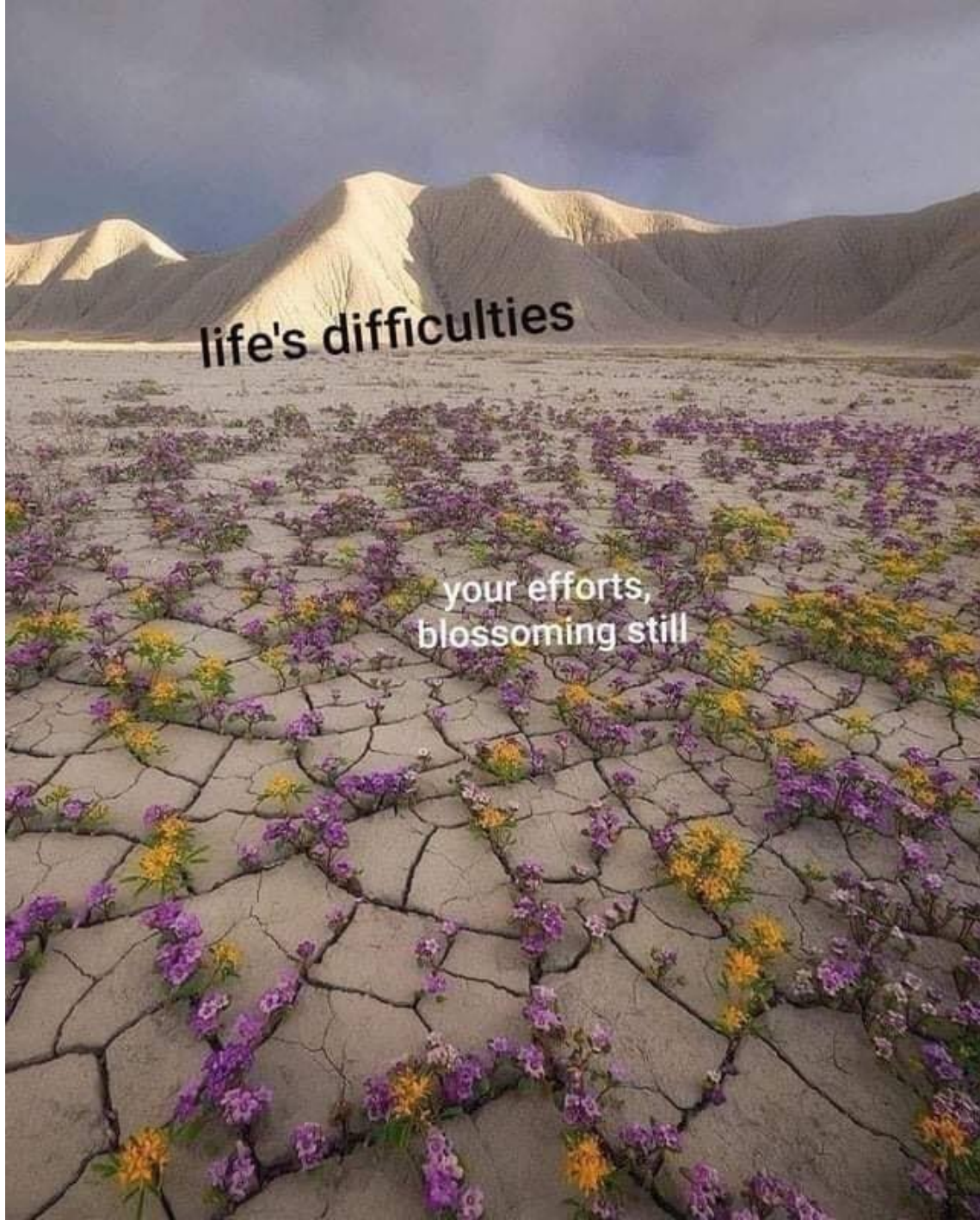
Sibilly-Brown is not alone in her desire to see local food systems grow. **Across U.S. island territories, women are forming connections with one another and working to ensure that their communities can be resilient in the face of climate change and future pandemics."**



Why Queer Liberation Is an Environmental Justice Issue

By Lisa Pradhan

The first Pride march was the anniversary of the Stonewall riot led by Black and Latinx trans and gender non-confirming individuals against police brutality. This rebellion was part of many riots against state-sanctioned raids of LGBTQ+ bars. Even today, [for every victory we have that ensures our rights, there are so many people who are not here to celebrate with us](#), and [another right that's being taken away](#). This is true in the fight for queer liberation, for racial justice, for Indigenous sovereignty, disability justice, and for climate justice. When we start to pull on the roots of "environmental justice" by looking to the 17 Principles of Environmental Justice that emerged from [the First National People of Color Environmental Leadership Summit in 1991](#), we see a longstanding recognition of how environmental justice must "encompass mutual respect and justice for all peoples, free from any form of discrimination or bias."



If you have updates, announcements, or events that you would like sent via the newsletter, please reach out to Emma Roth (they/them) at emroth@bu.edu.



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