

AUGUST MONTHLY MOSAIC



Berkshire Natural
Resources Council

MUSHROOMS EMERGING AFTER SUMMER RAINS

If August brings rain, forests come alive with fungi. Look for colorful mushrooms like chanterelles, boletes, and russulas popping up from the forest floor in shady, damp areas.

EXPLORE

Shady, moist trails like **The Boulders** in Pittsfield or **Steven's Glen** in Richmond, are great for spotting fungi after a summer rain. Just remember to look, not pick.

1



CICADAS BUZZING IN THE HEAT

The high, rhythmic buzz of cicadas fills the August air like a soundtrack to summer's peak. Males "sing" to attract mates by vibrating drum-like structures on their abdomen, often hiding high in the trees.

FUN FACT

Cicadas don't sting or bite. The ones we hear in August aren't the famous 17-year kind, but annual cicadas that emerge every summer.

2



HUMMINGBIRDS FEEDING FIERCELY

Ruby-throated hummingbirds are entering migration mode and can be seen zipping between jewelweed, cardinal flower, and feeders, loading up on nectar before their long flight south.

FUN FACT

A hummingbird's wings beat up to 80 times per second. In August, they enter a feeding frenzy called hyperphagia to prepare for migration.

3



MILKWEED PODS FORMING

While monarch caterpillars munch milkweed leaves in June and July, by August, the plants begin forming pods full of silky, wind-dispersed seeds—setting the stage for next year's butterflies.

EXPLORE

Meadows along **Thomas & Palmer Brook** in Great Barrington or **Hollow Fields** in Richmond are great places to track milkweed from bloom to seed.

4

