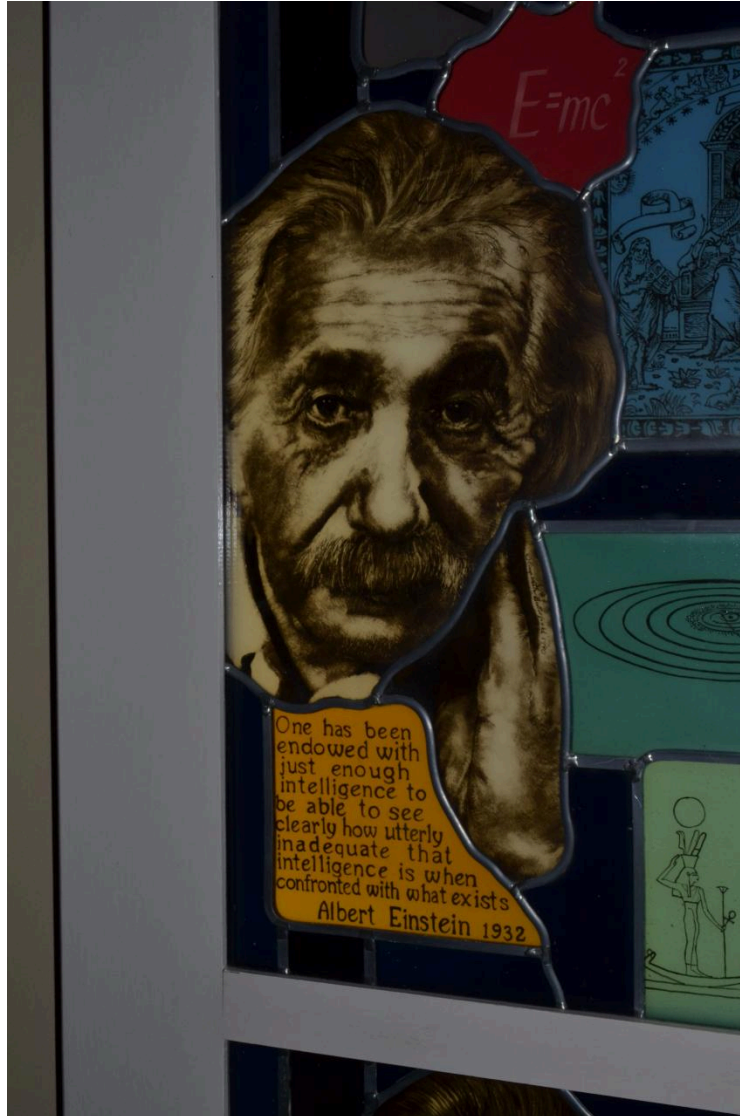


## References



**“One has been endowed with just enough intelligence to be able to see clearly how utterly inadequate that intelligence is when confronted with what exists.” Albert Einstein, 1932**

*Christie McAuliffe Discovery Center, Concord NH*

Working on it!



*Most of the resources below remain relevant, even if the politics have changed. Those links may change or be rearranged, depending on the political winds. Editor checks them often.*

## Consumer Watch

**NOAA** tracks current [drought](#) conditions on a daily basis.

**USGS** tracks current [earthquake](#) conditions.

**National Library of Medicine** is trillions of bytes of data compressed into one [database](#).

**Lifewire, Wired Magazine, Dotdash publications (Spruce Eats)** are collections of articles, loaded with glitzy photos but limited data on subject.

**AARP** may help you calculate your required minimum distributions (RMD) when you retire, but you are asked to register. If your return is not a simple one, they may not be as helpful as an e-file program.

A *Guide to Filing Taxes for 2025* is available from the [Consumer Financial Protection Bureau](#).

**JStor**. The “Generative AI” platform that connects us to gazillions digital libraries and their contents. May be over reach for [Technophobes](#) like me.

**Kaiser Family Foundation** [tracks funding](#) for health programs and services.

**Investopedia** tracks current market information. It also examined federal deficits [by president](#).

**The Conversation**’s byline is “academic rigor, journalistic flair.” Their team and donor/contributors are a mix of colleges and professional scientists and journalists, so they must be as neutral as they claim.

**Congressional District interactive** [map](#).

**Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)** is one of the most powerful tools a private citizen can use to find non-sensitive data in the government.,

**The Hill** used to track Congressional bills. Now it appears to be more gossipy.

**AARP** offers a [calculator](#) for determining what your required minimum distribution (RMD) is, but you will have to register and/or join to use it.

**Brennen Center for Justice** is more relevant than ever, now that the Supreme Court appears to be more political than ever.

**PBS News Hour** invites both sides of an issue to appear for interviews. PBS is an independent resource partially funded by our government and individuals, corporations and other organizations who value a free press. The site lists its corporate donors.

[CSPAN](#) may track current bills, although we do not use it. [Govtrack.us](#) *does just that: tracks Congressional representatives.*

## Indicators



Follow the tracks to see how **Twoplanters'** wildlife are adapting to climate change.

When viruses and undesirable insects begin proliferating, we learn they are indicators of trouble ahead. We only have to watch current news to wonder how close we are to the ["tipping point."](#) It is no coincidence that billionaires and trillionaires are investing in "posh" but utilitarian underground shelters; or, investing in space exploration. [Ecological Footprints](#) tracks global affects of mankind's destruction of habitat.

Two government agencies work on this issue:

*NASA* explores the global [impacts](#) of climate change on environments and measures to [mitigate](#) those impacts.

*NOAA* will find weather data in your [locality](#).

Find your heat index at *National Weather Service's* [calculator](#).

[Wildlife Journal, Jr](#) is an educational collaboration of *NH Fish and Wildlife Service* and a *PBS series* on wildlife. The graphics are xln't and the data is useful.

Raptor cams keep track of nesting seasons. The [Decorah Eagle](#) (IA) site is located near farmland. The Harrisburg PA [Peregrine cam](#) is on a ledge in the State Department office building. Their chat groups follow along till the chicks fledge.

The [Xerxes Society](#) is a science-based citizen organization dedicated to collecting data for use in preserving declining species and their habitats.

## Protecting our Natural Resources

[Climate change](#) is a "myopic lens" that hides the real source of concern: species extinction.

[Natural Resources Defense Council](#) keeps watch over government actions that conforms to national environmental laws. It monitors industries, business, and organizations that attempt to undermine those laws.

EDF (Environmental Defense Fund) [tracks the effectiveness](#) of the Inflation Reduction Act on climate change. [Nature Conservancy](#) brings private citizens and governments together to form conservation

easements for lands that are vital to the protection of wildlife. In New Hampshire, the [Ausbons Sargent Land Preservation Trust](#) assists individuals and groups in setting aside vital habitats.

[Greenenergytimes.org](#) is a quarterly publication located in the Northeast that focuses on current energy reuse and recycling topics.

[Pollinator Network](#), Cornell College of Agriculture on controlling decline of bee populations.



Most of the resources below stem from our personal experiences in building our own sustainable homestead.

### In the Garden or Meadow

Most of our gardening info came from extension service databases, like Ohio University Extension Service's *Ohioline* and formerly USDA's *PlantFacts* search engine, which had growing data targeted to home gardeners. See our [Monthly Calendar](#).

Missouri's [MOBOT Plant Finder](#) still has a comprehensive database containing classification, images, and growing needs. Some *USDA extension services* have searchable databases for the home gardener. I did a search on [extension services](#) (part of USDA) and found our own *NH Extension Service* offers a limited search engine for home gardeners.

[Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center](#).

[Clemson University](#) extension service fact sheets and search engine.

[Univ. of Minnesota](#) extension service search engine.

The [USDA/NRCS Plant Database](#) used to be designed for home gardeners but now is geared to professionals.

Cornell University's Plant Sciences department offers some good basic pointers on growing a vegetable garden. Search their [database](#) for your topic of interest.

[Invasive Plant Atlas](#) is a collaborative effort between National Park Service and the University of Georgia.

It helps to have the scientific name for most search engines. [Cornell's Gardening Guides](#) may help, although the list is limited.

[Caterpillar Guide](#) has excellent graphics.

[Growing Guides](#) from *Territorial Seeds*

[Pollinator Map](#) from *Xerxes Society*

University of Missouri also maintains data on [Longblooming perennials](#) that grow in the State.

Lady Bird Johnson Center's [Native Plant Database](#) lets you narrow your search to your state.

The National Wildlife Federation has an excellent [map](#) of pollinator host plants by ecoregion. It defines New Hampshire's ecoregion as Northern Forest and Temperate Forest. The map also identifies "key" plants essential to pollinators that only feed on specific plant pollens. Many of not most bees are "pollen specialists" who eat pollen on only 40% of native plants

The [Academy of Natural Sciences](#) (ANS) maintains a photo gallery of butterfly species.

[SEINet Portal Network](#) is a legitimate resource for identifying herbs in Arizona and New Mexico. They are supported by the National Science Foundation.

State and Local Arboretums and Regional databases can also help in identifying plants.

My favorite seed sources are:

[Johnny's Seeds](#)

[FedcoSeeds](#), Maine for good growing info and affordable prices. We purchased our hand tiller from them.

[Chile Pepper Institute](#) (NM State Univ.- Seeds, Images, and Resources)

[John Scheepers](#) carries seeds for the kitchen and good quality bulbs for the landscape project.

*Other good sources:*

[North Carolina Extension](#)

[Butterfly Gardening](#) (Florida)

[Seed Savers Exchange](#) (Iowa)

[US Wildflowers](#) A hobbyist site with nice graphics and many links

## Horticultural and Botanical

The American Horticultural Society can help you locate a [Gardening Club](#) in your area.

[New York Botanic Garden](#) has an outstanding search engine.

Visit [National Arboretums and Botannic Gardens](#) across America to identify plants and locate National Gardens.

[Pollinator Parks](#) help establish gardens for bees and butterflies.

## In the Environment

[Eco-USA net](#) lists environmental organizations, among other things, in your state.

[World Meteorological Organization](#) is a specialized agency of the WHO that coordinates the “behavior of the Earth’s atmosphere” and its impact on our lives.

Our dog, Tank, in our lower floodplain field. The rusted barrel was either used to water the trees planted by the former owner of the property; or, it was used to store gasoline for the tree farm. We had it removed!



Best [Weather](#) resource links.

[Fire Conditions](#). An interactive program that shows air quality (smoke and fire) conditions in your area. The data is compiled by multiple U.S. agencies and Canada.

[USEPA Envirofacts Data-By Database](#). Anything impacting your quality of life can be found using these data. I found a home in our town that was storing hazwaste using one of EPA’s [databases](#).

[How’s Your Waterway](#). Give them your zip code. Replaces [Surf Your Watershed](#).

[AirNow](#) A list of links to North American partners that track air quality in their respective countries. It also contains links to State, local, and Tribal environmental agencies.

USGS [National Water Dashboard](#) offers topo maps of small brooks and streams in your area. They locate water body measuring stations.

The [NOAA Climate Program Office](#), [U.S. Center for Disease Control and Prevention](#) (CDC), a nice way to get youngsters acquainted with their environment and learn at the same time.

[Chemical Database](#) EPA/CA & EPA) finds ingredients of products and their toxicity.

[Environmental Working Group](#) tracks current issues.

[Hazwaste Permitting](#)

[E & E News](#) Their news is cited at other sites, but you need to register to receive it.

[EPA's guide to keeping our children safe](#) asks what's so great about microfiber? Their response hides the fact that it is choking out our oceans and freshwater resources. Now that disinformation is no longer a public policy, we should be reminded that [We the Pople](#) are the first responders in any event.

[Rainforest Alliances](#)

## In the Doctor's Office



[Johns Hopkins Search Engine](#) Begin with this before using links below.

[NIH Institutes and Centers](#) Everything you need to know about your health.

[FDA Inspections, Compliance, Endorsement](#)

[The National Academy of Sciences](#) releases a proceedings on the relationship of the pandemic and the radically improved air quality

[CDC on COVID-19](#)

[Safe Disinfectants](#)

[FDA on Purell](#)

[FDA on more toxic Hand Sanitizers](#)

[EPA COVID!](#) EPA lists all disinfecting products approved by the Agency and other useful info.

[NIH-Consumer Health Info.](#) Their search engine will take you to your item of interest. The Health Information Index covers all Research Center health topics.

[WHO on COVID-19](#)

[American Journal of Infection Control](#) This journal is a more scholarly treatment of the use of saturated steam vapor on disinfecting materials. It does not specifically refer to Covid-19 but concludes steam is effective against some microbes.

[CDC Handwashing techniques](#) For general knowledge.

[NIH Study of Disinfectants](#)

[Next Strain](#) Researches the various strains of Covid-19 virus.

[NREVSS](#) CDC Surveillance system of respiratory viruses by State.

National Library of Medicine.

[NIAID](#) National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases studies all Corona viruses.

[CARES Act](#) May have been axed.

[govtrac](#) tracks coronavirus-related and other current legislation moving through Congress.

[PBS News Hour](#) interviews only reliable sources.

[Atlantic Monthly](#) interview of former NIH Director. Read this article. Collins is an eminently qualified Doctor and geneticist who also explains how a scientist can be religious as well. The other articles are worthy of reading too.

CDC data still tracks covid infections and deaths by [state](#), gender, race, and even [Age Groups with Pre-existing Conditions](#).

[Mayo Clinic](#). We removed WebMD from our links because a Time Magazine article on Pharmaceuticals reveals its connections to Big Pharma. The article recommends using Mayo Clinic's Symptom Checker for reliable information on symptoms and their treatments.

[Natural Resources Defense Council](#) Protects your health by protecting the environment.

[European Union Public Health Policy](#) Some might call it socialism, others preventive care.

## In the Kitchen

[USDA Legacy Database](#). Nutrients are listed in most USDA recognized foods. Finally discovered this database, which appears to replace the old, more user-friendly, USDA Nutrient database.

[Canning Guide](#) (Univ. of MN)

[Food Safety during the Holidays](#), A “.gov” [agency](#) comprised of USDA, FDA, CDC

[National Center for Home Food Preservation \(NCHFP\)](#)

[Nutrition Research Centers](#)

[National Organic Program](#) (USDA)

[Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine](#)

[National Center for Home Food Preservation](#)

[Food Storage](#)

[Substitutions](#)

## In the Home



Many online product reviews are supported by their purveyors—e.g. Amazon. Do a search on a product and invariably the first links are test reviews by product manufacturer or distributor. These resources rely heavily on membership or subscription fees.

[Tax Policy Center](#) is a good resource for learning about changes in tax policies, which happens more often than every four years!

[Good Housekeeping Reviews](#)

[Safe Disinfectants](#)

[National Flood Insurance issues](#)

[Non-GMO](#) products are not what they seem.

According to Wikipedia, [Center for Science in the Public Interest \(PIRG\)](#) was founded by a microbiologist, a meteorologist, and a chemist, all from Ralph Nader's Center for the Study of Responsive Law. Remember Nader's Raiders? They were advocates of transparency and lobbied for legal protections for consumers.

[CNET](#) switched prominent reviews section from household products to electronic products.

[Renewable energy](#) starts here.

[BloombergNEF](#) is adapting to a “lower-carbon” economy.

## [Understanding Consumer Behavior Trends](#)

[USDA Legacy Database.](#) Nutrients are listed in most USDA recognized foods. Finally discovered this atabase, which appears to replace the old, more user-friendly, USDA Nutrient database.

## Energy

 Working on it!

See [Sound Bytes on Energy.](#)

[Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy](#)The budget of this program would be slashed by 85%. This includes the [Energy Star](#) Program, administered by the EPA, which was zeroed out of the budget. The costs to the program would be assumed by the companies that use the Energy Star brand. Needless to say, the costs will be passed on to the consumer. According to the Natural Resources Defense Council, with an annual budget of nearly \$50 million, the Energy Star program has saved consumers and businesses almost \$34 billion in 2015 alone. The Weatherization Assistance Program to help low income families, also under the EERE budget, would be zeroed out. The EERE program brought down the costs of LED light bulbs as well.

The DOE has also redirected its alternative energy funding resources to a North Carolina tech site. Much of the funding goes to New Hampshire utilities and some to fuel assistance and state and local programs. Somehow Carolyn ended up learning that a bipartisan group of northeastern and mid-Atlantic states are considering a gas tax to fund mass transit, EV charging infrastructure, and other infrastructure improvements to wean themselves from fossil fuels. The [Georgetown Climate Center](#) has more.

## Other Resources

[Environmental Working Group](#) A good resource but a bit behind the times on the pandemic.

[Consumer Information.](#) The new Consumer Protection Agency is a like a national directory of state and local consumer resources.

[Tax Policy Center](#) Now called TaxVox, it keep up with issues that may affect your tax bracket. Tax preparers don't always have the time to look out for your own interests.

[Consumer Information](#) (USDOE)

[Consumer Supported Agriculture Links](#) (USDA-Natl. Agric. Library)

[USDA Veg-U Info](#)

[Coop Directory- States](#) (Good links)

[National Center for Appropriate Technology](#) (NCAT)

[Rocky Mountain Institute](#)

[National Geographic](#)

[Science News](#)

[Michigan Land Use Institute](#)

[World's Most Ethical Companies](#) rates companies who want to pass the "integrity" test. This must mean Corporate America wants to improve their image.

[Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences](#)