

American horseshoe crabs – occasionally found on our northeast Florida beaches – are ancient, body-armored arthropods with 10 eyes and a long, spiked tail. Over the past three decades, populations have plummeted in their largest stronghold, the Delaware Bay. That’s partly due to [biomedical companies harvesting them and draining their blue blood](#), which is used to find toxins in drugs and medical devices. Although Europe has started embracing synthetic alternatives, U.S. companies have been slow to switch.

A standards-setting group for the pharmaceutical industry has finally announced a move away from its longtime endorsement of horseshoe crab blood over synthetic options in drug-testing.

LINK: <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2024/07/horseshoe-crabs-get-help-by-way-of-new-drug-standards/?emci=a07a96f5-f754-ef11-991a-6045bddbfc4b&emdi=51bedf2b-c955-ef11-991a-6045bddbfc4b&ceid=1955550>

2024 or 2004, you tell me? 23% of members of Congress appear to be [climate deniers](#) based on their statements. That’s an INCREASE, despite mountains of anecdotal and scientific research plainly pointing it out. Evidence of the increasingly antagonistic approach to nature and science fostered by the right wing of America’s political spectrum.

LINK: <https://www.ecowatch.com/climate-change-deniers-congress-2024.html>

What is [Kamala Harris’ record on climate](#) policy as vice president?

How about Democratic vice-presidential pick Tim Waltz [record on climate](#) and the environment as Minnesota governor?

LINK: <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/article/2024/aug/05/kamala-harris-landmark-climate-change-law>

LINK: <https://grist.org/politics/the-climate-vice-president-what-tim-walz-brings-to-the-harris-ticket/>

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced [a super-rare emergency order](#) this week suspending all use of a herbicide known to cause irreversible developmental damage to human fetuses. The ban is effective immediately.

If the poison – and that’s what “icides” (herbicide, pesticide, insecticide, rodenticide) are, poison – is that dangerous to humans, you can imagine what it does to native plants, insects, birds and other wildlife.

LINK: <https://grist.org/food-and-agriculture/farmworker-advocates-celebrate-rare-epa-ban-of-toxic-pesticide/>

Closer to home, anglers are at odds with the enormous quantities of poison the Fish and Wildlife “Conservation” commission are using [to combat invasive hydrilla on Florida’s lakes](#).

Remarkable details and quotes in this story.

LINK: https://www.theledger.com/story/news/environment/2024/08/01/polk-county-angler-says-the-fwc-is-killing-everything-thats-natural/74459649007/?utm_source=nled-

[DailyBriefing&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=daily-briefing&utm_term=hero&utm_content=FLORIDA-LAKELAND-NLETTER65](https://www.dailybriefing.com/?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=daily-briefing&utm_term=hero&utm_content=FLORIDA-LAKELAND-NLETTER65)

In other pesticide news, conservation groups [won a lawsuit](#) against a federal program allowing insecticide spraying on millions of acres in 17 western states.

Overseen and funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the program was created to kill grasshoppers and crickets who compete with livestock for forage. Two of those animals – grasshoppers and crickets – are native to the landscape and belong there, the other – livestock – has been introduced.

A judge ruled the program failed to consider how its toxic chemicals can also kill insects who support a rich diversity of western wildlife — including iconic and declining species like greater sage grouse.

LINK: <https://www.courthousenews.com/environmentalists-prevail-in-lawsuit-over-feds-grasshopper-suppression-program/?emci=a07a96f5-f754-ef11-991a-6045bddbfc4b&emdi=51bedf2b-c955-ef11-991a-6045bddbfc4b&ceid=1955550>

Sticking with the insecticide theme, the federal Environmental Protection Agency has drafted a new document of policy guidelines offering greater protection to native plant and animal species from poison. Imagine this, 24 million pounds of insecticides used on 83 million acres of agriculture each year in the lower 48 states. That's just commercial agriculture. How much more is being sprayed on lawns?

LINK: https://biologicaldiversity.org/w/news/press-releases/epa-releases-new-strategy-to-protect-endangered-plants-animals-from-insecticides-2024-07-25/?utm_source=eeo&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=eeo1256&utm_term=EnvHealth&emci=81a61f32-c84e-ef11-86c3-6045bdd9e096&emdi=d017ebec-3f50-ef11-86c3-6045bdee6681&ceid=1955550

The United States accounts for nearly [a quarter of all insecticide dispersed](#) on the planet annually. It's everywhere. As a result, we all have traces of it in our bodies.

LINK: <https://www.brookings.edu/articles/us-pesticide-regulation-is-failing-the-hardest-hit-communities-its-time-to-fix-it/>

What would make a DRAMATIC and instant impact on combating the extinction crisis while improving human health for billions, using fewer pesticides/insecticides – another tremendous advantage of native plants.