



# ***MassWildlife News***

*Commonwealth of Massachusetts – Division of Fisheries and Wildlife*  
Wayne F. MacCallum, *Director*

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Phone: (508) 389-6300, Fax: (508) 389-7890, Email: [Mass.Wildlife@state.ma.us](mailto:Mass.Wildlife@state.ma.us)

Visit our Website! [www.mass.gov/masswildlife](http://www.mass.gov/masswildlife)

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Media Inquiries: Call (617) 626-1129

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## ***WILDLIFE HABITAT PROTECTION PROGRAM ACHIEVES 200K “LAND”MARK***

This past fiscal year, with the acquisition of [3,525 acres of land](#), over 200,000 acres of wildlife habitat are now jointly protected by MassWildlife and the Department of Fish and Game (DFG). These lands are open to the public for hunting, fishing, watching wildlife, and other outdoor recreation. State wildlife and environmental officials, legislative aides, media, representatives from sportsmen’s clubs, land trusts, statewide conservation organizations, federal agencies, and other conservation-minded citizens gathered at the Maple Hill Wildlife Management Area in West Stockbridge to celebrate this remarkable accomplishment.

“Governor Patrick’s historic commitment to open space protection has resulted in approximately 40,000 of these acres conserved since 2007,” said Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Rick Sullivan. “I thank DFG and the many conservation organizations and individuals who contributed to this achievement.” Secretary Sullivan commented that over the past 6 years more than \$64 million were invested for wildlife land protection. Land conservation in the Bay State depends on partnerships and financial support from conservation organizations, land trusts, sportsmen, and conservation-minded landowners as well as the state and federal government. DFG Commissioner Mary Griffin thanked all parties who have been involved in the agencies’ efforts. “We are very grateful to the 75 partners that have worked with us and appreciate the support of all people in Massachusetts who contributed to the milestone achievement of protecting 200,000 acres.” DFG and MassWildlife jointly administer the [land protection program](#).

MassWildlife’s commitment to wildlife land conservation dates back to the early 1900s, but prior to 1954 the agency managed only 3,375 acres. In 1968, with the support of sportsmen, \$1 per license provided a small but reliable source of funding which enabled MassWildlife to purchase more land, increasing the agency’s holdings to just over 46,000 acres by 1983.

The passage of the first open space bond bill in 1983 and subsequent bond bills made significant wildlife habitat protection efforts by DFG and MassWildlife possible. In addition, sportsmen-initiated legislation in 1990 provided an additional source of stable funding. Anyone purchasing a fishing, hunting, or trapping license is required to

purchase a \$5.00 Wildlands Conservation Stamp (Land Stamp). Land Stamp funding may only be used to acquire important wildlife habitat that is open to hunting, fishing, trapping and other wildlife-related recreation. In the past 13 years, Land Stamp funds (\$28 million) alone resulted in the protection of approximately 30,000 acres for wildlife and people. The combination of both open space bond funds and Land Stamp revenue were the key to achieving the benchmark 200,000 acres of protected wildlife lands.

“Sportsmen and women have long played an important part in the conservation of wildlife lands,” said MassWildlife Director Wayne MacCallum. “Since the passage of the 1990 sportsmen-initiated legislation requiring the purchase of a Wildlands Conservation Stamp, the amount of state wildlife lands has increased from fewer than 50,000 acres to more than 200,000 acres.” He noted that even during tough economic times, the state’s overall commitment to funding open space bonds and Land Stamp funds for land protection remained strong.

Reiterating the value of the sporting community’s contributions, longtime Chairman of the Fisheries and Wildlife Board, George Darey said, “The protection of open space for wildlife and the citizens of Massachusetts now and for the future has been a major priority of the Fisheries and Wildlife Board. We are mindful of and very appreciative of the sporting public’s willingness to shoulder some of those costs.”

Information about the DFG/MassWildlife Land Protection Program and related links are posted on the MassWildlife website at: [www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dfg/dfw/wildlife-habitat-conservation/land-acquisition-and-protection.html](http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dfg/dfw/wildlife-habitat-conservation/land-acquisition-and-protection.html).

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### ***NEW ONLINE GAME CHECK TUTORIALS POSTED***

New tutorials providing step-by-step instructions on how to check turkey, bear, deer and most furbearers have recently been posted on the MassWildlife Game Check Information webpage at: <http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dfg/dfw/hunting-fishing-wildlife-watching/hunting/game-check-information.html>. This is the first year hunters are able to report “or check” their harvested deer, bear, turkey, and most furbearers online by logging on to [MassFishHunt](#). Hunters must complete the checking/reporting procedure BEFORE processing any game or furbearers for the table, freezer, fur buyer, or taxidermist. Deer hunters are reminded that during shotgun deer season (December 2-14, 2013) all harvested deer must be checked at an official check station. Reporting deer at check stations during these 2 weeks allows biologists to collect valuable data needed for deer management. The MassFishHunt system will not allow online checking of deer during shotgun deer season.

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### ***AVOID DECORATING WITH INVASIVE PLANTS***

During the holiday season, many people use plant material gathered from their yard to decorate their houses or businesses. The Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (DFW) and the Department of Agricultural Resources (DAR) encourage people to avoid using exotic, invasive plants such as Oriental bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*) and Multiflora rose (*Rosa multiflora*) in holiday decorations. Though these plants are attractive, it is best not to use them. Birds eat fruits from wreaths and garlands and the digested, but still-viable seeds, sprout where deposited. Exotic, invasive plants create severe environmental damage, invading open fields, forests, wetlands, meadows, and backyards, and crowding out native plants. Bittersweet can grow over and even kill mature trees. These invasive plants are extremely difficult to control: when cut off, the remaining plant segment in the ground will re-sprout. It is illegal to import or sell Oriental bittersweet and Multiflora rose in any form (e.g. plants, cuttings, or wreaths) in Massachusetts.

Home and business property gardeners, garden club members, nursery staff, landscapers and conservationists can learn more about invasive plants from DFW’s “A Guide to Invasive Plants.” The guide includes invasive plant descriptions, photographs, the plant’s regulatory status, key identification characteristics, habitats where the plant is

likely to be found, type of threat the plant poses to native species and their habitats, its current distribution, and place of origin. Similar plant species are also briefly described to aid in plant identification.

To purchase a guide, stop in the Field Headquarters office in West Boylston (note new address) during business hours or send a request to "Invasive Plant Guide," DFW Field HQ, NHESP, 100 Hartwell Street, Suite 230, West Boylston, MA, 01583, and include a check for \$5 (per copy) payable to: Comm. of Mass.--NHESP. Sorry, but DFW does not accept credit cards. Learn more about invasive plants from DFW's Natural Heritage webpage at:

<http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dfg/dfw/natural-heritage/land-protection-and-management/invasive-species/invasive-plants.html>. Find this and other NHESP publications at:

<http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dfg/dfw/natural-heritage/publications-forms/publications/>.

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### ***PRELIMINARY 2013 SEPTEMBER BEAR SEASON NUMBERS***

Licensed black bear hunters took to the woods of western and central Massachusetts during the September season and emerged with 120 bruins. The new online reporting system was used for first time for the black bear season. Hunters checked 82 bears using the online system and 38 bears were checked at check stations. Rifles, muzzleloaders, archery equipment, and revolvers were permitted during the September season. The second bear season begins November 4 and ends November 23, 2013. Bear hunters are reminded that revolvers are prohibited during the November season. Bear hunters can also report their November bear harvest using the new online system or take their bear to a check station.

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### ***CONNECT YOUTH TO NATURE THROUGH DUCK STAMP ART***

The Massachusetts Junior Duck Stamp (JDS) Program is looking for youth artists to submit duck stamp art entries in a statewide competition. Any student, from kindergarten through grade 12, regardless of whether they attend public school, private school, or home school, can create artwork for this fun and educational competition. The dynamic JDS curriculum first allows students to learn about the habitat requirements of various kinds of ducks and geese, and then to express their knowledge of the beauty and diversity of these species artistically by creating a drawing or painting. Students may then submit original works to the Massachusetts Junior Duck Stamp art contest. The art is judged in four age group categories in a statewide competition, and the entry judged Best of Show moves on to represent Massachusetts in the national JDS competition.

Teachers, parents, scout leaders, and other educators looking to connect their students with nature through science and art can find detailed information including entry forms, competition rules, and examples of winning artwork at our website. The entry deadline is March 15, 2014. For more information contact Pam Landry, Wildlife Education Specialist, at (508) 389-6310, or [pam.landry@state.ma.us](mailto:pam.landry@state.ma.us).

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### ***UPCOMING PUBLIC MEETINGS***

- **November 14 –[Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Advisory Committee Meeting, West Boylston](#) –** The NHESP Advisory Committee will meet at the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife's Field Headquarters, 100 Hartwell Street in West Boylston on Thursday, November 14, 2013 from 1:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. The building is handicapped accessible. Call (508) 389-6360 for further information and directions.
- **November 26 – [Fisheries and Wildlife Board Meeting, West Boylston](#) –** The Fisheries & Wildlife Board will meet on Tuesday, November 26, 2013 at 11:00 a.m. at the Division of Fisheries & Wildlife Field Headquarters,

100 Hartwell St, Suite 230, West Boylston, MA. The building is handicapped accessible. Call (508) 389-6300 for further information and directions.

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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Visit <http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dfg/dfw/education-events/calendar-of-events.html> for updated listings.

- **November 2 – Restoring Sea Run Brook Trout to Southeastern Massachusetts, Wellfleet** – Southeast District Fisheries Manager, Steve Hurley, will make a presentation at the 11th Annual State of Wellfleet Harbor Conference. The conference is Saturday, November 2, 2013 from 8:30 a.m.–2 p.m. at the Wellfleet Elementary School, 100 Lawrence Road, Wellfleet. The conference is free, open to the public, and handicapped accessible. For more information visit [http://www.massaudubon.org/Nature\\_Connection/Sanctuaries/Wellfleet/news.php?id=1765&event=no](http://www.massaudubon.org/Nature_Connection/Sanctuaries/Wellfleet/news.php?id=1765&event=no).
- **November 2 – Biennial Biodiversity Research Conference, Nantucket** – DFW Restoration Ecologist, Tim Simmons will present “The Status of the Northeastern Beach Tiger Beetle in Massachusetts” at the Conference sponsored by the Nantucket Biodiversity Initiative. The conference runs from November 1 – November 3 and is free and open to the public. Pre-registration is required. For more information go to [www.nantucketbiodiversityinitiative.org](http://www.nantucketbiodiversityinitiative.org).
- **November 5 – Bird Conservation in the Commonwealth, Pittsfield** – Hoffman Bird Club will host a talk by State Ornithologist Andrew Vitz at 7:00 p.m. The emphasis of the talk will be current and future projects including those on grassland birds, shrubland birds, mature-forest birds, American Kestrels, Bald Eagles, and Peregrine Falcons. This is part of the monthly meeting held at Berkshire Life Insurance, 700 South St., Pittsfield. The venue is handicapped accessible and the event is free and open to anyone interested in birds. Come enjoy the scheduled program and light refreshments. For more information visit <http://www.hoffmannbirdclub.org/meetings.html>.
- **November 7 – “The Black Bear in Massachusetts”, Westford** – DFW Wildlife Technician, Sue Ingalls, will cover black bear natural history, research efforts, management practices, and human/wildlife interactions at the Westford Conservation Trust Annual Meeting. This public meeting begins at 7 p.m. and is located at the Mary Atwood room in the J.V. Fletcher Library, 50 Main Street, Westford. A short business meeting will precede Ms. Ingalls’ presentation. The library is handicapped accessible. Refreshments will be available. For more information go to <http://www.westfordconservationtrust.org/>.
- **November 16 – “The Eastern Wild Turkey in Massachusetts”, Wellfleet** – Sue Ingalls, DFW Wildlife Technician, will give a talk at MassAudubon’s Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary, 291 State Highway, Route 6, South Wellfleet, at 3:00 p.m. Ingalls will speak about the biology, behavior, and management of wild turkeys in the Commonwealth. [Pre-registration](#) is required. There is a fee of \$11.00 for nonmembers and \$9.00 for members. The venue is handicapped accessible.
- **November 16 – Project WILD/Aquatic WILD Workshop for Educators, Northfield** – Join educators of all kinds for this fun, hands-on workshop from 8am - 4pm that focuses on both the [Project WILD](#) and Project Aquatic WILD activity guides. This workshop is offered by the Northfield Mountain Environmental Center. Northfield. Project WILD/Aquatic WILD are interdisciplinary, conservative and environmental education programs that emphasize wildlife, aquatic wildlife, aquatic ecosystems, people and the environment. The activities, which correlate to the MA Curriculum Frameworks, cover many subject areas for students in grades K-8. They are "hands-on" and easily integrated into units on adaptations, endangered species, life cycles, senses, seasons, classification, migration, animal behavior, and ecosystems. Educators can receive 8 to 12 hours toward professional development after completing the workshop requirements. The workshop will take place both indoors and outdoors so please dress appropriately. Pre-registration is required. To register, contact: Kim Noyes at [kim.noyes@gdfsuezna.com](mailto:kim.noyes@gdfsuezna.com) or (413) 659-4462. Please bring a brown bag lunch, mug or water bottle

and wear comfortable clothes & footgear for outdoor activities. Project WILD is sponsored by DFW and the Mass. Wildlife Federation.

- **November 21 – Black Bears in Massachusetts, Groton** – Trina Moruzzi, DFW Biologist, will present at the Nashua River Watershed Association meeting at 7 p.m. The meeting will take place at the NRWA River Resource Center, 592 Main Street (Rt. 119) in Groton. The building is handicapped accessible and the meeting is free and open to the public. For more information visit <http://www.nashuariverwatershed.org/>.

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