



# ***MassWildlife News***

*Commonwealth of Massachusetts – Division of Fisheries and Wildlife*

Wayne F. MacCallum, *Director*

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**4/30/14 #5**

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***FISH WITH MASSWILDLIFE FOR FREE!***

Fishing is a great way to spend some quality outdoor time with family and friends. If you are a beginner who wants to try this wonderful pastime, take family and friends to a free Family Fishing Festival near you! No fishing license is needed by participants of any age at these events. The Division of Fisheries & Wildlife's (MassWildlife) Angler Education Program has teamed up with a variety of groups and organizations to provide free fishing opportunities and instruction for beginning anglers of all ages. If you have fishing equipment, take it along. A limited quantity of loaner fishing equipment and bait will be available at most events. Fishing events for the month of May are listed below and more are posted on the MassWildlife's website in the [Calendar of Events](#). Don't forget that the statewide Free Fishing Weekend is June 7- 8, 2014! Recreational anglers may fish on both fresh and salt water in Massachusetts for free (no license or permit needed) during that weekend in June.

- **May 3 – Needham Recreation Family Fishing Derby, Needham** – This event will be held at Needham Reservoir from 9:00am – Noon. Contact: Needham Recreation Department, Karen Pierce (781) 455-7521.
- **May 3 – Snows Pond Family Fishing Festival, Charlton** – The event will be held at Snows Pond located at Fay Mountain Farm off 12 Cemetery Road from 10:00am - 2:00pm. Contact: Charlton Conservation Commission, Todd Girard (508) 248-2247 or email: [todd.girard@townofcharlton.net](mailto:todd.girard@townofcharlton.net).

- **May 3 – Westborough Spring Fishing Challenge, Westborough** – Held at Sandra Pond at Minuteman Park, 123 Upton Road in Westborough from 9:00am -1:00pm. DFW's Angler Education Program is loaning a limited quantity of fishing equipment at this event. Contact Jim Lagacy at (508) 389-6309 or email [jim.lagacy@state.ma.us](mailto:jim.lagacy@state.ma.us).
- **May 4 – Brookline Reservoir Family Fishing Festival, Brookline** – From 9:00am - Noon at the Brookline Reservoir Contact the Brookline Recreation Department, Stephanie Springer at [sspringer@brooklinema.gov](mailto:sspringer@brooklinema.gov).
- **May 10 – Coes Pond Fishing Derby, Worcester** – Held on the shores of Coes Pond, from 8:00am - 11:00am. DFW's Angler Education Program is participating in this festival in cooperation with the Worcester Fish & Game Association. Contact Jim Lagacy at (508) 389-6309 or email [jim.lagacy@state.ma.us](mailto:jim.lagacy@state.ma.us).
- **May 17 – Disabled American Veterans Fishing Festival, Marlborough** – This special festival is open only to disabled veterans at the Marlborough Fish and Game Club, 10:00 - 2:00pm. Contact Jim Lagacy at (508) 389-6309 or [jim.lagacy@state.ma.us](mailto:jim.lagacy@state.ma.us).
- **May 17 – Burlington Recreation Department Family Fishing Festival, Burlington** – Held on Burlington Reservoir, from 9:00 am – Noon. DFW's Angler Education Program is participating in this festival in cooperation with the Burlington Recreation Department. Contact the Burlington Recreation Department at (781) 270-1695 for more details.
- **May 18 – Whitman's Pond Family Fishing Festival, Weymouth** – Held on the shores of Whitman Pond, from 10:00am – 1:00pm. DFW's Angler Education Program is participating in this festival in cooperation with the Whitman's Pond Association and Weymouth Youth and Family Services. Contact Marie Feely at (781) 340-6976 for more details.

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### ***KEEP WILDLIFE WILD, LEAVE YOUNG WILDLIFE ALONE***

The arrival of spring means the arrival of newborn and just-hatched wildlife. These youngsters soon venture into the world on shaky legs or fragile wings and are discovered by people living, playing, or working nearby. Every year, the lives of many young wild creatures are disturbed by people who take young wildlife from the wild in a well-intentioned attempt to "save" them.

These well-meant acts of kindness tend to have the opposite result. Instead of being left to learn their place in the world, young wildlife removed from the wild are denied important natural learning experiences which help them survive on their own. Most people quickly find that they can't really care for young wildlife, and many of the animals soon die in the hands of well-meaning people. Young wildlife that does survive human "assistance" miss experiences that teach them to fend for themselves. If these animals are released back into the wild, their chances of survival are reduced. Often, the care given to young wildlife results in some attachment to humans and the animals may return to places where people live, only to be attacked by domestic animals, or hit by cars. Some animals become nuisances and people have been injured by once-“tamed” wildlife.

Avoid these problems by following one simple rule when coming upon young wildlife: If You Care, Leave Them There! It may be difficult to do, but this is a real act of compassion. Generally young mammals are visited by the adults only a few times a day to avoid leaving traces that attract predators. For instance, a nest of bunnies will only be visited by the adult female twice per day to nurse the young. The young wildlife are quite safe when left alone because their color patterns and lack of scent help them remain undetected. Avoid nest and den areas of young wildlife and restrain all pets. What if you find a young bird that has fallen from a nest? Baby birds found on the ground may be safely picked up and placed in a nearby bush or tree. Adult birds (and other kinds of wildlife) are not disturbed by human scent and will not abandon their young if handled by people.

Leave fawns (young deer) where they are found. Fawns are safest when left alone because their camouflaging color helps them remain undetected until the doe returns. If sympathetic people repeatedly visit a fawn, it can prolong the separation from the doe and delay needed feeding. Unlike deer, newborn moose calves remain in close proximity to their mothers who, in contrast to a white-tailed doe, will actively defend calves against danger. An adult cow moose weighing over 600 pounds will chase, kick or stomp potential predators, people included.

Only when young wildlife are found injured or with their dead mother may the young be assisted, but must then be delivered immediately to a licensed wildlife rehabilitator. Due to the difficulty in properly caring for them there are no rehabilitators licensed to care for fawns. It is illegal to possess most wildlife in Massachusetts without a permit. Information on young wildlife and a list of wildlife rehabilitators is posted on the [MassWildlife website](#).

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### ***PRELIMINARY SPRING EAGLE COUNT RESULTS***

On April 4, 2014, the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (DFW) conducted a statewide Spring Eagle Survey. Agency staff and other interested citizen volunteers checked known eagle territories and explored areas with potential eagle habitat to verify continued use of "old" nests and to search for "new" eagle nests. The preliminary results of these efforts yielded a total of 37 active eagle nests throughout the Commonwealth. These preliminary numbers do not include any birds from the Quabbin where it's expected there will be a similar number of nesting eagles as there were in 2013 (11 territorial pairs). Ice conditions on Quabbin Reservoir prevented the usual boating survey on April 14 and a later trip was postponed due to high winds. A survey will take place by mid-May. The highest number of active nests (11), were documented along the Massachusetts stretch of the Connecticut River. Four nests were documented along the Merrimack River. Individual nests were located throughout the state, with number of nests in the Berkshires (Lake Buel and Onota Lake), Central Massachusetts (Wachusett Reservoir and Pine Hill Reservoir), and the southeastern section of the state (Assawompsett Pond and Halfway Pond). A total of 4 new nests were reported this year in Ipswich, Lenox, Northbridge, and Royalston.

Bald Eagles have increased in numbers in the state ever since they were reintroduced to the Quabbin Reservoir in the 1980s. Andrew Vitz, DFW State Ornithologist expects final results will indicate that a record number of eagles is nesting in Massachusetts. "With higher

numbers of eagles establishing nesting territories throughout their range, we can't possibly cover the entire state." said Vitz. "Citizen spotters play an important role in our survey efforts. We had 30 volunteers actively participate in the count and have received dozens of e-mails this spring reporting eagle sightings. Several of the new nests were first discovered and reported to us by the public."

Vitz thanks everyone who participated in this count, especially to Department of Conservation and Recreation for reservoir survey efforts and all the volunteers who dedicated their time to looking for eagles. He encourages anyone to submit eagle sightings during the breeding period (April-August) to MassWildlife's electronic [Vernal Pool and Rare Species VPRS Information System](#), an online data submittal and mapping application. Sighting reports can also be sent to: [natural.heritage@state.ma.us](mailto:natural.heritage@state.ma.us) or by postal mail to "Eagle Survey", DFW, Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program, 100 Hartwell Street, Suite 230, West Boylston, MA 01583.

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## ***YOUTH OUTDOOR WRITING CONTEST WINNERS***

The New England Outdoor Writers Association (NEOWA) recently announced the winners of its 2014 Youth Writing Contest and two young Massachusetts writers from Belchertown and one youth writer from Hudson were among the winners. Young people from across New England are eligible to participate in the contest. Entries may not exceed 500 words and must pertain to an outdoor-oriented topic including but not limited to: hunting, fishing, boating, archery, shooting, field trials, sporting dogs, camping, woodcraft, diving, hiking, rock climbing, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, wildlife watching, natural history, conservation, ecology, and similar activities. A Junior Division includes students in grades 6-8, and the Senior Division includes grades 9-12. There is also an At-Large competition for youths who are home-schooled or whose schools are not participating. Two entries are also selected as Best Overall essays.

One of the Best Overall New England essays was written by a Massachusetts student, "Walking in a Bog," by Rebecca Anacheke-Nasemann, a 6<sup>th</sup> grader, home-schooled in Hudson. She was also the Massachusetts Junior At-Large winner and received cash prizes totaling \$275 and a NEOWA certificate. Her winning essay will be published in the *Northwoods Sporting Journal*. Jordan Gamache, a 10<sup>th</sup> grader from Belchertown High School, Belchertown won the Massachusetts Senior Division and Quinn Roche, an 8<sup>th</sup> grader from Jabish Brook Middle School in Belchertown won the Massachusetts Junior Division. Each young writer was awarded a \$125 cash prize.

"The Youth Writing Contest is a new endeavor, developed to provide an incentive for kids to get involved in outdoor recreation and writing," said Randy Julius, president of NEOWA. "This is the second year for the contest and we hope to inspire more New England students to write about their outdoor experiences." For more information about the 2015 Youth Writing Contest, visit the NEOWA website ([www.neowa.org](http://www.neowa.org)) or contact Massachusetts State Contest Chairs Mike Roche at [mikeroche3@msn.com](mailto:mikeroche3@msn.com) or Randy Julius at [randyjulius@verizon.net](mailto:randyjulius@verizon.net).

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## ***UPCOMING PUBLIC MEETINGS***


**May 14 – Fisheries and Wildlife Board Meeting, Dalton** – The May meeting of the Fisheries and Wildlife Board will be held on Wednesday, May 14, 2014, at 12:00 noon, at the Division of Fisheries & Wildlife's Western District Office, 88 Old Windsor Road, Dalton. [Click here for Directions](#) or call MassWildlife at (413) 684-1646 for more information.

**May 15 – Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Advisory Committee Meeting, West Boylston** – The Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Advisory Committee will meet on Thursday, May 15, 2014, at the DFW Field Headquarters Office located at 100 Hartwell Street, Suite 230, West Boylston from 1:30- 4:30 P.M. in Conference Room A. [Click here for Directions](#) or call MassWildlife at (508) 389-6360 for more information.

## ***CALENDAR OF EVENTS***

**May 3 – Cape Cod Community Science & Nature Expo for Families, Hyannis --** MassWildlife will be staffing a booth for the General Public event sponsored by the Barnstable Recreation Division at the Hyannis Youth and Community Center. The event will take place from Noon – 4PM. For more information, contact the Barnstable Recreation Division at Office: (508) 790-6345.

**May 3 – Bristol County Agricultural High School Spring Exposition, Dighton –** MassWildlife will be staffing a table at this free family-friendly event from 10am – 3pm at the Bristol County Agricultural High School on 135 Center Street in Dighton. The event highlights businesses, organizations, and agencies working in fields related to the environment, agriculture, conservation, and/or the enjoyment of the outdoors. Expo visitors will learn about exciting local and regional products, services, events, and recreation opportunities. Parking is free.

**May 17 – Growing Up WILD Professional Development Workshop, Medford** – Pre-school educators are invited to this fun, hands-on, 6-hour workshop that focuses on early childhood education. The Growing Up WILD Activity Guide builds on a children's sense of wonder about nature and invites them to explore wildlife and the world around them. The workshop takes place at Graceworks Child Care Program, Grace Episcopal Church, 160 High Street in Medford from 9:00am to 3:30pm. [Click here to for more information about this workshop](#) . Please contact Pam Landry at [pam.landry@state.ma.us](mailto:pam.landry@state.ma.us) or (508) 389-6310 for registration details. Registration deadline is May 2.

**May 24 – Arch Bridge Trail Work Day at Walnut Hill WMA, Chester --** Join the Wild & Scenic Volunteers, from 9am to 3pm for a work day on the Keystone Arch Bridge Trail. Sign up ahead of time and meet at the Chester Railroad station in Chester at 9am. From there, participants will car pool to the Keystone Arch Bridge Trail. Participants will hike in to the locations where invasive Norway Maples have been identified. Brian Hawthorne, MassWildlife Wildlife Habitat Manager will be leading a work. Volunteers should bring gloves, their favorite hand saw, or clippers and pack plenty of food and water for the day. Contact Meredyth Babcock at [walkinthewatershed@hotmail.com](mailto:walkinthewatershed@hotmail.com) or call (413) 623-2070 with questions and sign up for one of the crews.

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Visit our website at: [www.mass.gov/masswildlife](http://www.mass.gov/masswildlife)

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