



MassWildlife News

Commonwealth of Massachusetts – Division of Fisheries and Wildlife
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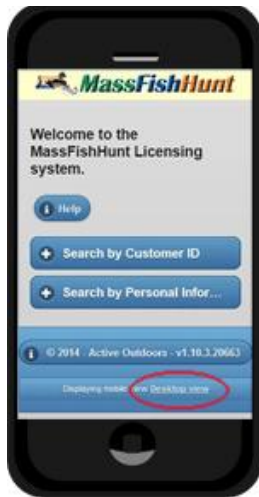
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HUNTERS HAVE OPTIONS FOR HARVEST REPORTING

When reporting (“checking”) a harvest online, it is easiest to use a desktop computer. However, if you choose to use a mobile device to check a harvest, please consider the following: mobile device users should click *Desktop View* at the bottom of the screen (see photo). If *Desktop view* is not selected, users cannot access the *Report a Harvest* feature. [Visit our website for more on game checking.](#)

The early Black Bear hunting season runs from September 2 to September 20. Successful hunters may report a harvest online or at a checkstation. See our website for a [full guide to online bear checking](#), [information about bear checking](#), and a [map of checkstations](#) in Massachusetts.

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SUNDAY HUNTING STILL PROHIBITED

Due to recent public inquiries about Sunday hunting in Massachusetts, the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife advises all hunters that hunting on Sundays is still prohibited in Massachusetts. A bill to allow bowhunting on Sundays had been passed by the House in June, but did not get passed by the full legislature. Consider sharing this information with hunting friends, clubs, and other sporting groups.

MASSWILDLIFE STAFF MOVES BACK TO WESTBOROUGH

As of September 8, the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife Field Headquarters staff will be back in operation in Westborough. The new state-of-the-art, energy-neutral Headquarters building, which has been under construction for the past two years, is located on the footprint of the old building on the Westborough Wildlife Management Area. Phone numbers and email addresses for Field Headquarters staff will remain the same. The street and mailing address is 1 Rabbit Hill Road, Westborough, MA 01581.

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OUTDOOR FAMILY FUN AT THE BIG MOE

Experience the [Massachusetts Outdoor Expo](#) (“The Big MOE”) on September 28, 2014 at the Hamilton Rod and Gun Club grounds in Sturbridge from 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. This free, family-oriented event celebrates outdoor skills, nature, art, and wildlife. Stations include sporting dog demonstrations, animal tracks, fishing skills, nature crafts, bird box building, kayaking, trap shooting, and many more.

New this year: State Ornithologist Drew Vitz has developed a station called Introduction to Birding in Massachusetts. Stop by this station to hear recorded bird songs and get tips for viewing and identifying birds in the forest and field. Also, don’t miss the new and improved Bears of Massachusetts station, which will now include a barrel trap used by biologists to trap and collar bears.

The Big MOE is in need of enthusiastic, outdoor-oriented volunteers willing to assist or host skills stations. Clubs, conservation organizations, and outdoor-oriented businesses wishing to host a skill station, assist others at an existing station, or make a donation are welcome. For more information on volunteering or exhibiting, contact Gary Zima at (508) 389-6314 or by email at gary.zima@state.ma.us.

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SURPLUS ANTLERLESS DEER PERMIT SALE DATES ANNOUNCED

MassWildlife announces the sale of Surplus Antlerless Deer Permits by [Wildlife Management Zone](#) will be staggered over the following days in October:

- Zone 11 permits will go on sale Tuesday, October 7th at 8 A.M.
- Zone 10 permits will go on sale Wednesday, October 8th at 8 A.M.
- Zone 13 and 14 permits will go on sale Thursday, October 9th at 8 A.M.

Once on sale, permits will remain available until sold out in each Wildlife Management Zone. Surplus permits may be purchased through [MassFishHunt](#), at a [license vendor location](#), or at a [DFW office](#). Visit our website for [step-by-step instructions for purchasing a Surplus Antlerless Deer](#) Permit.

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DRIVERS, BRAKE FOR MOOSE AND DEER THIS FALL

Because fall is the breeding season for both moose and white-tailed deer, the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife reminds motorists to be mindful of increased deer and moose activity, especially during early morning and evening hours. Moose, found in central and western parts of MA, breed in September and October. White-tailed deer breed from late October to early December.

Moose on the road are especially hazardous. The dark color and height of moose make them difficult to see at night; moose eyes rarely shine like deer eyes because their eyes are above headlight levels. In addition, long legs and top heavy bodies make moose very dangerous to motorists when struck.

Observe road signs for moose and deer crossings and slow down. Do not swerve to avoid hitting a deer because it may lead to more risk and damage than hitting the deer. Moose are less likely to move from the road than deer; so stay alert and brake when you see a moose in or near the road.

By law, after a moose or deer/car collision, drivers or passengers are allowed to keep deer they have hit with their vehicle (salvaged deer must be officially reported). DFW or Environmental Police make decisions regarding the disposal of moose after collisions. All moose or deer/vehicle collisions should be reported to the Environmental Police at (800) 632-8075 or to [DFW Wildlife District offices](#).

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PADDLERS BE SAFE AS WEATHER COOLS

Paddlers in kayaks and canoes must wear life jackets from September 15 to May 15 every year. According to the Massachusetts Environmental Police, most boating fatalities in the Commonwealth result when boaters fail to wear life jackets while in small craft in cold water or cold weather. Waterfowl hunters using canoes or kayaks are reminded that this law also applies to them. [Read more about boating safety](#).

DEER HUNTING OPPORTUNITY FOR PARAPLEGIC HUNTERS

Since 1972, the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife has offered the opportunity for paraplegic sportsmen and sportswomen to hunt deer in several locations across the state during a special three-day season. This year's hunt dates are October 29 – October 31, 2014. Locations include Devens (Harvard/Lancaster), Quabbin Reservation (Belchertown), two properties in northern and southern Berkshire County, and Otis/Edwards Military Reservation (Falmouth). Licensed paraplegic hunters who have an interest in

participating in this hunt should contact Trina Moruzzi at (508) 389-6318 or by email at Trina.Moruzzi@state.ma.us for more details.

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FIRST ANNUAL WORLD SHOREBIRDS DAY CELEBRATION

On September 6, 2014, shorebird enthusiasts from around the world are celebrating the first annual World Shorebirds Day to raise awareness about global shorebird research and conservation efforts. In Massachusetts, the [Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences](#) is hosting two morning shorebird trips and an afternoon reception at their headquarters in Plymouth. The afternoon reception will feature a keynote presentation by Department of Fish and Game Commissioner Mary Griffin, along with talks from Mass Audubon Important Bird Area Coordinator Wayne Peterson, and Manomet's Brad Winn, Brian Harrington, and Meredith G. Morehouse.

Both events are free to attend, but registration is required:

[Registration for Afternoon Reception](#)

[Registration for Shorebird Trips](#)

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MIGRATORY GAME BIRD SEASONS SET

The [2014-15 Migratory Game Bird Regulations](#), including hunting seasons, bag limits, and methods of take, are now available. The early statewide goose season begins Tuesday, September 2, 2014. Hard copies of the regulations will be available at license vendor locations and MassWildlife offices in September.

All migratory game bird hunters are reminded they must complete an online Harvest Information Program (HIP) survey each calendar year. If you have not completed the HIP survey, visit a local license vendor, MassWildlife office, or go to www.mass.gov/massfishhunt to be sure you have completed the survey. Your license must have either the notation "HIP Survey Completed" or "Waterfowl Stamp" when printed. [Read more about migratory game bird hunting.](#)

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UPCOMING PUBLIC MEETINGS AND HEARING

The Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Advisory Committee will not meet in September; the Committee's next meeting is scheduled for October 9, 2014 at the Field Headquarters in Westborough.

September 16 – Fisheries and Wildlife Board Meeting, Dalton – The [Fisheries & Wildlife Board](#) will meet on Tuesday, September 16, 2014 at 12:00 P.M. at the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife's Western District Office located on 88 Old Windsor Road, Dalton.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September 2-20 – [Black Bear Hunting](#) Season in Wildlife Management [Zones 1-9](#)

September 2-25 – Early Canada goose hunting season opens statewide. [See all waterfowl season dates.](#)

September 4-7 – MassWildlife at the Franklin County Fair, Greenfield – Stop by and see MassWildlife staff and displays at the 166th Annual [Franklin County Fair](#).

September 6 - Harold Parker State Forest Family Fishing Festival at Sudden Pond in the Harold Parker State Forest in Andover, 10:00 – 2:00pm This is a free, non-competitive, family-friendly, learn to fish event. Bring your fishing equipment, or borrow ours - limited equipment and bait will be provided. Contact the Harold Parker State Forest at 978-686-3391 for more information.

September 8-18 –[Junior Duck Stamp](#) Traveling Art Exhibit, Shelburne Falls – Interested in making a connection with nature by submitting artwork to the 2015 Massachusetts Junior Duck Stamp Contest? Take inspiration from the traveling exhibit featuring top youth entries from the 2014 Massachusetts Junior Duck Stamp (JDS) Contest. The Traveling JDS Art Exhibit will be at the [Franklin Land Trust](#), 5 Mechanic Street, Shelburne Falls (Buckland).

September 13 – The Berkshire Natural Resource Council Family Fishing Festival in cooperation with Berkshire Community College and MassWildlife at Burbank Park in Pittsfield (off of Valentine Road on Onota Lake), 10:00am - 2:00pm. This is a free, non-competitive, family-friendly, learn to fish event. Bring your fishing equipment, or borrow ours - limited equipment and bait will be provided. Contact Mike Leavitt at MLeavitt@bnrc.net or Jim Lagacy at 508-389-6309 or jim.lagacy@state.ma.us for more information.

September 20 – October 27 –[Junior Duck Stamp](#) Traveling Art Exhibit, Easthampton – Interested in making a connection with nature by submitting artwork to the 2015 Massachusetts Junior Duck Stamp Contest? Take inspiration from the traveling exhibit featuring top youth entries from the 2014 Massachusetts Junior Duck Stamp (JDS) Contest. The Traveling JDS Art Exhibit will be at the [MassAudubon Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary](#), 127 Combs Road in Easthampton.

September 27 – Friends of Myles Standish State Forest 8th Annual “Take Me Fishin’!” Event at Fearing Pond in Myles Standish State Forest, Plymouth – 10:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M. This is a free, non-competitive, family-friendly, learn to fish event. Bring your fishing equipment, or borrow ours - limited equipment and bait will be provided. Contact Rose Mellino at rosemellino@gmail.com for more information.

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