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[Fall Trout Stocking Underway](#)

This fall 74,100 trout, comprised of 66,100 rainbow trout and 8,000 brown trout, will be stocked in Massachusetts water bodies. The fish from McLaughlin, Montague, Sandwich, and Sunderland Hatcheries range in size from about 12 inches to more than 14 inches. Stocking will start after September 28 provided water temperatures are cool enough. Trout have been allocated equally to each of the five [MassWildlife Districts](#).

Due to the short stocking season, fall stocking activity is not posted on the website's stocking schedule. See [Trout Stocked Waters](#) for a list of Massachusetts waters that are usually stocked in the fall. Contact your [local DFW office](#) for more information.

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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 6th at 8 A.M.
- Zone 10 permits will go on sale Wednesday, October 7th at 8 A.M.
- Zone 13 and 14 permits will go on sale Thursday, October 8th 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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[Mobile Harvest Reporting](#)

A new, more user-friendly interface makes it easier to report a harvest online using a mobile device (smart phones, tablets, etc.). Reports may still be made online using a desktop computer. To report a harvest online using a computer or mobile device, visit [MassFishHunt](#). Hunters may report a harvest in person at a traditional check station; for a map of check station locations, please [click here](#).

As always, please remember that online harvest reporting for deer is not available during shotgun season (Nov. 30 – Dec. 12, 2015). Deer must be brought to a traditional check station during that time to allow MassWildlife staff to collect biological information to inform deer management decisions. Bears and coyotes may still be reported online during the shotgun season.

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[Berkshire Natural Resources Council Receives Francis W. Sargent Conservation Award](#)

On September 29, 2015, the Berkshire Natural Resources Council (BNRC) received the Francis W. Sargent Conservation Award from the Massachusetts Fisheries and Wildlife Board for its conservation of the Commonwealth's natural resources and for its contributions to the sporting community. BNRC is the twelfth recipient of the prestigious award, established in 2000 by the Fisheries and Wildlife Board to honor the former governor and noted conservationist who directed the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (DFW) in 1963.

Members of the BNRC, including Board Chairman Tim Crane of Windsor and President/CEO Tad Ames of Williamstown, were on hand to receive the award – a hand-carved wooden loon decoy created by Geoff Walker of Hank Walker Decoys

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Division of Fisheries & Wildlife
1 Rabbit Hill Road
Westborough, MA 01581
(508) 389-6300
Mass.Wildlife@state.ma.us

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of Newbury – at a ceremony held at the Steadman Pond Reserve, Monterey and Tyringham. In addition to Chairman George Darey, the ceremony included other members of the Fisheries and Wildlife Board, DFW Director Jack Buckley, Department of Fish and Game (DFG) Commissioner George Peterson, other state officials, and representatives from the sporting and conservation community.

"We are proud to recognize BNRC for its work to protect special habitats in the Berkshires," said Fisheries and Wildlife Board Chairman George Darey. "This is the first time we have given this award to a group, and the BNRC certainly is deserving of the honor."

The Berkshire Natural Resources Council has been working for more than 45 years protecting the open spaces of Berkshire County to ensure the ecological integrity and public enjoyment of the region's outdoor resources. BNRC owns and manages 8,600 acres and protects an additional 10,011 acres through conservation restrictions.

"Exceptional work has been accomplished through the cooperative efforts of the BNRC and the Division," said DFG Commissioner George Peterson. "This alliance serves as a model for how to maximize land protection through partnerships."

"We applaud the board and staff at BNRC for embracing the importance of habitat management in protecting biodiversity in Massachusetts," said DFW Director Jack Buckley. "We look forward to continuing our partnership with the Council to protect and manage lands in Berkshire County."

A variety of user groups have benefitted from the BNRC/DFW partnership; the sporting community is no exception. Thousands of acres in Berkshire County have been opened for hunting, fishing, and trapping as a result of that cooperation. BNRC Reserves are a great example of how a different user groups can coexist. The importance of hunter access is becoming ever more apparent as wildlife populations expand and proper management is required to maintain social and ecological tolerance.

The partnership between DFW and BNRC has been exceptionally successful. Partnership highlights include:

- 1979 – First partnerships between DFW and BNRC along the Housatonic River in Lenox
- 7,656 – Total acreage protected involving BNRC and DFW
- 19 – Number of WMAs and WCEs where BNRC and DFW have worked cooperatively
- 8.9 million – Total investment to protect lands where BNRC and DFW were involved
- 47 – Number of projects jointly involving BNRC and DFW 1979-2015
- >2,000 – Number of acres under joint management
- 6,000 – Acres protected 2001–present in partnership with BNRC

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Reminder: October 3rd is Youth Deer Hunt Day

A reminder that Massachusetts' first ever Youth Deer Hunt Day is this upcoming Saturday, October 3. MassWildlife created the Youth Deer Hunt Day to provide young people an opportunity to hunt deer with their own permit during a special one-day season that precedes the Commonwealth's regular annual deer hunting seasons. There is still time to purchase a Youth Deer Permit at MassWildlife offices and sporting license vendors before Saturday; permits are not available online for the Youth Deer Hunt. Please share photos of your Youth Deer Hunt Day experience with us on [facebook.com/masswildlife](https://www.facebook.com/masswildlife) using #MAYouthDeerDay

If you have any last minute questions about the Youth Deer Hunt Day, including blaze orange requirements and bag limits, please feel free to contact [your local MassWildlife district office](#) or [click here](#).

If you are participating in Saturday's Youth Deer Day: Please be mindful that this is a popular time of year for other outdoor users such as hikers and campers to be in the field so remember to always use caution. If you are still looking for places to hunt, check out our [MassWildlife Lands Viewer](#) to find properties to hunt near you. If you choose to hunt on Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) property, be sure to visit their website for [regulations](#) and [restrictions](#). Some parks have permitted events on October 3 (walks, running and cycling events) which will involve large numbers of visitors using the property including, but not limited to: including Manuel F. Correllus State Forest, Peddocks Island, Lowell-Dracut - Tyngsboro State Forest, Harold Parker State Forest, and Myles Standish State Forest.

All who participate are reminded that shotgun deer season regulations apply during the Youth Deer Hunt. Remember, if you are successful, you must check your deer within 48 hours. You can check your deer [online](#) on a computer or a smart phone, or at a [traditional game checkstation](#). If you are planning to visit a checkstation, please call ahead to ensure they are open and checking deer for this special hunt.

If you plan on hunting other game during the Youth Deer Day: A few other game species may be hunted during the Youth Deer Hunt Date (October 3, 2015). Hunters must follow additional restrictions and requirements when hunting other game on this date:

- Rifles and handguns: Rifles and handguns are prohibited for hunting any game. (Includes gray squirrel, raccoon, opossum, and crow.)

- Use of dogs: Dogs may not be used for hunting any game on this date except for waterfowl hunting (ducks and geese) on coastal waters and salt marshes.
- Blaze orange: All hunters must wear a minimum of 500 square inches of blaze orange on their chest, back, and head on this date. Waterfowl hunters are required to wear blaze orange in transit to and from their blind or boat. Orange may be removed once the waterfowler is in a blind or boat.

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Stay Safe While Enjoying the Outdoors this Autumn

With its dazzling colors, crisp air, and wildlife activity, fall is a wonderful time to be outdoors. Whether your passion is hiking, hunting, fishing, birding, or just taking in the scenery, a few safety reminders will add to your enjoyment during a day in the field.

- **Know your limits.** Don't take off on a long hike, hunt, or bike ride if you're not physically ready. Tell someone where you're going and when you expect to return.
- **Watch the weather.** New England weather is notorious for quick changes. Be ready with an extra layer of clothing, warm hat and gloves.
- **Expect the unexpected.** No one expects problems while spending a day outdoors, but being ready with a few first aid items, matches, water, pocket knife, cell phone, map, compass, whistle, extra food, and flashlight can help prevent small problems from becoming big ones.
- **Wear blaze orange for visibility.** Whether you're a hunter, hiker, or dog walker in rural areas, it's a good idea to wear a highly visible blaze orange a cap or vest while you're enjoying the great outdoors. [Blaze Orange Effectiveness video](#) (5 minutes)
- **Respect the water.** Canoeists and kayakers are required to wear life jackets from September 15 to May 15, but all water enthusiasts, especially anglers who wade into larger rivers, would be wise to wear floatation devices now that water and air temperatures are cool.
- **Respect other outdoor users.** Mountain biking, horseback riding, wildlife watching, hunting, and hiking are not mutually exclusive activities. Know the hunting seasons and who is likely to be sharing the woods and waters with you. Keep dogs under control and respect outdoor users' rights to enjoy our open spaces.
- **Licensed sportsmen and women are reminded to take the basics of hunter safety to heart.** Treat every firearm as if it were loaded, keeping the muzzle pointed in a safe direction at all times. Positively identify your target and what lies beyond it.

Outdoor activities are among the safest recreational pursuits available. By using a little common sense, they'll stay that way.

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Upcoming Meetings and Events

October 1 – October 29: Junior Duck Stamp Traveling Exhibit, North Easton – A combination of the top 100 pieces of art from the [Junior Duck Stamp Program](#) will be on display at Borderland State Park in North Easton. For more information, contact Ellenor Simmons at (508) 238-6566. Help support the Junior Duck Stamp Program! Proceeds from the purchase of the \$5 Junior Duck Stamp are used to support the program and go toward youth conservation education, awards for students and/or schools participating in the program, and marketing of the JDS program. You may purchase stamps from the U.S. Postal Service website (www.usps.com) or Amplex Corporation (www.duckstamp.com).

October 2 – 12: MassWildlife at the Topsfield Fair, Topsfield – Visit the MassWildlife exhibit while you enjoy the Topsfield Fair. Learn about some of the common wildlife living in your neighborhood and get your wildlife and outdoor recreation questions answered by MassWildlife staff. [Click here](#) for more information about the Topsfield Fair.

October 8: Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Advisory Committee Meeting, Westborough – The meeting will take place at the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife Field Headquarters Office located at 1 Rabbit Hill Road in Westborough from 1:30- 4:30 P.M. in the Southwest Meeting Room, Room #103. Please note: If you have a disability or medical condition and would like to request special accommodations, please contact Susan Sacco at 508-389-6342.

October 20: Fisheries and Wildlife Board Meeting, Westborough – The October meeting of the Fisheries and Wildlife Board will be held on Tuesday, October 20, 2015, at 1:00 P.M., at the MassWildlife Field Headquarters at 1 Rabbit Hill Road, Westborough, Massachusetts. Please note: If you have a disability or medical condition and would like to request special accommodations, please contact Susan Sacco at 508-389-6342.

October 24: Growing Up WILD Professional Development Workshop, Russell – 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. This workshop is located at Noble View Outdoor Center, 635 South Quarter Road, Russell. [Click here for more information](#)

[about this workshop](#)  Please contact Pam Landry at pam.landry@state.ma.us or (508) 389-6310 for registration details. Registration deadline October 13, 2015.

November 6 – December 18: Junior Duck Stamp Traveling Exhibit, Holden – A combination of the top 100 pieces of art from the [Junior Duck Stamp Program](#) will be on display at the Wachusett Regional High School's Bowes Gallery in Holden. For more information, contact Suzanne Breen at (508) 829-6771 or Brian Keddy at brian_keddy@wrsd.net. Help support the Junior Duck Stamp Program! Proceeds from the purchase of the \$5 Junior Duck Stamp are used to support the program and go toward youth conservation education, awards for students and/or schools participating in the program, and marketing of the JDS program. You may purchase stamps from the U.S. Postal Service website (www.usps.com) or Amplex Corporation (<https://duckstamp.com/mm5/merchant.mvc>).

November 7: Growing Up WILD Professional Development Workshop, Milton – 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. This workshop is located at Mass Audubon's Blue Hills Trailside Museum, 1094 Canton Ave. Milton. [Click here for more information about this workshop](#).  Please [click here](#) to register online or call (617) 333-0690 x 5226. Registration deadline is October 24, 2015.

November 7: Growing Up WILD Professional Development Workshop, Huntington – 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. This workshop is located at The Big Backyard Preschool, 94 County Road, Huntington. [Click here for more information about this workshop](#).  Please contact Kathleen Mahoney to register at kmbass@comcast.net or (413) 667-0232. Registration deadline is October 28, 2015.

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