



MassWildlife News

Commonwealth of Massachusetts – Division of Fisheries and Wildlife

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FREE FISHING WEEKEND JUNE 7 & 8

Get hooked on fishing with your friends and family in the great outdoors! Go fishing for free on lakes, ponds, rivers, streams, or the ocean during the statewide Free Fishing Weekend of June 7 & 8, 2014. Fishing offers family and friends a fun way to spend time together and create enjoyable memories that will last a lifetime. If you don't know how to fish, consider attending fishing festivals or other free freshwater fishing-related events sponsored by MassWildlife's Angler Education Program this month and into the summer! Bring your fishing equipment, or borrow ours. Details of June fishing events can be found on the [MassWildlife Angler Education Calendar](#).

- **June 1 – Horn Pond Family Fishing Festival, Woburn** – Located on the south end of Horn Pond near the boat ramp area off Pond Street, takes place from 9:00AM– 1:00PM.
- **June 7 – Spot Pond Family Fishing Festival, Stoneham** – This event, will take place at Straw Point on the north end of Spot Pond accessed from New South Street from 9:00 AM. – 1:00PM.
- **June 7 – Buffumville Lake Family Fishing Festival, Charlton** – This event will be held at the North Cove Picnic Area off of Oxford Rd. in Charlton from 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM.
- **June 14 – Great Falls Discovery Center Family Fishing Day, Turners Falls** – Join the fun at Great Falls Discovery Center, 2 Avenue A in Turners Falls, (Montague) from 10:00A.M.– 2:00 PM.

- **June 15 – Endicott Park Family Fishing Festival, Danvers** –The event takes place at Endicott Park, 57 Forest Street, Danvers from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM.
- **June 21 – Great Meadows Family Fishing Day, Sudbury** – Join the fun at the Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge, 73 Weir Hill Road Sudbury, from 10:00 AM– 2:00 PM.

Did you know that when you buy a freshwater fishing license, you are supporting fish and wildlife work in Massachusetts? License and permit fees directly support freshwater fish management programs, fishing access improvements, conservation education programs, and other fish and wildlife efforts. Go to www.mass.gov/massfishhunt for license purchasing information or visit a [local license vendor](#) or MassWildlife office.

YOUTH ARTIST FROM WESTFORD WINS JUNIOR DUCK STAMP CONTEST

Xiaomei Chen of Westford, a high school senior at Westford Academy, won the Best of Show among youth artists in the 2014 Massachusetts Junior Duck Stamp Contest. Her acrylic painting of a Trumpeter Swan with cygnets was selected from 446 entries as Massachusetts' Best of Show in the Junior Duck Stamp (JDS) Contest. Chen's award winning work also represented Massachusetts' entry in the national JDS Contest held in Washington, D.C.

No stranger to the JDS Contest, this is Xiaomei Chen's second time winning the Best of Show in this program. Last year, her Northern Pintail entry won top honors. Xiaomei has always been interested in depicting the beauty of nature and as a freshman started an Art Competition Club at her school. While investigating art contests for school club participation, she discovered the Junior Duck Stamp competition. JDS provided her with a challenge to paint a part of nature, while at the same time helping to preserve wildlife on the ground, not just on paper. Through her experience with the JDS she learned how art could help the community. As a senior she has shifted the club's activities to include service work, such as donating artwork to conservation fundraising events.

Students from across the state in kindergarten through 12th grade submitted original works of art depicting waterfowl in the appropriate wetland habitat, sharing both their talents as young artists and their knowledge of the importance of wetlands for wildlife. The awards ceremony for the top 100 winning artists was held by the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (MassWildlife) at the Worcester Technical High School in Worcester. A complete list of all winners from each age group category is posted on the [Massachusetts JDS web page](#).

A combination of the top 100 pieces of art will be exhibited throughout Massachusetts June 2014-March 2015. The Custom House Maritime Museum in Newburyport is hosting the first JDS exhibit from June 17 – August 17, 2014. Contact Mike Mroz at (978) 462-8681 for more details on the exhibit. Check the MassWildlife JDS webpage [schedule of the Junior Duck Stamp Art Exhibit](#) Schedule.

The Massachusetts Junior Duck Stamp Program is sponsored by MassWildlife, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and the Massachusetts Wildlife Federation. Additional support comes from the Massachusetts Chapter of Ducks Unlimited and the Massachusetts Wildlife Federation. The USFWS initiated the Federal JDS program in 1994 to showcase the talents of the nation's young artists while teaching youngsters about the value of wetlands and waterfowl

conservation. To purchase Junior Duck Stamps from the USFWS, call (800) STAMP24 or visit [their website](#) for purchase information. Proceeds from Junior Duck Stamps support conservation education and provide awards and scholarships for the students, teachers, and schools that participate in the program. Massachusetts JDS awards included medals, ribbons, and art materials.

SUSTAINABLE STREAM FLOW: BALANCING THE NEEDS OF FISH AND PEOPLE

Because both fish and people need water, the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (DFW) is playing an important role to ensure that stream flow needs of fish are considered in the water withdrawal permitting process. DFW has been participating in Sustainable Water Management Initiative (SWMI) stakeholder meetings providing input on revisions to the Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Water Management Act. Working with DEP, state agencies, water suppliers, environmental advocates, industry representatives, and concerned citizens have crafted a framework designed to ensure a balance between both human and environmental needs for stream flow. The framework describes the methodology for defining Safe Yield in each of the state's 27 watersheds and how stream flow criteria will be applied by DEP when issuing Water Management Act permits.

From the largest bass to the smallest minnow, fish and fish habitats benefit from protected stream flow. This in turn benefits anglers who pay for fish and wildlife conservation through fishing license and equipment purchases. SWMI's proposed Water Management Act revisions are designed to prevent past extreme conditions such as occurred in the Ipswich River: dry river beds and dead fish. The current Water Management Act revisions recognize how critical stream flow alterations can negatively affect fish communities. At the same time, the proposed revisions continue to ensure water availability for the needs of people.

HELP MASSWILDLIFE COUNT TURKEYS!

Got turkey families in your neighborhood? Sportsmen and -women, birders, landowners, and other wildlife enthusiasts are encouraged to assist the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (DFW) only count turkey flocks containing hens and their young poults (broods) this summer. DFW conducts an annual wild turkey brood survey from June through August. "The brood survey serves as a long term index on reproduction," explains Dave Scarpitti, Turkey Project Leader. "It helps us determine productivity and allows us to compare long-term reproductive success." Scarpitti also points out that citizen involvement in this survey is a cost-effective means of gathering useful data, and he encourages all interested people to participate. A [turkey brood survey form](#) is posted on the agency website. Information needed includes date, town, number of hens seen, and number of poults and the poults' relative size compared to the hens. Multiple sightings of the same brood can also be noted. The survey period runs from June 1 - August 31. Completed forms should be mailed to: Brood Survey, DFW Field Headquarters, 100 Hartwell Street, Suite 230, West Boylston, MA 01583.

2014 ANTLERLESS DEER PERMIT DEADLINE AND 2013 DEER HARVEST FIGURES

MassWildlife is issuing a friendly reminder to deer hunters that the deadline for applying for an antlerless deer permit is July 16, 2014. This permit is required for any deer hunter who wishes to hunt antlerless deer. There is no fee to apply. A \$5 fee is charged if you are selected for a permit during the Instant Award period. If you are not sure you submitted an antlerless deer permit application, check your hunting license in the *Item Purchased* section where you will see a line item that reads: "Antlerless Deer Permit Application- /Zone xx" if you have already applied OR log on to the *MassFishHunt* website at www.mass.gov/massfishhunt and check your customer inventory. If you have not yet applied, you can submit your application for an antlerless deer permit either online through a computer or at a license vendor.

Final numbers for the 2013 deer hunting seasons are now available. Deer Project Leader David Stainbrook reports a total of 11,566 white-tailed deer harvested by licensed hunters during the combined 2013 hunting seasons. By season, the statewide total breaks down as follows: 6 deer taken during the special deer season for paraplegic sportsmen; 4,486 taken in the archery season; 4,609 taken during the shotgun season; 2,343 taken during the muzzleloading season and 122 deer harvested during the Quabbin Reservation hunt. For more detailed information, go to the [White-Tailed Deer Harvest Information](#) web page.

TAKE THE ENVIRONMENTAL LITERACY SURVEY

Teachers, environmental educators, environmental organizations and clubs, businesses, and government officials are asked to participate in the Massachusetts Environmental Literacy Plan Stakeholder Survey. The Secretary's Advisory Group on Energy and Environmental Education (SAGEE) is requesting this information as part of the development of a state Environmental Literacy Plan (ELP). The survey can be found online at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/MASSELP>. Students ages 12 – 21 years old are also asked to fill out a Student Survey found at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/teenELP>. Participants are encouraged to share these links with other interested individuals and networks.

The surveys will inform the development of this new plan to develop a state-wide structure for promoting, developing, and assessing environmental education activities in Massachusetts. The survey will gather information to shape a shared vision, learn about current practices and opportunities for growth. For more information about the ELP development process and ways to participate, go to: <http://sageee.wordpress.com/ma-elp/>.

2014 MASSACHUSETTS ENVIROTHON WINNERS ANNOUNCED

A team of Newton North High School students took top honors at the 27th annual Massachusetts Envirothon held at Sholan Farms in Leominster in mid-May. They were among 250 high school students from more than 30 Massachusetts communities from Boston to the Berkshires who competed in a natural resources oriented competition for high school age teams. Quabbin Regional High School and Lexington High School placed second and third respectively.

“We were excited that this year’s Envirothon was held at Sholan Farms in Leominster because it is a model of successful state, municipal, and volunteer partnerships as well as environmental protection,” said Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Rick Sullivan. “I congratulate all the students and coaches for their hard work preparing for the Envirothon.”

At the Envirothon, teams rotated through four “ecostations” where they answered written questions and engaged in hands-on activities such as soil analysis, wildlife habitat assessment, tree identification, and water quality measurements. At the fifth station, each team gave a 15-minute oral presentation before a panel of judges on the 2014 Current Issue; Sustainable Local Agriculture. Teams were asked to assess sustainable agriculture in their community and to recommend steps that their city or town could take to support local farming, food, and fiber production. Judges included environmental professionals from government agencies, non-profit organizations, academia, and the private sector. The Massachusetts Envirothon is a program of the Massachusetts State Commission for Conservation of Soil, Water and Related Resources in partnership with state environmental agencies, the Massachusetts Association of Conservation Districts, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, and University of Massachusetts Extension. Other partners include conservation organizations, schools, environmental businesses, and associations.

A list of winning teams in the overall competition, eco-stations, and current issue presentations is posted on the [Massachusetts Envirothon website](#). Media outlets are advised that group and action photos of teams are available, contact [Diane Petit](#) or call her at the USDA-NRCS office at (413) 253-4371 to request photos of your local team.

UPCOMING PUBLIC MEETINGS AND PUBLIC HEARINGS

June 12 -- Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Advisory Committee Meeting, West Boylston The Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Advisory Committee will be meeting on Thursday, June 12, 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. [Directions](#) or call MassWildlife at (508) 389-6360.

June 17 -- Fisheries and Wildlife Board Meeting and Public Hearings, East Wareham The June meeting of the Fisheries and Wildlife Board will be held on Tuesday, June 17, 2014, at 1:00 P.M., at the [UMass Cranberry Station](#), 1 State Bog Road, East Wareham, Massachusetts. GPS users should program in the intersection of Spectacle Pond Road and Glen Charlie Road. Do not use the Bog Road street address.

Two public hearings will be held beginning at 3:00 P.M. on June 17, 2014, at the UMass Cranberry Station, 1 State Bog Road, East Wareham, Massachusetts. **The first hearing** seeks to establish and amend the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife’s rules and regulations relative to the [display of hunting, sporting, fishing, or trapping licenses](#). The proposal would expressly allow a sportsman or sportswoman to utilize a mobile device, such as a smartphone, to display a relevant hunting, sporting, fishing, or trapping license, provided that the mobile device is capable of displaying a true, complete and legible image of the current, valid license.

The second hearing to follow would codify in regulations the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife’s [criteria, procedures, and related definitions used to designate waterbodies as Coldwater Fish Resources](#) (CFR). The proposed regulations also provide notice of where the

Division's list of current CFRs is available for review by regulatory authorities and the public. More information about both regulatory hearings can be found on the [Division's Public Hearing web page](#).

CALENDAR OF EVENTS – See a complete listing on the [MassWildlife Calendar of Events](#)

- **June 1 – MassWildlife at Fish Ladder Open House, West Springfield** – Don't miss this "once-a-year" annual opportunity to visit the DSI Fish Ladder in West Springfield sponsored by the [Westfield River Watershed Association](#). The ladder was installed in the mid-1990's to allow anadromous fish passage around the first dam on the Westfield River, providing them access to the Westfield and its tributaries as far upstream as Woronoco. Caleb Slater, MassWildlife Anadromous Fish Project Leader will be among the group providing information at the fish ladder from 10AM – 3 PM. Parking is at 150 Front St. in West Springfield - look for signs along Rt. 20 directing you to the site). This event is free and open to the public.
- **June 2 – Endangered Turtle Release, Carver** -- The public is invited to join Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (MassWildlife) staff biologists and other turtle conservation partners to an endangered turtle release event at 10 AM at the Myles Standish State Forest Nature Center, 194 Cranberry Road in Carver. Attendees will have an opportunity to help release 10-15 endangered Northern Red-bellied Cooter hatchlings and learn what MassWildlife has discovered about turtles released years ago at this site. Participants will also receive useful tips on how people can help turtles in their neighborhoods or communities.
- **June 8 – MassWildlife at Riverfest, Shelburne Falls (Buckland)** – The Deerfield River Watershed Association will be celebrating the watershed at a [multi-day festival](#) beginning June 7 – June 9 in downtown Shelburne Falls. MassWildlife will be staffing a fish & wildlife oriented table on Saturday, June 8. There will be family friendly activities, live birds of prey, a Frog and Flower Parade sponsored by local environmental organizations and agencies. Hikes will be led on Sunday. For more information contact Polly Bartlett at dbartlet@crocker.com or call (413) 625-6628.
- **June 15—How Forestry and Fire Help Wildlife, Lancaster** – The Forbush Bird Club and Friends of Oxbow National Wildlife Refuge are co-sponsoring a walk with MassWildlife's Restoration Ecologist Chris Buelow who will talk about the grassland habitat management activities going on at Pine Hill, the Lancaster portion of MassWildlife's Bolton Flats Wildlife Management Area. The program begins at 2 PM. Learn how MassWildlife is working to restore uncommon Sandplain Grassland habitat and Pitch Pine – Scrub Oak shrubland habitats to benefit both rare and dwindling populations of birds and other wildlife. Meet at the WMA gate on Pine Hill Road, off Harvard Road in Lancaster. Sturdy shoes, sunscreen, and binoculars are recommended. The program is free, but pre-registration is required. Call (978) 779-2259.
- **June 24 – Growing Up WILD Professional Development Workshop, Wales** – Pre-school educators are invited to this fun, hands-on, 6-hour workshop that focuses on early childhood education. The workshop takes place at Norcross Wildlife Sanctuary, 30 Peck Road in Wales, from 9:00 A.M.to 3:30 P.M. [Click here to for more information about this workshop](#) . Please contact Pam Landry at pam.landry@state.ma.us or (508) 389-6310 for registration details.

CONNECT WITH US! Visit our website at: www.mass.gov/masswildlife

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