DIVISION OF
FISHERIES & WILDLIFE

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MASSWILDLIFE

Central District Activities – May, 2018

Wildlife

Culvert bear traps are deployed in the central part of Worcester County to try and capture more sows to add to the ongoing telemetry study.

Flooding affecting the Little Chauncy Pond access portion of the MacCallum Wildlife Management Area is being addressed in cooperation with the Town of Northborough and Juniper Hill Golf Course.

Spring turkey season ends at noon on Saturday May 26th and all birds must be checked in within 48 hours of harvest. Only bearded birds may be taken and a turkey permit is required in addition to a hunting or sporting license. All turkey hunters are reminded that they must have a "Hunt Safely" decal affixed to their shotgun.

Fisheries

Trout stocking continues and will be winding down as Memorial Day approaches. Stocking events with local school groups were held at Carbuncle Pond in Oxford and the Assabet River in Northborough.

Events were held with Fly-Tying Groups at the Burnshirt River in Barre & Hubbardston and the Quinapoxet River in Holden.

The District picked up its allotment of Tiger, Brown, & Brook Trout from the Sandwich Hatchery and t released them into Lake Dennison in Winchendon, Comet Pond in Hubbardston, Lake Quinsigamond in Shrewsbury, Webster Lake in Webster, Long Pond in Rutland, and South Pond in Brookfield.

Some of the smaller brooks and streams in the District were stocked and include Tarbell Brook in Winchendon, Wyman Pond Brook in Westminster, Justice Brook & Keyes Brook in Princeton, Asnabumskit Brook & Trout Brook in Holden, Little River in Charlton & Oxford, West Brook, Tully River, & Ellinwood Brook in Athol, West Branch Tully Brook in Orange, West Branch Fever Brook in Petersham, Parker Brook in Oakham, Natty Pond Brook, Canesto Brook, & Joslin Brook in Hubbardston, Whitman River & Phillips Brook in Ashburnham, Fallulah Brook in Fitchburg, Moose Brook in Hardwick, Turkey Hill Brook in Spencer, Lawrence Brook & Scott Brook in Royalston, Priest Brook in Winchendon, and Prince River in Barre.

The larger rivers stocked include Miller's River in Athol, Royalston, & Winchendon, Quinebaug River in Sturbridge, West Branch Ware River in Hubbardston, East Branch Ware River in Barre, Hubbardston, Princeton, & Rutland, Ware River in Barre, Hardwick, & Ware, Stillwater River in Princeton & Sterling, East Branch Swift River in Petersham, West River in Northbridge, Upton, & Uxbridge, Otter River in Templeton, Mill River in Blackstone, Mendon, & Milford, Seven Mile River in Spencer, and French River in Oxford.

Other stocked lakes and ponds include Wallum Lake in Douglas, Big Alum Pond in Sturbridge, Whalom Lake in Lunenburg, Coes Pond in Worcester, Connors Pond in Petersham, Sugden Reservoir in Spencer,

Jordan Pond in Shrewsbury, Fort Pond in Lancaster, West Wauschacum Pond in Sterling, Silver Lake in Athol, Perley Brook Reservoir & Dunn Pond in Gardner, Whitehall Pond & Demond Pond in Rutland, Snow Pond in Charlton, and Lancaster Mill Pond in Clinton. Trout stocking reports are updated daily on the mass.gov/trout webpage. A list and map of trout-stocked waters is available on the trout page with the date and species of trout stocked.

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection reported an accidental release of approximately 7000 pounds of calcium hydroxide (lime) into the Quinebaug River by a sewage treatment plant in Sturbridge. The pH in the river is being monitored and there has been no fish kill reported. A scheduled stocking of trout into the river had been postponed.

Natural Heritage

A successful hatch was confirmed at a new Bald Eagle nest located on Lake Wickaboag in West Brookfield. Other confirmed successful hatches occurred on Wachusett Reservoir in Boylston, Riverdale Pond in Northbridge, Lake Quinsigamond in Shrewsbury, and Webster Lake in Webster.

Pairs of Peregrine Falcons returned to Worcester and Leominster. The Worcester pair did not nest in any previously known location and the exact whereabouts of their nest are still a mystery.

Land Management/Stewardship

Six contractors bid on the West Sutton Road Driveway Culvert Project and work was awarded to SumCo Eco Contracting out of Salem, MA. Construction on the project is scheduled to start soon and should be completed by the end of June.

The Welsh Pond and Putnam Pond Dam Removal Projects were on the agenda for the May 16th meeting of the Sutton Conservation Commission. Engineers and representatives from MassWildlife were on hand to answer questions and address concerns regarding the impact to fish and wildlife in the area.

Five contractors bid on the Lackey Pond Dam repair project and the work was awarded to T. Ford out of Georgetown, MA. A pre-construction meeting was held to discuss the repairs on the dam.

A house-lot parcel with frontage on Gay Road in Brookfield was donated through the Massachusetts Conservation Land Tax Credit Program adding 1.2 acres to the Wolf Swamp WMA.

Trash was reported at the Five Mile River Access and Bolton Flats WMA. The District addressed the trash at Bolton Flats and the town of North Brookfield addressed the trash at the Five Mile River Access.

A brush fire burned about 58 acres in and around the Pine Hill section of the Bolton Flats WMA in Lancaster. DCR Fire believes a campfire may have started the blaze.

Work in cooperation with the Massachusetts Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation has been completed on a portion of the Moose Brook WMA along Sheldon Road in Barre. The Chapter provided funding to reclaim a 3-acre field, clean up two old farm dump sites, and create a new parking area. The District will be installing a gate and new signage.

Outreach/Notable Meetings

The District Wildlife Biologist attended a field necropsy workshop at Field Headquarters put on by the Northeast Wildlife Disease Cooperative.

Todd Olanyk has been selected as the new Central District Manager and approved by the Fisheries & Wildlife Board at their May 16th meeting in Dalton. Todd is currently the Volunteer Coordinator for MassWildlife's Hunter Education Program.

The District Wildlife Biologist will be unable to attend the June meeting of the League due to a prior commitment. The Central District Activities update will still be prepared and submitted.

Finally, it is with great sadness that I share the news of the unexpected passing of MassWildlife's photographer Bill Byrne last Sunday, May 13th.