

Mass DCR gives creel survey on fish species

By Emily-Rose Pappas
Staff Writer
epappas@turley.com

BELCHERTOWN/WARE – The Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife held a presentation about the Quabbin Reservoir Creel Survey this past Sunday, and many people joined remotely and in person.

The goal of the presentation, held by biologists Brian Keleher and Jason Stolarski, is to help people understand and learn about the different fish species found in the Quabbin Reservoir.

Keleher works as a district fisheries biologist for the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, or MassWildlife, and specifically for the Connecticut Valley District in Belchertown, one of five management districts of MassWildlife that each have their own fisheries biologist.

“MassWildlife is responsible for the conservation of freshwater fish and wildlife in the Commonwealth, including endangered plants and animals. MassWildlife restores, protects, and manages land for wildlife to thrive and for people to enjoy,” said Keleher.

“I have worked here at this position for just short of nine years. I’m originally from upstate New York, and have worked in and around the fisheries field for about 16 years now.”

“Prior to coming to MassWildlife I worked as a Fisheries Biologist for the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation in North Central Washington State on the Columbia River. Prior to that I worked in Alaska, and the Adirondacks in New York,” said Keleher.

“[My favorite part is] having the constant opportunity to work outdoors, especially in and around water. Work with the public and anglers has always been a highlight as well, particularly field trips and school groups where students get the chance to see and interact with fish and develop an interest in the outdoors and fishing,” said Keleher.

MassWildlife stocks about 500 bodies of water across the state, and each year releases approximately 500,000 trout during the spring and fall, consisting of mostly rainbow trout and most fish are over 12 inches long.

Stocking these waterbodies provides opportunities for angling, and the fish are stocked in these areas when water temperatures are at the correct range.

MassWildlife holds a creel survey, which “is an important tool that fisheries biologists can use to get a better understanding of how a fishery is used by anglers,” Keleher explained.

“It is simply an angler survey with questions designed to help look into specific areas of a fishery and the way that anglers interact with it. At its most basic level creels are used to see how many anglers fish at a location, how long they spend fishing, look into what they are ‘targeting’ or fishing for, and calculate their ‘catch rate’ and ‘harvest,’” said Keleher.

Creel surveys determine the suc-

cess rate of catching fish, like how long it takes to catch fish or a specific kind of fish, and what percentage of fish are kept or released after catching.

The MassWildlife team creates these surveys, and during the presentation Keleher illustrated how the Quabbin Reservoir Angler Survey is conducted, anonymously, and help to keep track of fish populations.

The Quabbin Reservoir is ideal for these creel surveys because of the largely constrained areas with three boat launch areas, and is consistently staffed by DCR attendants during fishing seasons.

The Quabbin Creel Survey is a complete survey and gate attendants provide all anglers with a creel card before their trip, which they fill out after their trip is finished and return to the attendants. The demographic and trip data is then collected by the attendants as part of the boat sealing process.

Throughout Massachusetts, rainbow trout, brown trout, brook trout, tiger trout, and landlocked Atlantic salmon are stocked in the waterbodies.

The fish all come from five different hatcheries across the state, including McLaughlin in Belchertown, Bitzer in Montague, Sunderland, Roger Reed in Palmer, and Sandwich. More specific information on stocking can be found at www.mass.gov/trout.

Keleher also gave a refresher regarding clipped adipose fins on fish. A clipped fin on a salmon means it was hatchery-raised, while no clipped fin means it was produced naturally within the Quabbin.

For lake trout, the adipose fins are clipped for an ongoing study of the trout in the region since the 1950s, and a clipped fin means it has a PIT tag or is being handled in the study.

The Quabbin Reservoir has seen a steady flow of people fishing in the region, with a spike in more people during the COVID-19 pandemic, but have seen a steady decrease since then from 45,000 to 13,000 between the 1980s to today.

The surveys have also revealed that the annual average catch rates are low, but slightly higher than the Wachusett Reservoir because of a large amount of nutrients and influence of boats.

“I grew up fishing with my dad and family, and now effectively get to do it as a career, I think I’m pretty lucky to have had that opportunity for both; to have an outlet and positive exposure to the outdoors at a young age and to work in this field now.

“There is a certain level of mystery involved with water; ponds, rivers, streams and the ocean. For the most part you can look at the surface and have no idea what is going on below, there could be literally (within reason) anything down there out of sight,” said Keleher.

“When you are a fisheries biologist you have access to many more tools that can help you look into that mystery a little further, to see what is below the surface and what it is up to down there.”

DCR offers February vacation program

BELCHERTOWN – The Department of Conservation and Recreation will host a February Vacation Program “Tracks and Seat” on Monday, Feb. 17 from 10-11 a.m.

Although we may not see them often, our native wildlife is all around us. Come learn to recognize some signs of wildlife through a fun and

informative indoor activity.

Meet at the Les and Terry Campbell Quabbin Visitor Center in Belchertown. Great for all ages, children must be accompanied by an adult.

For more information, call 413-323-7221. To register visit <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/250b6dcbefc4f30a4da5b0f86abc4f3>.

Webinar discusses parenting in a digital age

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

WARE – The Young Men’s Library Association shared a webinar for parents of kids and teens to review this past week.

This free program presented by the Boston Children’s Digital Wellness Lab was about Parenting in the Digital Age. This webinar touched base on media and technology use among adolescents.

This program was made possible due to the partnership between the Boston Children’s Digital Wellness Lab and Medfield Outreach, and Medfield Cares About Prevention.

Giving the presentation via Zoom was Medical Librarian and Knowledge Manager Kaitlin Tiches from the Boston Children’s Digital Wellness Lab. Tiches presented youth technology trends and provided strategies and tips for parents on how to address and navigate media use with their children.

Studies showed in the webinar that 32% of 5-8-year-olds sometimes play social games with each other online. According to Tiches, “gamer” culture can be problematic.

One of the technologies Tiches spoke about was children being first introduced to cell phones. According to the lab’s research the average age

of children receiving their first phone is around 10 years of age.

The biggest concern parents have when considering giving their children a phone is cyberbullying. Beginning in grade school, kids who have a phone are more likely to be involved in cyberbullying as victims and perpetrators.

Social media was next discussed during the webinar and how it impacts adolescents.

There are some positive and negative components to teenagers using social media. These effects can impact the social and emotional health of teenagers.

On the positive effect, it helps find shared identity. A negative effect could be friendship pressures.

“Social media is just a snapshot of someone’s life,” Tiches said as she explained to many parents watching.

With this comment in mind, Tiches spoke on difficulties teens will encounter when using social media.

Parts of social media only seem to highlight the best parts of someone’s life, which makes it difficult for teens to determine what is real or unreal. This could lead to difficulty in navigating difficult solutions, easier to partake in hurtful behaviors, privacy concerns, self-control and time management.

Research shows that 61% of teens signed up for their first social media account at the age

of 12 or younger.

According to Tiches and the Lab’s research YouTube is the most popular social media platform for teenagers. Most teens are never feeling anxious after being online or when they couldn’t have access to online.

In the beginning of this study, the researchers were focused on the effects of overall screen time for teens. In recent years, the research now focuses on exploring specific content and individual effects. Personal-specific effects show that most high school teens didn’t feel better or worse after using social media.

“They are more likely to say it affects others more negatively than themselves,” said Tiches.

Moving back to cyberbullying, Tiches believes in person and cyberbullying go hand in hand. Children who are victims of cyberbullying also report high levels of in person bullying, including at school.

For parents, they should look out for signs such as grade or behavioral changes, lots of secrecy in person or online life, and changes in friend group behaviors.

Some of the suggestions Tiches shared with parents are for when their kids are exposed to new games or new phones. One of them was familiarizing themselves with the content and parental controls of apps and games before children gain access.

Tiches also suggested that parents should move beyond the “stranger danger” paradigm. This relates to wondering if tracking apps really provide safety.

Another helpful suggestion was parents should integrate media literacy moments into everyday conversations. The technology their kids are into may not interest the parents, but it is healthy to talk about their interests with them.

“Join your child in their experiences in the digital world,” Tiches shared in her presentation.

Parents can play the same game with them and share their experiences on social media.

Parents should always ensure their children that their safety is a priority and not a punishment and they can come to them with concerns. Getting a phone can be exciting for children, but it comes with responsibilities and kids should learn how to use their phones to have healthy communication and know safe ways that protect themselves and their peers.

When it comes to apps, Tiches suggests that parents should check what the possibilities are for the monitoring of apps. There are many dangers on the internet to navigate, but parents should discuss what the content is and how to monitor them.

public notices

Notice of Public Hearing Planning Board LEGAL NOTICE

This is a Notice of Public Hearing. Pursuant to MGL Ch. 40A, Sec. 5, the Ware Planning Board will hold a public hearing on **Thursday, February 20, 2025** during their normally scheduled meeting starting at **7:00pm in the Town Hall meeting room, 126 Main Street, Ware MA.**

The purpose of this hearing is to consider the proposed new Zoning District “Health Care Services”, amendments to the Zoning Map regarding the Health Care Services district, which will include the former hospital site at 85 South Street, and various adjacent parcels, and Sections 2.2 (Definitions), Sections 3.1 (Zoning Districts), Sections 4.8 (Special Use Regulations), Sections 5.1 (Area Requirements), and Sections 5.3 (Height and Coverage Requirements) of the Zoning Bylaw of the Town of Ware.

Pursuant to Chapter 22 of the Acts of 2022, this hearing will be conducted in person and via remote means as a courtesy in accordance with the applicable law. Should there be technical issues, the meeting will proceed at the scheduled time. This means that members of the Planning Board as well as members of the public may access this meeting in person, or via virtual means. In person attendance will be held in Town Hall Meeting room, 126 Main Street, Ware MA. It is possible that any or all members of the public body may attend remotely, with in-person attendance consisting of members of the public. The meeting may be accessed remotely via Zoom. Go to <https://zoom.us/join> or join by phone. Phone Number: 929-205-6099; Meeting ID: 784 604 1861; Password: 01082.

A complete copy of the proposed changes can be found at the Planning & Community Development Department Office and on the department web page at www.townofware.com. Anyone interested or wishing to be heard should appear at the time and place designated. All interested parties are invited to attend. Please contact the Planning and Community Development Director with any questions. (413) 967-9648, ext. 118. psmith@townofware.com

WARE PLANNING BOARD
Kenneth Crosby, Chair
01/30, 02/06/25

Town of Hardwick Conservation Commission

Notice is hereby given in accordance with the Wetlands Protection Act that a Public Hearing will be held for a **Notice of Intent** on **Wednesday, February 12, 2025 at 6:30 pm** in the conference room of the Municipal Office Building, 307 Main Street, Gilbertville. All interested parties are urged to attend.

Applicant: Gadoury Homes
Description of Proposed Work: Single family home, driveway, septic and well
Location: Lot 2, North Road
Town: **Hardwick**
Interested parties may also view this Legal Notice at <http://masspublicnotices.org>. 01/30/2025

Town of Ware Public Hearing Notice

The Selectboard will conduct a Public Hearing on **Tuesday, February 18, 2025, at 6:35 p.m.**, in the Selectmen’s Meeting Room, 126 Main Street, Ware, MA, to hear an application for a new Common Victualler and Entertainment Licenses requested by Dugas Frostee LLC, d/b/a/ Janine’s Frostee, located at 149 East Street, Ware, MA. Copies of the petition are available at the office of the Town Manager, 126 Main Street, Ware, MA. All interested parties are

invited to attend.
Nancy Talbot
Chair of Selectboard
01/30/2025

Notice of Sale of Motor Vehicle Under G.L. c. 255, Section 39A

Notice is hereby given by REGIN’S REPAIR, 19 CHURCH ST., GILBERTVILLE, MA 01031 Pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c. 255, Section 39A, that on **January 31, 2025 at 10:00 AM** at: Regin’s Repair 19 Church St Gilbertville, MA 01031 by private sale, the following Motor Vehicle will be sold to satisfy the garage keeper’s lien thereon for storage, towing charges, care and expenses of notices and sale of said vehicle.

Vehicle description: 2008 Ford Escape Registration#/State: 548WNW/MA VIN: IFMCU93118KA28749 Name and address of owner: Merryl Maleska Wilbur & Nathan L Wilbur 48 Rose St, Chicopee, MA 01020

By: James M. Regin
Dated: 12/29/2024
01/16, 01/23, 1/30/2025

STORAGE AUCTION

In accordance with the provisions of the Massachusetts General Law 105A, in order to satisfy past due rents and other expenses, the contents of Dennis Craig will be auctioned off at **Secure Storage, 31 Southbridge Rd., Warren MA** on **February 8, 2025 at 9 a.m.**

The contents of Joshua Toomey will be auctioned off at **70 Boston Post Rd., Warren, MA** on **February 8, 2025 at 9:30 a.m.**

The contents of Cynthia Stalter, Stephen Pike, Christopher Flood and Bernadette Carberry will be auctioned off at **Secure Storage, 167 West St., Ware, MA** on **February 8, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.** Any questions or inquiries call 413-800-6278.

01/23, 01/30/2025

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Worcester Division Docket No. WO25P0017EA

Estate of: PAUL D THOMAS Date of Death: February 4, 2024
INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLIC NOTICE
To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **JUSTIN SAUCIER of Warren, MA. JUSTIN SAUCIER of Warren, MA** has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve **without surety** on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner. 01/30/2025

Town of Hardwick Conservation Commission LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given in accordance with the Wetlands Protection Act that a Public Meeting will be held for a **Request**

for Determination of Applicability on Wednesday, February 12, 2025 at 6:30 pm at the **Municipal Office Building, 307 Main Street, Gilbertville, in the Conference Room.** All interested parties are urged to attend.

Applicant: Vittoria Peterson
Description of Proposed Work: Construct single family home, well and septic
Location: Thresher Road, Map 129 Lot 8
Town: **Hardwick**
Interested parties may also view this Legal Notice at <http://masspublicnotices.org>. 01/30/2025

Hardwick Planning Board Public Hearing Notice

Notice is hereby given that the Hardwick Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on **Tuesday, February 11, 2025 at 6:30PM** at the **Hardwick Town House at 32 Common Street, Hardwick, Massachusetts.**

This hearing is regarding amendments to the Hardwick Zoning Bylaw: Sections 1.4 – Definitions; 3.2 - Schedule of Use Regulations; 4.0 – Special Permit Procedures; 5.0 – Site Plan Approval; 6.5 – Common Driveways; 6.8 – Home Occupation; 6.9.2 – Use of Trailers or Self-Contained Motor Home; 9.0 – Solar Energy Facilities and an addition of 11.0 – Battery Storage Systems. Copies of the listed amendments and addition can be found on the Hardwick Town Website www.Hardwick-MA.gov under the Planning Board Tab or at the Municipal Offices at 307 Main Street, Gilbertville, MA. Interested parties are asked to attend.

Interested parties may also view this Legal Notice at <http://masspublicnotices.org>
Hardwick Planning Board
Jenna Garvey, Chair
01/23, 01/30/2025

Job Connection

HELPING YOU FIND HELP

FULL TIME POLICE OFFICER

The **Warren Police Department** is accepting applications for the position of full time Police Officer. Applicants are preferred to be academy trained and must be willing to work weekends, nights and holidays.

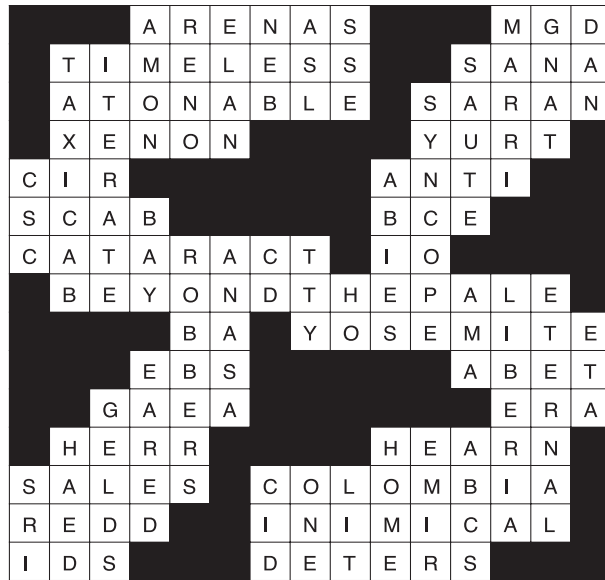
Responsibilities include responding to emergency and non-emergency calls for Police, Fire and Ambulance services. It is preferred that applicants currently possess valid certification as a Police Officer. Candidates must have strong interpersonal, verbal, and written communication skills.

Preferences include an associate degree or higher in criminal justice, serve in the US military, or experience as a Police Officer.

The Patrolmen’s contract provides an education incentive and a candidate with prior experience may also be considered to start at a higher step rate of pay.

Resumes and cover letters must be returned no later than **Thursday, January 30th, 2025**, to the attention of **Lt. Kyle Whitcomb, WPD PO Box 606, Warren, MA 01083** or Whitcomb@warren-ma.gov.
The Town of Warren is an EOE.

Please check the accuracy of your legal notice prior to submission (i.e., date, time, spelling). Also, be sure the requested publication date coincides with the purpose of the notice, or as the law demands. Thank you.



PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

- 1 Email all notices to notices@turley.com
- 2 Access archives and digital tear sheets by newspaper title.
- 3 Find a quick link to the state of Massachusetts' public notice web site to search all notices in Massachusetts newspapers.

Public notice deadlines are Mondays at noon, Fridays noon for Monday holidays.

visit www.publicnotices.turley.com