

# Local anglers brave the heat

Now that the nasty heat of this past week is behind us, fishing should get back to normal for some anglers, although many anglers did brave the heat and did very well, especially on the canal. Numerous 30- & 40-pound stripers were caught by anglers that braved the heat last week, and released the big fish, but they were still able to retain a striper that fell into the legal slot size.

Upstate New York fishing has been relatively slow on the lake, but is improving every day. The annual salmon run on the Salmon River is relatively quiet and the water is running a bit high, but it is expected to improve also in the coming weeks. Hundreds if not thousands of anglers make the trip to upstate New York annually to fish the yearly Salmon run on the famous Salmon River. For up-to-date information contact Fat Nancy's Tackle Shop in Pulaski for daily information. Check them out on their Web site at [www.fatnancy.com](http://www.fatnancy.com).

If you are looking for some of the best largemouth bass fishing and smallmouth bass fishing in Massachusetts, you need to check out fishing at the Quabbin Reservoir! Both Gate 8 and Gate 43 rent out boats and motors for an extremely low rate, and

are readily available on weekdays, but weekends require an early morning trip to acquire a boat rental. They go fast. The scenery on the reservoir is great, which makes you feel like you are in Northern Maine. Sightings of eagles are reported daily.

This past week, this writer enjoyed a great meal of pan-fried fluke from a fish that I caught while fishing the Westport River with my brother Ken. It is hard to find good bait (squid) to fish for these prized eating fish. Last week at a local tackle shop, I purchased a small bottle of imitation squid strip, manufactured by "Fat Cow" out of long Island New York. They are not cheap by any means, but will hopefully do the trick, replacing real squid. The old brand that was around for a long time called "Uncle Josh" strips, has been out of business for a number of years, now but worked very well back in the day.

The soaring seafood prices at supermarkets and eating establishments has gone through the roof, with many restaurants taking clams off of their



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menu. Oysters, clams, Quahaugs and lobster prices continue to climb with no end in sight. The reason for the price increases are many including price gouging. Saltwater fish prices on Haddock, Cod, and bluefish are reasonable, but they too could become expensive. Many fish markets are buying their fish from foreign markets, which I try to stay away from for many reasons. Be sure to check the seafood origin before you buy. Beef prices are also extremely high.

Purchasing real squid from a market to do some fishing does not work very well because it is soft, and easy for fish to remove it from the hook, resulting in missed fish. It is a great squid for eating calamari, but not great for fishing. Squid from most bait shops is also soft and easy for fish to remove also. Using fluke skin for bait worked very well, but has been made illegal to use because of reports of anglers cutting up undersize fluke for bait. Hopefully, these new Jig strips I purchased this past week will work better. They are scented and should work. They also work on fresh water

for bass, and numerous other species of freshwater fish.

More reports of dead birds in the valley are not good. One local sportsman reported a dead red tail hawk in the Uxbridge area this week. The young eagle that was found dead, was examined by Mass. Fish & Wildlife and found it to have died from some type of poison. It could have ingested the poison from eating a dead animal that was legally or illegally poisoned. Reporting dead birds in your area should be made to MFW.

A youth pheasant hunt will be held for all hunter graduates ages 12-17 this year. The registration deadline was Aug. 17, but may allow for late registrations if the classes are not full. Space is limited, so register today. Call Mass. Fish & Wildlife at 508-389-6300 for more information and where the clubs are that are sponsoring the events. It is a great time for first time sportsmen to realize the great time in the outdoors they will have during the event. Trap shooting, firearms safety, and hunting pheasant over well-trained bird dogs, are just a few of the things the young shooter will enjoy.

*Take A Kid Fishing & Keep Them Rods Bending!*

## Tips for drying flowers

Enjoy and share the beauty of your flower garden all year long. Pick and dry a few flowers to use in flower arrangements, craft projects or as gifts for friends and family.



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dried, you can glue them in place or use florist wire to create stems for arranging.

And don't forget to pick a few seedpods from perennials and ornamental grasses. These have dried, for the most part, on the plants and make great

additions to your dried flower arrangements and projects.

Consider taking a trip to your local florist or craft store for more ideas and materials for drying delicate flowers. Silica sand works well for delicate blossoms like iris as well as roses, mums and more. Simply fill the bottom inch of a container with silica sand. Remove all but an inch of the flower stem. Place the flower, stem side up or on its side, on the surface of the silica sand. Gently pour silica sand over the flowers until completely covered. Follow label directions. Most flowers dried this way maintain their beauty when dried in silica sand. Just use a small paint brush to gently remove any remaining sand.

Test flowers for dryness before

putting them in an arrangement or storing for future use. Carefully rub a piece of the flower between your fingers. If it feels dry, it is ready to use. If it still feels moist, continue letting them dry.

Store extra dried flowers in a location with low humidity and away from direct sunlight. Consider loosely wrapping with newspaper or kraft paper to prevent crushing and place in a box until needed.

Whichever drying method you choose, the result is the same - year-round enjoyment of your garden's beauty.

Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books, including *The Midwest Gardener's Handbook* and *Small Space Gardening*. She hosts *The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything"* DVD series and the nationally-syndicated *Melinda's Garden Moment* TV & radio program. Myers is a columnist

Photo Melinda Myers



and contributing editor for *Birds & Blooms* magazine. Her Web site is [www.MelindaMyers.com](http://www.MelindaMyers.com).

# Local IT company celebrates 20th anniversary with prestigious Inc. 5000 and MSP501 rankings

# Bay Path LPN named member of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society

STURBRIDGE — After facing one of the most challenging economic setbacks in their 20-year history, ClearCom IT Solutions, Inc. has proven they can come out on top, recognized as such with two prestigious business awards.

Out of more than seven million businesses in the U.S., ClearCom IT is proud to be named No. 3662 on the Inc. 5000 list of the most successful, independently-owned businesses in the United States. With 92 percent three-year growth, ClearCom IT has expanded to manage the IT of over 100 organizations up and down the East Coast.

ClearCom IT Solutions has been named by the editors at Channel Futures, as one of the technology industry's top-performing providers of managed services, for the fifth year in a row. The Channel Futures MSP 501 survey examines organizational performance based on annual sales, recurring revenue, profit margins, revenue mix, growth opportunities, innovation, technology solutions supported, and company and customer demographics.

“To be included on these two prestigious lists is a testament to the amazing team we have and the wonderful clients we partner with,” says Rob Cleary, President/CEO of ClearCom IT Solutions. “The landscape regarding cybersecurity has shifted immensely in the past year. In response, we have expanded our cybersecurity services to keep our partners safe and secure. We are now protecting against threats that didn't exist 10, 5, or even two years ago. Educating our clients on safe email practices and data protection with ongoing training has been key in keeping everyone protected. ClearCom IT is focused on delivering ongoing, exceptional service and support; responding to our clients' evolving IT needs and demands quickly and effectively.”

The Inc. 5000 is a list of the fastest-growing private companies in the nation. Started in 1982, this prestigious list has become the hallmark of entrepreneurial success. To qualify, companies must have been founded and generating revenue by March 31, 2017. They have to be U.S.-based, privately held, for-profit, and independent—not subsidiaries or divisions of other companies. The minimum revenue required for 2017 is \$100,000; the minimum for 2020 is \$2 million.

The 2021 MSP 501 list is based on confidential data collected and analyzed by the Channel Futures editorial and research teams. Data was collected online from March 1-May 24. The MSP 501 list recognizes top managed service providers based on metrics, including recurring revenue, profit margin, and other factors.

WORCESTER — In a recent announcement, Kiana McDonald, LPN of Worcester (formerly of Southbridge) joined the esteemed Phi Theta Kappa. The recognition included a membership packet containing a certificate, pin, and other benefits. Membership to Phi Theta Kappa allows McDonald to build job skills, challenging academic programs, scholarships, transfer support, and more. The mission of Phi Theta Kappa is to recognize academic achievement of college students and to provide opportunities for them to grow as scholars and leaders.

In a message to McDonald, Dr. Lynn Tincher-Ladner, President and CEO of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society stated, “congratulations on the accomplishments that brought you here. I look forward to seeing where Phi Theta Kappa takes you next.”

McDonald is working on academic progression towards her Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree at Quinsigamond Community College where she has been named in the dean's list due to her excellent academic performance. McDonald is a 2013 Bay



Kiana McDonald

Path Regional Vocational Technical High School graduate. She is an alumna of Bay Path RVTHS Practical Nursing Academy, class of 2017 where she was inducted into the National Technical Honor Society. She is a State Bronze Medalist and District Gold Medalist for SkillsUSA both for Medical Terminology. She was a recipient of \$500 Bay Path RVTHS Health Occupations Graduate Award and was an officer of the UNICEF Club. McDonald is Mental Health First Aid Certified. After her role as a charge nurse at the Webster Manor Rehabilitation and Health Care Center from 2017-2020, McDonald is currently with Maxim Healthcare as a staff nurse.

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