

**For Immediate Release:**

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**SPRING FEVER? MASSACHUSETTS HAS THE CURE**  
*Variety of Springtime Activities Pop Up Across State*

**March 20, 2008 (Massachusetts)** – It's time to pack away those winter hats and mittens! Spring weather is right around the corner in Massachusetts, and organizations across the state have plenty in store to get visitors out and about – from baseball to craft fairs to outdoor adventures.

Following is a list of events and activities taking place throughout the state this spring.

**Spring Festival & Fairs**

**Old Deerfield Spring Sampler Craft Fair** – April 5-6 (10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.)

Peruse charming displays of handcrafted goods and purchase gifts for any occasion, from Mother's Day to weddings and graduations.

**Cost:** \$6 adults; \$1 children under 12

Eastern States Exposition, West Springfield

413-774-7476 x17

[www.deerfield-craft.org/fairsm.htm](http://www.deerfield-craft.org/fairsm.htm)

**Williamstown Jazz Festival** - April 9-17

The Williamstown Jazz Festival will celebrate New Orleans with events at venues in Williamstown, as well as MASS MoCA in North Adams. Featured performers include Robert Glasper Trio; Joe Lovano Quartet; C.J. Chenier and his Red Hot Louisiana Band; and Gabriela Montero. Events also include a Zydeco Dance Party, Susan Huppe Zydeco Dance Instruction and a lecture by Donn Young, official photographer for the Port of New Orleans.

**Cost:** Events range from free admission to \$20

Williamstown and North Adams

413-597-2736

[www.williamstownjazz.com](http://www.williamstownjazz.com)

**Annual Nantucket Island Daffodil Festival Weekend** – April 25-27

Nantucket's Annual Daffodil Festival is a full-scale celebration of winter's thaw and is meant to be enjoyed by both islanders and visitors alike. The Daffodil Festival's grand event is the Annual Antique Car Parade, featuring over 100 daffodil-bedecked antique cars. Other highlights include the Annual Daffodil Tailgate Picnic in the village of Siasconset, the Nantucket Garden Club's Annual Daffodil Show, Children's Daffodil Parade and the Daffy Hat Pageant.

**Cost:** Free

508-228-1700

[www.nantucketchamber.org](http://www.nantucketchamber.org)

**Brimfield Outdoor Antiques Show - May 13-18**

This is the largest outdoor antiques show in the world, with over 6,000 dealers and 130,000 visitors. Acres of tents showcase the merchandise of thousands of dealers with rare items from all over the world.

**Cost:** Admission fees vary by field

Brimfield

413-283-6149

[www.brimfieldshow.com](http://www.brimfieldshow.com)

**Berkshire International Film Festival - May 15-18**

This annual festival showcases the latest in independent features, documentary, short and family films, along with lively panel discussions and special events focusing on filmmakers and talented artists from both sides of the camera. Actor Kevin Bacon will receive the annual Achievement in Film Award, and an evening celebrating Mr. Bacon will be held on Friday, May 16, at the Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center.

**Cost:** Varies

Great Barrington

413-528-8030

[www.biffma.com](http://www.biffma.com)

**Out and About****Swan Boats – Begins April 19**

Take a relaxing ride on an historic swan boat at the Boston Public Garden lagoon. Open daily through September 21.

**Cost:** \$2.75 for adults; \$1.25 for children; \$2.00 for seniors

Boston

617-522-1966

[www.swanboats.com](http://www.swanboats.com)

**Spring Invitation Nights – May 2 and May 9 (6:00-9:00 p.m.)**

Join the merchants of downtown Newburyport for two nights of shopping, great bargains and light refreshments.

**Cost:** Free

Newburyport

978-462-6680

[www.newburyportchamber.com](http://www.newburyportchamber.com)

**Sports****Urban White Water Rafting on the Concord River – April 5-May 18**

Enjoy whitewater rafting through class III and IV rapids on the Concord River, just 30 minutes north of Boston. Rafting trips conclude with a passage through an 1850's lock chamber that brings you right into the center of Lowell, Massachusetts. A portion of the proceeds from this trip benefit the Lowell Parks and Conservation Trust, working to preserve greenspace in the city of Lowell. Reservations required.

**Cost:** \$80 per person, wetsuits and equipment included

Lowell

800-532-7483

[www.zoaroutdoor.com/concordrafting.htm](http://www.zoaroutdoor.com/concordrafting.htm)

**Opening Day at Fenway Park – April 8**

Join the “Fenway Faithful” as they cheer on the beloved Boston Red Sox at Fenway Park, Major League Baseball’s oldest and smallest ballpark.

**Cost:** Ticket prices vary

Boston

617-267-1700

[www.redsox.com](http://www.redsox.com)

**Athol-Orange River Rat Race – April 12-13**

Observe more than 300 canoes and kayaks race from Athol to Orange on the Millers River. Cheer on the contestants as they battle their way under Athol’s South Main St. bridge and jockey for the best position heading downstream. Sponsored by the Athol and Orange Lions Clubs, both downtowns celebrate this event with food, music, a morning parade and carnival.

**Cost:** \$36 for racers; spectators free

978-249-9038

[www.riverratrace.com](http://www.riverratrace.com)

**The 112th Boston Marathon - April 21**

Cheer the runners along the 26.2 mile course from Hopkinton to Boston’s Back Bay at the oldest marathon in the country and the largest single-day event in New England.

**Cost:** Free

Boston

617-236-1652

[www.bostonmarathon.org](http://www.bostonmarathon.org)

**Worcester Tornadoes – May 16 (opening day)**

Come watch the Worcester Tornadoes for an affordable, family-friendly baseball experience that caters to people of all ages. It’s the perfect way for the entire family (from hard-core fan to casual fan) to enjoy a spring or summer afternoon or evening.

**Cost:** \$6 for Grandstands; \$10 for box seats; \$14 VIP Ticket; \$18 Executive Ticket

Worcester

508-792-2288

[www.worcestertornadoes.com](http://www.worcestertornadoes.com)

**Music, Art & History**

**“It’s Getting Hot in Here” Exhibition – February 14-April 5**

Reflective of the ‘greener’ lifestyle trends, sustainability has been in the forefront of the public mind. See works from eight regional and national artists who will be exhibiting various forms including sculpture, performance, and installation. Although created within the context of global warming, much of the artwork itself is not about the environment or sustainability.

**Cost:** Free

Montserrat Gallery, Beverly

978-867-9604

[www.montserrat.edu](http://www.montserrat.edu)

**“Mastersinger by the Sea” Spring Concert** - April 5 (8:00 pm) and April 6 (3:00pm)

The Mastersingers by the Sea are proud to present their Spring Concert. The chorus, accompanied by musicians from the New Bedford Symphony Orchestra, will sing Franz Josef Haydn’s masterpiece “The Creation” under the direction of Dr. David MacKenzie, Director of the New Bedford Symphony Orchestra.

**Cost:** Tickets are \$20 and may be purchased at Eight Cousins Books and Inkwell Bookstore in Falmouth, Market Street Bookshop in Mashpee Commons or online.

Saint Barnabas Episcopal Church, Falmouth

508-540-1896

[www.mastersingersbythesea.org](http://www.mastersingersbythesea.org)

**Annual Patriots’ Day Battle Re-enactment and Celebration** – April 21 (battle begins at 6 a.m.)

Come relive the battle that began the Revolutionary War, complete with period costumes and weapons, at the Battle Green in Lexington. After the battle festivities, continue the celebration with a pancake breakfast, 5-mile road race, or the popular Patriots’ Day parade. All-day events will also take place at Concord’s Old Manse and in downtown Concord.

**Cost:** Free

Lexington and Concord

978-369-6993

[www.lexingtonchamber.org](http://www.lexingtonchamber.org)

[www.lexingtonhistory.org](http://www.lexingtonhistory.org)

*The Massachusetts Office of Travel & Tourism (MOTT) is the state agency dedicated to promoting Massachusetts as a leisure-travel destination in order to stimulate the Massachusetts economy by generating state and local tax revenues, creating jobs, and supporting the growth of travel-related businesses. MOTT serves as a leader in the tourism industry, bringing together the public and private sectors to promote Massachusetts as a leisure travel destination. Tourism is an integral part of the state's economy, generating more than \$887.2 million in state and local taxes and \$14.2 billion in travel related expenditures. The industry supports 125,800 in-state jobs.*

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