Fishing Report: Walleye fishing has been great most of the fish are 18-22 in. Perch fishing is still slow but a few lucky anglers have been successful. It appears that we are in a pattern that is similar to last year with more perch being caught on into the fall. Pier fishermen are also still catching a few perch and walleye.

No general meeting until September. Have a Fun and Safe Summer. Good Fishing!
OUR VOLUNTEERS’ PICNIC WAS GREAT

On August 6th, 121 dedicated SONS of Lake Erie Volunteers gathered at the Shade’s Beach picnic area to celebrate a years’ worth of volunteerism and service to our club. As we posted in our July Bucket “Since July 2017 our super team of volunteers has generously donated their time and hard work on at least 55 different occasions. 163 different individuals volunteered at least once during that 12 month period working over 4800 hours at family fishing events, hatchery operations, shows, habitat building, kids’ events, and more.”

Sadly not all of the eligible volunteers attended the picnic. They missed a great event, thanks to the expert preparation by SONS Director Ron Lubak and his family, including his wife Audrey, son Kevin, and his wife Leslie and several Lubak granddaughters. “Team Lubak” as we like to call them has provided us with great picnics for so long I can’t remember. They hired Trawka’s market to furnish the food, and as usual it was outstanding, and there were plenty of beverages to wash it down.

Directors Jack Klapthor, Bill Henderson, and Rich Brine were given the task of selecting a gift for all of our dedicated volunteers. This year they chose to give a new T-shirt with the SONS logo, a perch, and “Let’s Go Fishing”. We like to update our shirts every two years as they get worn out.

Amongst all of our volunteers there are some that go above and beyond. This year we would like to declare that SONS Director Joe Springer was our Volunteer of the Year. He responded 176 times to our request for volunteers. Thanks, Joe! Director Bob Zawadzki came in second, logging in with 142 events. Following these two outstanding individuals was another group that volunteered on 50 or more occasions. We like to call them the over 50 club. They are: Rich Smith, Jack Hartman, Chuck Miller, Rich Brine, Larry Lipinski, Jack Bock, Don Tombaugh, and Ralph Friend. We had another 43 members who volunteered more than 8 times. There was another gift of a shirt and hat for each of 54 volunteers that responded 8 or more times.

Our member volunteers are the greatest bunch of people that I have had the privilege to work with. I am so proud of what we have accomplished thanks to them and the rest of our membership.

VETS GO FISHING

On Tuesday August 7th, 18 military veterans were treated to a free fishing trip aboard the “Perch Pirate”. They were accompanied by SONS volunteers to give them a hand. This was the first trip that day. A second trip went out at 3:00 pm on the same day with another 8 vets on board. The funds for the trips were provided by donations to the SONS from vets and social clubs through their Small Games of Chance programs.

SONS SPONSOR 2ND PLASTICS DOCUMENTARY SHOWING

A second showing of the documentary “A Plastic Ocean” will be held at the Tom Ridge Environmental Center (TREC) on Friday, September 14th at 7:00 PM. Admission is free. The documentary is about the huge problem and impact that is being caused by improper disposal of plastic garbage into the Earth’s waterways. The SONS of Lake Erie sponsored a prior showing on July 20th. It was so powerful that we felt that it should be shown again so more people can learn from it.
FOR SALE:


Boat: 2015 Lund Rebel 16 ½ ft 60hp four stroke Merc. With trailer, mooring cover, fish finders, marine radio and trailer, asking $15,000. Call Ed at 724-567-7103 or weekends at 724-216-7457.

Outboard Motor: 6 hp Johnson asking $475 Call Ron at 814-455-0190 or cell 814-431-5711.

Canoe: Old Town Discovery solo canoe, 11 feet 9 inches, 32.5 inch width, weight 50 lbs. capacity 500 lbs. polyethylene hull color red, molded plastic foldable seat. Purchased 4 years ago, minimally used. Current new price $700. Will sell for $300. Contact Bob at 814-397-4949.

SONS HATCHERY GETS MAJOR UPGRADES

Thanks to a generous grant from the Friends of Fish Foundation, some needed repairs and upgrades are taking place at the SONS of Lake Erie Hatchery. In the above photo on the left are electricians Jason Kuhn and Mike Fox from Conneuto Electric Contactors, showing installing new L.E.D. lights. The lights are not only brighter and more energy efficient but have been known to aid in the growth of fish in hatcheries. The electricians also installed new GFI circuits to provide more safety to the operation. This is only one phase in our efforts to upgrade the facility. Our hatchery crew has spent countless hours cleaning and reorganizing. Volunteers also installed new exterior doors and a new folding access ladder to the attic. The photo on the right shows how bright the room is now.

HATCHERIES TO REMAIN OPEN

The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) announced this week it would postpone action on a proposal to close the Oswayo and Union City hatcheries.

PFBC Executive Director John Arway had proposed closing the Oswayo hatchery, along with the Union City hatchery in Erie County and the VanDyke Research Station in Juniata County, last September as a means to save about $2 million in the commission’s budget. Since then the Commission decided to tap into the $50 million in uncommitted reserve funds available within the agency, to cover these hatcheries operating expenses thus keeping them in operation.

PHOTO OP

U.S. Congressman Mike Kelly (5th from left) stopped by Waterworks Pond on Saturday July 28th during Discover Presque Isle weekend while the SONS of Lake Erie were hosting a free family fishing event. Congressman Kelly posed with our volunteers and spent quite a bit of time working with some of the kids and talking with the participants.