PLEASE DON’T LITTER.

“REPLENISHING SPECIES”

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
MONDAY, APRIL 29
7:30 P.M.
THE POLISH FALCONS CLUB
431 E. 3rd Street, Erie, PA
PFBC biologists Chuck Murray and Mark Haffley will present the fishing forecast for PA waters of Lake Erie and preliminary results of the Walleye migration study.

Fishing Report:
Perch are being taken off the piers in the Bay and Channel. Boaters are doing well also when the winds permit. Crappies are being taken in the lagoons on warmer days.

Our April meeting will be held one week later than usual on April 29th due to an annual celebration of the Polish holiday “Dingus Day”.
NOTE THE FOLLOWING MEETING CHANGES

Our April meeting will be held one week later on April 29th due to an annual celebration of the Polish holiday “Dingus Day”

Our May meeting will be one week earlier on May 20th due to the Memorial Day holiday.

ICE OUT PARTY RECAP

Over 500 men, women and kids came to the Erie Shrine Club in Erie on Sunday April 7th to join in the fun at our 38th Annual Ice Out Party. By the time the “Fin and Fur” drawing, which is traditionally held at the end of the party was done, a lot of fun and games became history.

We served over 1200 hot dogs, 900 bags of potato chips, 5 kegs of beer, thousands of baked beans, gallons of soda, gallons of Greek sauce, pounds of macaroni salad and sauerkraut. The 500 guests left with about 100 fishing rods, dozens of lures, tackle, fishing vests and so many other prizes that the list would fill pages. Every kid got a specially designed SONS T-shirt. There was a special “Ladies Only” drawing too.

Ron Lubak and his crew composed of Team Lubak family members kept the kids busy with a game which Ron designed and built kept the kids coming back in an attempt to win the hundreds of toys and other prizes including plastic Easter eggs filled with candy. There was a perch coloring contest to keep the kids occupied during the day. Ron’s crew also raffled off some nice items with a Chinese auction and tip board raffles.

Jack Bock and his crew of 20 SONS volunteers cooked and served food for 4 hours straight with the help of a professional Shrine Club cook. Chuck Miller held a Wine & Swine raffle with his crew of 6 selling tips on a ham, a bottle of wine and more. John Larese and John Schultz passed out Utz chips. Sue and Marshall Chase sold thousands of pull tab tickets. Bob Zawadzki and his team spun the Big Six wheel hundreds of times. John Krupinski with the help of Joe and Barb Jaruszewicz and Tom Pruzenski operated the “SONS Store” handing out the free kids T-shirts as well as selling other SONS’ Stuff. Rich Smith ran a mug game. Bill Brown and Bill Stewart monitored the beer wagon checking ages and passing out cups. Our guests were met at the front door by Jim Mattson, Dick Kelley, Buddy Yurcak, Rich Brine and Jack Hartman. Inside Gary Heubel, Brittany Heubel, Bill Henderson, Rick Mel Perry, Dave Schmidt and Justin Mattson helped the guests turn in raffle tickets, memberships and purchase raffle tickets. Steve, John and Tom Skrypzak sold tips. Ed Kissell called out hundreds of winning raffle tickets while Jack Klapthor, Sharon Lipinski, Kelsey Grabinski, Mike Felege, Don Daugherty and Ray Halt passed out prizes to the winners all while Will Richardson and Mason Skelly brought more raffle tickets to the stage. Paul Holtz auctioned off merchandise including prints and bottles of wine. In all over 70 SONS volunteers worked to make the event a success leaving our great treasurer Terry Pfeffer to count the proceeds and determine if the party was also financial success. We hope everyone had fun.

MORE DONATIONS COME IN

John Larese (L) and John Schultz (R) from the Veterans Behavior Health Organization are shown presenting a check to S.O.N.S. President Jerry Skrypzak (Center) at the Ice Out Party. We also just recently received memorial donations in the memory of Ed “Peggie” Konieczki.
2019 MEMBERSHIP PIN
If you would like to have a 2019 S.O.N.S. member pin, you can pick one up at one of the upcoming events or our meetings. If you would like one mailed to you, send $3.00 to the S.O.N.S. of Lake Erie PO Box 3605 Erie, PA to cover mailing costs.

FIN AND FUR RAFFLE WINNERS

The culmination of our “Ice Out Party” is always the drawing of the winning tickets of our “Fin and Fur” raffle. The raffle was organized many years ago by Director and founding member, Bob Zawadzki, who has organized the raffle every year since. The raffle is our biggest fund raiser. We have had great success with it over the years thanks to the hard work of our volunteers selling tickets at shows and gun raffles that begin in the summer and run until our Ice Out Party.

Nick Ochs of Clarion was the Lucky Grand Prize winner of this year’s Fin and Fur raffle. He has yet to decide whether to take the ATV or the boat. The winning ticket number was #21334 Twelve more prizes were drawn and the winners as well as the prize donors are listed as follows:

2nd Prize- 8 hour Lake Erie Fishing Charter on “Heartbeat” by Cpt. Bob Ferraro was won by Joel Schaefer of Erie ticket # 13048

3rd Prize- 4 hour afternoon lake trout Spring Charter on “Waterbok” by Cpt. Steve Skrypzak was won by Scott Esser of Gibsonia ticket # 05828

4th Prize- 12 ga. Benelli pump shotgun from Edinboro Sports Sponsored by Church and Murdock Electric was won by Stella Haraburda of Erie ticket# 13348

5th Prize- $300 gift cert. to Edinboro Sports sponsored by Winstchel Bros. Landscaping Co. was won by Wayne Kramer of Butler. PA ticket # 05775

6th Prize- $250 gift cert. to Poor Richard’s Bait & Tackle Shop sponsored by Poor Richard’s was won by Karen Allessie of Erie ticket #01158

7th Prize- $250 gift cert. to FishUSA sponsored by FishUSA and Fish Erie was won by Jason Lynde of Watsburg ticket # 18564

8th Prize- $250 gift cert. to Link’s Taxidermy sponsored by Alex Roofing Co. was won by Cody Craker of St. Claresville, Ohio ticket# 05323

9th Prize- $250 gift cert. to Poor Richard’s Bait &Tackle by Hertl & Brown Physical & Aquatic Therapy was won by Dwane Jones of Harborcreek ticket# 02926

10th Prize- $200 in admission tickets on the Perch Pirate head boat was won by Rob Sheldon of Fairview ticket # 17531

11th Prize- $150 gift certificate to FishUSA sponsored by Janitors Supply was won by Lee Sheldrake of Erie ticket# 20978

12th Prize- One year membership to Lake Shore Towing sponsored by Cpt. Eric Guerrein was won by Lea Hinkler of Watsburg ticket# 19221

THESE DONORS SUPPORT US, PLEASE SUPPORT THEM

We are forever grateful for all of the support that we have received from all of those listed below who contributed prizes and services to make our 2019 Ice Out Party a great success.

The following businesses and individuals were our Fin & Fur Raffle Prize Donors

- Alex Motorsports
- Captain Bob Ferraro
- Captain Steve Skrypzak
- Church and Murdock Electric
- Winstchel Bros. Landscaping Co.
- Poor Richard’s Bait & Tackle Shop
- Erie Beer Co
- Erie Western PA Port Authority
- Ferrando Ford
- Ferriere Hardware
- Field & Stream Outdoor Store
- Folly’s End Campground
- Freepost Restaurant
- Game Stop
- Giant Eagle Get-Go
- Green Garden Lanes
- H&K Donuts
- Hite Electric Co
- Horstman & Sons
- Hoss’s Steak House
- International Bakery
- Jack Hartman
- Jack Pauleh
- Jake’s On the Park Restaurant
- Jimmy John’s Sub Shop
- Joe Root’s Grill
- John Bruger
- Kraus Department Store
- Kathy Stewart
- Lake Erie Bait & Tackle
- Line-X
- Lori’s Wildridge Restaurant
- Marco Pizza
- Maria’s Pizza
- Mazza Vineyards
- Mike’s Sports Bar & Grill
- Miller Bros. Garden Center
- Nail Queen
- New York Lunch
- Nickel Plate Mills
- NY Bagle & Deli
- Oakwood Café
- O’Riley Auto Supply
- Pano’s Restaurant
- Paris Cleaners
- Patti’s Pizza
- Patty Leone
- Pet Supplies Plus
- Pittsburgh Inn
- Potratz Florists
- Ring Side Restaurant
- Ron Morrow
- Rustic & Refind
- Serafini’s Restaurant
- Sherwin Williams Paint
- Silk Screen Unlimited
- Smith Provision Co
- Snap Fitness
- Stanganelli’s Italian Food
- Steel City Restaurant
- Sugar & Spice Eagle Hotel
- The Juice Jar
- Tires For Less
- Tom Pakela
- TREC
- Tress Passings Salon
- U-Haul Harborscreek
- Uncommon USA
- U-Pick Six
- Utz Potato Chips
- Valero’s Restaurant
- Valu Home Center
- Wagon Wheel Restaurant
- Walmart
- Wendy’s Restaurant
- West End Hardware
- Westway Bowling Lanes
- Wildbirds Unlimited

The following businesses and individuals contributed door prizes for the 2019 Ice Out Party

- A Duchini Hardware
- A Leg Up Dog Grooming
- A-La Cart
- Alfie’s Pizza
- All Aboard Dinor
- Allburn Florists
- Allen Stoneware Gallery
- Amber Rose Spa
- Art’s Bakery
- Ashley & Kuzma
- Physical Therapy
- Attorney David Ridge
- Auto Express
- Auto Zone
- Avanti’s or Syd’s Restaurant
- Battery Outlet
- Bianchi Honda
- Bill’s Bakery
- Bill Gross
- Bistro 26
- Breakfast Place
- Cakery Café
- Car Car II
- Champion Ford
- Chico’s Restaurant
- City Tile & Carpet
- Country Fair
- Courtyard Winery
- Creative Imprints
- Dave Hallman Hyandai
- Donato’s Pizza Shop
- Don Daugherty
- Eastway Lanes
- Edinboro Outdoors
- Elk Creek Sports
- Erie Batteries, Alternators & Starters
- Erie Beer Co
- Erie Western PA Port Authority
- Ferrando Ford
- Ferriere Hardware
- Field & Stream Outdoor Store
- Folly’s End Campground
- Freepost Restaurant
- Game Stop
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- Valero’s Restaurant
- Valu Home Center
- Wagon Wheel Restaurant
- Walmart
- Wendy’s Restaurant
- West End Hardware
- Westway Bowling Lanes
- Wildbirds Unlimited

JOIN A FRIEND TODAY!
MAIL TO: S.O.N.S., PO BOX 3605, ERIE, PA 16508

RECORD OF MEMBERSHIP 2019

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2019 Ice Out Party a great success.
MORE WALLEYE TO BE IMPLANTED WITH SENSORS

We received the following E-mail from PFBC’s Lake Erie Unit’s biologist Mark Haffley

April is here and that means it's time to start talking about this year's tagging project. Right now we are scheduled to start tagging the week of April 22. We have 21 tags to implant, 20 new and the one from the harvested fish last year. The plan this year, if the weather cooperates, will be to try and do some night boat electrofishing to see if we can increase our number of females, if possible, and then whatever two days are nicer we will be setting the sacrificial gill nets again. We appreciated all of your assistance last year and if you would like to pass this information along to your clubs we would appreciate that as well.

On March 21 we deployed our receiver in 11 foot of water to start detecting these fish in and around the reefs where they were caught.

A few updates since last year: Only one fish was caught and harvested. As of the download of the entire grid on June 24, 2018 we had 3,095 hits from 15 fish (which reflected a 75% survival) As of the download yesterday from the East Basin Perimeter grid and the Niagara River Mouth Grid we have 22,869 detections of all 20 fish so 100% survival from our efforts last year. So far the furthest detection is in the mouth of the Niagara river out of Buffalo.

Again, thank you all so much for your assistance last year and we look forward to seeing you all soon.

Learn more details at our April 29th General Membership meeting.

HATCHERY UPDATE – OPEN HOUSE SCHEDULED

HATCHERY UPDATE APRIL 11, 2019

Top left SONS Hatchery volunteers Ron Morrow, Bob Zawadzski, Bill Stewart and Don Tombaugh prepare to stock over 450 legal size brown trout into Presque Isle Bay at the foot of Sommerheim Drive on March 29th. Top right Bill Stewart and Ron Morrow placed the fish into the bay from a boat dock. Bottom left Ron Morrow and Joe Springer carefully ladle walleye eggs into the hatching jars at our hatchery. The eggs were part our 1.5 million egg allotment that the crew picked up at the PFBC Linesville Hatchery on May 11th. The eggs will take about 3 weeks to mature and hatch. Bottom right Hatchery Manager Bob Zawadzki, crew members, Ron Morrow, Joe Springer, Jack Bock and Don Tombaugh pose alongside the battery of hatching jars full of 1.5 million walleye eggs. An open house will be held at the hatchery on Sat. & Sun. May 4 & 5 from 12 to 4. The public is welcome.

FOR SALE:

Boat: 1990 Carver Montego 26 ft Model 2557, Fiberglass hull, Merc Cruiser 350, galley, head, shower, radio, power trim tabs, AC/DC refrigerator, nice, low hours, $8,500 or best offer Call Dennis at 814-450-0190 Can be seen at Lampe Marina.

COTTAGE FOR SALE on Crooked Creek in North Springfield, PA Call David at 814-882-2927. More information and photos can be seen on line at http://www.infotube.net/search_detail.php?photo=1&Adnumber=264667

USFWS STOCK LAKE TROUT

The USFWS Allegheny National Fish Hatchery in Warren stocked 40,000 yearling Lake Trout at the East Avenue Boat Launch on 4/11
**PFBC SETS 2019 DAILY CREEL LIMITS FOR LAKE ERIE YELLOW PERCH AND WALLEYE**

HARRISBURG, Pa. (April) – The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) today announced that the 2019 creel limit for Lake Erie yellow perch will remain at 30 per day and the creel limit for walleye will stay at six per day.

“The 2018 assessment showed that both yellow perch and walleye populations remain at or above maintenance management levels,” said Chuck Murray, the PFBC’s Lake Erie biologist. “Based on this, the 2019 creel limits for yellow perch and walleye are being maintained at their standard daily harvest limits.”

At its March 29 meeting, the Lake Erie Committee allotted to Pennsylvania a yellow perch total allowable catch (TAC) of 576,000 pounds, an 8% decrease from 2018, but 5% above the long-term average of 550,000 pounds. The 2019 level includes a yellow perch TAC for the commercial trap net fishery of 100,000 pounds.

Since 1996, the average harvest of yellow perch by Pennsylvania’s combined recreational (133,000 lbs.) and commercial fisheries (13,000 lbs.) has been 148,500 pounds. Yellow perch abundance has declined in the last few years, but good recruitment from the 2016- and 2017-year classes should improve the fishing in the coming years.

Walleye should provide exceptional fishing in 2019. The 2015 (age-4) year class is estimated to represent 46% of the population and should contribute significantly to the harvest. Record harvest rates were attained by angler in 2018, and harvest rates are expected to be well above average in 2019 too.

The PFBC adopted a regulation in 2012 which established an adaptive management capability in establishing creel limits for walleye and yellow perch based on the annual quotas established by the Lake Erie Committee, which consists of fisheries managers from Pa., Ohio, N.Y., Mich., and Ontario, Canada. Under the regulation, the PFBC sets daily creel limits for these species by April 15 each year.

“Adaptive fishing regulations are based on the most recent fishery assessment results and are better aligned with the current status of the yellow perch and walleye stocks,” Murray added. “This regulatory flexibility gave fisheries managers the ability to change daily harvest limits prior to the onset of the summer boat fishing season on Lake Erie.

**SONS SUPPORT WEATHER BUOYS AGAIN**

S.O.N.S. Pres Jerry Skrypzak is shown here presenting a $2500 donation to Dr Jeanette Schnarrs the Executive Director of the Regional Science Consortium (RSC). Dr. Schnarrs was our guest speaker at our March meeting. She put on a program designed to raise our awareness in recognizing harmful algal blooms and how to report them. The RSC also manages and maintains two buoys in Lake Erie as part of the Great Lakes Observing Systems (GLOS) for the Weather, Water, & Wave Buoy System. The operation of these buoys is quite expensive and we have been a sponsor every year for the last four along with other fishing and boating organizations. Dr. Schnarrs plans to deploy the buoys during the first week of May. One will be deployed in the lake off of the Presque Isle Lighthouse and the other off of Walnut Creek.

In order to access the buoys go to the internet at http://wqdatalive.com/public/55

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

(Note PISP = Presque Isle State Park)

Sat. April 20th 8-12 Rotary Pavilion PISP, Spring Clean Up volunteers need to prepare and serve lunch for park clean up participants.

Fri. April 26th 9-12 Girard Borough Park Pond Special Needs Kids fishing Volunteers needed Sat. April 27th , 10-2 Waterworks Pond PISP Family Fishing event in conjunction with WQLN PBS Nature Series Program Volunteers needed

Sat. May 4th 9-12 Harborcreek Township Municipal Park off Firman Rd. Kid’s fishing volunteers needed

Sat. May 4th 9-12 3-CU’s Middle Road Nursery Veteran’s fishing outing Volunteers needed

Sat. May 11th 10-12 Waterworks Pond PISP Cub Scout and Girl Scout fishing merit badge program volunteers needed

Fri. May 17th 10-12 Waterworks Pond PISP Waterford Kids Life Skills Fishing Vol. needed

Wed. May 22nd 10-12 Waterworks Pond PISP McKean Elementary Volunteers needed

Sat. May 25th 9-12 Perry Monument Area PISP EPSFA Kids Fishing outing volunteers needed

**WANTED:** Old photographs of Erie’s Waterfront - Ships, Boats, Buildings, Fishing and Fishermen, Railroads, etc. Call Jerry at 814-452-6291. I would like to borrow and scan them for my slide presentations.
For over 30 years now, the S.O.N.S. of Lake Erie has worked hard with others including the L.E.A.F (Lake Erie Arboretum at Frontier), PA Sea Grant, Coastal Zone Management and early on with kids from Strong Vincent High School to clean up, restore, improve habitat and reduce sedimentation and pollutants entering Presque Isle Bay. All of the efforts over the years by us and our partners have changed a previously polluted stream into a viable water way to support trout providing a fishing opportunity for inner city residents.

This year, on April 6th, forty seven S.O.N.S. volunteers were joined by Boy Scouts and leaders from Troop #13 headquartered at Elmwood Presbyterian Church in Erie along with members of the Gannon University fishing club and some park neighbors to clean up Cascade Creek and Frontier Park. The day ended up being sunny and pleasant after an early fog. As they have done for years, the volunteers gathered garbage bags of litter. All was business as usual until I observed two women with two kids walking toward me with one of the ladies carrying a stick with something white on the end. As they got closer I realized that they were carrying a human skull. The cleanup volunteers said they found the skull along the bank of Cascade Creek. They took photos of it before they picked the skull up. We called the Erie Police who arrived and started an investigation. As of this writing, more bones were recovered along the Cascade Creek stream bed by the police and the Mercyhurst University Forensic Anthropology team. The investigation is ongoing.

After the work was done everyone was provided a lunch of hot dogs, coffee, bottled water and chips. The stream was stocked with brown trout on April 12th. Photos taken during the clean-up are shown here including the scouts from Troop and Pack #13.