“A Replenishing Species”

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

MONDAY, MAY 20

7:30 P.M.

THE POLISH FALCONS CLUB
431 E. 3rd Street, Erie, PA

PFBC Executive Director Tim Schaeffer will be our speaker and will fill us in on future PFBC plans.

LAST MEETING UNTIL SEPTEMBER

NOTE THE FOLLOWING MEETING CHANGE-
Our May meeting will be one week earlier on May 20th due to the Memorial Day holiday.

Last meeting until September.
Good Fishing!
Have safe and fun Summer.

S.O.N.S. of LAKE ERIE,
SAVE OUR NATIVE SPECIES, INC.
PO BOX 3605  ERIE, PENNSYLVANIA  16508

A not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization

“Please Don’t Litter.”
NOTE THE FOLLOWING MEETING CHANGES

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PFBC ANNOUNCES 2019 “SPRING INTO FISHING GIVEAWAY”

HARRISBURG, Pa. (April 17) – The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) has partnered with Bass Pro Shops in Harrisburg and Bethlehem-based ArtsQuest to sponsor the 2019 “Spring into Fishing Giveaway!”

Prizes for this giveaway are sure to entice outdoor enthusiasts and music fans, and include:

**Grand Prize:** Ascend 10T sit-on-top fishing kayak (white/grey camo), Ascend tournament kayak paddle, and Ascend paddling fishing life vest donated by Bass Pro Shops, Harrisburg, PA.

**First Prize:** Two (2) tickets to see country music superstar Brad Paisley at Musikfest on August 11 in Bethlehem, PA, donated by ArtsQuest.

**Second Prize:** Shimano Sedona Fish Eagle rod/reel combo and Shadow Tech net

The public can enter this giveaway by visiting www.GoneFishingPA.com (click on the picture of the kayak or use the search bar) now through June 3, 2019. No purchase is required. Winners will be selected in a random drawing on or about July 1, 2019. Complete official rules can be found here.

For contest rules go to: https://pfbc.pa.gov/BoatGiveawayRules.pdf

PFBC COMMISSIONER MASCHARKA TO RETIRE

PA Fish and Boat Commissioner Ed Mascharka announced that he is retiring from his position in which he has served since 2010. He has been the representative for District 1 which includes Erie, Crawford, Forest, Mercer, Warren, Venango, Clarion, Butler, and Lawrence Counties. Ed was elected president of the Commission in 2015. He has served us with dedication, skill, and professionalism during his term as commissioner. He has sponsored and spearheaded many improvements to our fishery not only on Lake Erie but for the entire state for which we will be eternally grateful.

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
S.O.N.S. TO HOST A SUMMER FISHING CONTEST

In an effort to have some fun this upcoming fishing season we are sponsoring a fishing contest that will run from May 12th until September 15th. If you catch a large perch or walleye you can enter it into the contest! The angler who catches the largest perch or the largest walleye will win the bragging rights and some nice prizes. You must be a SONS member to enter. For more information see below:

YELLOW PERCH / WALLEYE FISHING EVENT

Presented by the S.O.N.S. of Lake Erie Fishing Club

Rules / Entry Requirements
• No Entry Fee
• Must be a S.O.N.S. Member to Enter (Except under 16 years of age)
• Must have a Current PA Fishing License and Lake Erie and Trout Stamp
• Must obey all PA Fish & Boat Regulations
• All Fish to be Judged by Weight Only – Ties to be determined by Date of Entry (Only Yellow Perch longer than 12 inches and Walleye longer than 26 inches will qualify for weigh in.)

Length of Fishing Event
• Start Date: 12:01 AM May 12th, 2019
• Ending Date: 11:59 PM September 15th, 2019

Fishing Locations
Only fish caught in Pennsylvania Waters of Lake Erie, its tributaries, and Presque Isle Bay will qualify

Weigh-In Stations
• Elk Creek Sports 10543 Old Lake Rd., Lake City, PA...............814-774-8755
• Poor Richard’s Bait & Tackle 6821 West Lake Rd. Fairview, PA...814-474-5623
• Fish USA 6960 West Ridge Rd., Fairview, PA........................814-881-5375
• Lake Erie Bait & Tackle 317 Peninsula Drive, Erie, PA.........814-790-5728
• East End Angler 4702 East Lake Rd., Harborcreek, PA.........814-898-3474
• North East Marina 11950 East Lake Rd., North East, PA........814-725-8244

Awards
Plaques and other awards to be awarded for adult and junior anglers by Outdoor Writer Mike Bleech and the S.O.N.S. of Lake Erie Fishing Club

Note: You may check the status of the fishing event by checking at the sonsoflakeerie.org web site.
In 1885, the newly formed PA Fish Commission obtained a $5,000 legislative appropriation to establish a hatchery in Erie that began operating on December 12 of that year. The hatchery was built on the corner of West 2nd and Sassafras Street on an 85 ½ X 85 ½ foot piece of property. There were three small ponds situated on the property.

The hatchery was established to support Erie’s growing commercial fishing industry. During that period millions of fish eggs were hatched from white fish, herring, blue pike, walleye, and even frogs. The first hatchery operated until 1916 when it was replaced by an outstanding facility on Presque Isle bay on Erie Waterworks property. It operated until the early 1960’s until it was closed. The building still exists and is now the headquarters of the Erie Waterworks.

In 1985 the S.O.N.S. of Lake Erie petitioned the State Legislature and PA Fish Commission to reinstitute a hatchery in Erie. In 1985 the Erie Western PA Port Authority was awarded a grant for that purpose and the current S.O.N.S. hatchery was completed.

In the past the commercial fisherman would take the spawn and eggs from fish in the spring and turn them over to the hatchery for processing. Reminiscent to those events, this year one of Erie’s commercial fishermen, Jim Shaeffer, gave us about four quarts of fertilized yellow perch eggs for us to hatch out. (To learn more about Erie’s Commercial Fishing Industry pick up a copy of “Fortune and Fury” co-authored by Dave Frew and Jerry Skrypzak. We have copies for sale at $10 each plus shipping or you can get a copy at the TREC Center, Erie County Historical Society, the Maritime Museum, The Jefferson Society, or Werner Books, or call 814-453-2270.)

Shown above on the left is a postcard from the early 1900’s showing a crew from a commercial fish tug posing with their catch “in the box” on the right is a photo of Jim Shaeffer and his crew posing in the same way on the day that they gave us 4 quarts of yellow perch eggs to hatch.

PFBC VOTES TO OBTAIN MORE ACCESS

HARRISBURG, PA (April 30) – During today’s formal meeting, the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) Board of Commissioners acted on numerous property access and real estate matters intended to provide more public fishing and boating access within the Lake Erie watershed.

Under one agreement in Crawford County, Commissioners authorized the $11,200 purchase of easement rights on 540 linear feet of property along Conneaut Creek near Beaver Street owned by Springboro Borough. In a second agreement, the Board voted to authorize an easement acquisition of 5,560 linear feet along Fourmile Creek, which flows through seven parcels of property south of Route 20 in Wesleyville Borough, Erie County. This waterway is known to provide significant steelhead fishing opportunities. Both easements would be funded using monies collected by the PFBC through the sale of special Lake Erie fishing permits. To date, the PFBC has acquired 27.48 miles (145,094 linear feet) of public fishing access in the Lake Erie Watershed through easements and land purchases under the Erie Access Improvement Program.

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.
HATCHERY GETS NEW SIGNAGE

When the Erie Sports Store closed down after 67 years, Rich Weber called and said he had something he wanted to give us. It turned out to be a 4-foot fiberglass and foam sculpture of a yellow perch created by Erie artist Jerry Thompson. Jerry first made the piece about 30 years ago for Dick May, who had it on display at May’s Tavern on East Lake Rd. When Dick retired he gave it to the Erie Sport Store, who had in on display at the downtown location, then moved it to the upper Peach store where it was on display until it closed. The artist, Jerry Thompson, restored it and our hatchery crew mounted it outside the building along with a new composite sign that was furnished by the PFBC.

Top Left Artist Jerry Thompson poses with the newly mounted yellow perch sculpture. Top right Jerry works on its restoration. Bottom our hatchery committee members pose outside with new signage. L to R. Chairman Bob Zawadzki, Don Tombaugh, Joe Springer, Rich Smith, and Jack Bock.

HATCHERY OPERATIONS CLOSE DOWN FOR THE SUMMER

On Monday, May 6th S.O.N.S. hatchery volunteers transferred over one million walleye – “eyed wigglers”, as the tiny newly hatched walleye are called – into the waters of Presque Isle Bay. Also stocked were the balance of the over 700 brown trout which were reared in our facility since November. There were about four quarts of perch eggs that were still incubating and were stocked later. This was all accomplished under our continuing relationship with the PFBC, under the Cooperative Nursery program of which we have been members since 1985.

An open house for the public was held on May 4th and 5th and over 150 men, women, and children came to experience our newly renovated facility. We are proud of the hard work of our hatchery crew and were glad to display their hard work.

To learn more visit our website at sonsoflateerie.org and click on 2018-19 Hatchery Operations

STOCKING CREW

May 6th, stocking day, broke the cold, damp, foggy, and windy trend that we had experienced at our prior events so far this spring. It was sunny, middle 60’s, and calm. Nineteen volunteers helped to get our fish into the Bay that day. Thanks to Joe Springer, Keith Cauvel, Rich Smith, Rich Brine, Ron Morrow, Earl Williams, Bill Stewart, Jason Stewart, Mary Runser, Doug Vest, Vic Kraus, Jack Bock, John Russel, Jim Mattson, Larry Lipinski, Don Tombaugh, Bob Zawadzki, Nolan Pyle, and Paul Holtz for their hard work at the hatchery.
WET WEATHER FAILS TO STOP THE FUN

The Presque Isle Clean up took place on April 20th. It was cold and rainy and only 100 volunteers showed up.

On April 26th it was warm and rainy. However, we met with about 20 kids from Mrs. Tolbert’s Life Skills class at the Girard Borough Pond where, in spite of the rain, a lot of nice fish were caught.

The following day we met again at Waterworks Pond where we attempted to conduct a Family Fishing event in conjunction with a \textit{Spring into Science} event at the TREC. It was cold and rainy, but still we had about 30 participants, mostly from the Scout troop from the Elmwood United Presbyterian Church.

On Saturday, May 4th our volunteers gathered at the pond at Harborcreek Township Municipal Park along with about 100 adults and kids for a family fishing event in spite of a damp heavy fog that hung over the area. Not many fish were caught but it seems that everybody had a good time.

Also on May 4th the same crappy weather existed at 3-CU’s Middle Rd. raceway in Fairview Township. Our volunteers were there helping a group of military veterans fish for trout. This is an annual event but this year only four fish were caught.

For some more photos of those events visit our website at sonsoflakeerie.org.

Volunteers at the 2019 Presque Isle Clean up

Girard Life Skills Class
UPCOMING EVENTS
(Note PISP = Presque Isle State Park)

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
Sat. June 1st 9-12 Girard Borough Park Family Fishing Outing Volunteers needed
Sat. June 8th 10-12 Waterworks Pond PISP Cub Scouts fishing derby Volunteers needed
Tues. June 25th 10-12 Waterworks Pond PISP Waterford YMCA Kids fishing Volunteers needed
Fri. July 19th 10-2 Waterworks Pond PISP Union City family Support Center Outing Volunteers needed
Fri. July 26th Lawrence Park Public Library National Fishing Month Volunteers needed to do casting
Sat. July 27th 8-12 Waterworks Pond PISP Discover Presque Isle Family Fishing Volunteers needed
Mon. July 29th 12-2 Waterworks Pond PISP Edinboro YMCA Kids fishing Volunteers needed

Mon. Aug. 5th 5-? Shade’s Beach Volunteers’ Picnic

Watch for changes in the upcoming summer issues of the Bucket
Beals-McMahon Painting
Richard A. "Mickey" McMahon Proprietor
454-3676

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