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PFBC COMMISSIONER MASCHARKA HONORED AT MEETING

After serving 9 years as Commissioner from District 1 of the PFBC, Ed Mascharka has retired. As one of his last official duties he introduced Timothy Schaeffer to our members at our May 20th meeting. Before proceeding with his presentation the Exec presented Ed with a beautiful print in recognition of his service to the Commission. SONS Pres Jerry Skrypzak and VP, Ed Kissell also presented Ed with some tokens of appreciation on behalf of the SONS. Ed also received a Citation from the State House of Representatives commending him on his dedicated service to the State. The Citation was signed by all of the Erie County State Reps and Senator Laughlin.

SONS TREASURER TERRY PFEFFER CELEBRATES BIRTHDAY AT MAY MEETING

In addition to hotdogs, chips, and beverages, SONS members helped celebrate SONS Treasurer Terry Pfeffer’s birthday with a cake at our May 20th meeting.

CURRENT LEADERS IN SONS SUMMER FISHING CONTEST

As of June 17th the following fish are leading in the SONS summer fishing contest:

**Senior Division**
- **Walleye**  Weighing: 10.5 lbs
  Caught by: Dan Tome
- **Perch**  Weighing: 1.8 lb
  Caught by: Kirk Rudzinski

**Junior Division**
- **Walleye**  Weighing: 7.8 lbs
  Caught by: Colton Barto
- **Perch**  None entered yet

For an update of contest leaders check our web page at sonsoflakeerie.org
PFBC EXECUTIVE SPOKE ON MANY SUBJECTS

When Timothy Schaeffer, Executive Director of the PA Fish and Boat Commission spoke at our May 20th General Membership meeting he gave us an insight on the status of the proposed license increase and predicted that the bill would soon be out of the various committees and put out for a vote by the State Legislators in the respective bodies. He also talked about upcoming plans to upgrade Commission infrastructure. The PFBC is also planning to hold a WCO recruit school in order to fill vacant positions and prepare for upcoming retirements. He thanked us for our continued support and expressed a willingness to continue with our club’s relationship. We had over a hundred members in attendance. Free hot dogs, chips, and beverages were served.

VETERANS FISHING VOUCHERS HAVE BEEN MAILED

Due to weather and scheduling problems we have decided not to attempt to organize group fishing outings for veterans this season but instead we held a drawing where names were drawn and vouchers for a free fishing trip on the Edward John or Perch Pirate head boats were mailed to lucky participating vets. At all of our winter shows and events we had postcard made up where veterans were invited fill out making them eligible to participate in the drawing. Over 300 entries were made and 60 vouchers were awarded. The small games of chance contributions from the various Veterans Clubs to the SONS of Lake Erie were used to fund the program. The vouchers were mailed on June 8th and if you participated in the drawing and your name was drawn you should have got your voucher by now.

UPCOMING EVENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tues. June 25th</td>
<td>10-12 Waterworks Pond PISP Waterford YMCA Kids fishing Vol. needed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed. June 26th</td>
<td>10-12 Waterworks Pond PISP Boys and Girls Club Fishing Outing Vol. needed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurs. July 11th</td>
<td>8:30-11 Waterworks Pond PISP Erie Schools Refugee Program Vol. needed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri. July 12th</td>
<td>8:30-11 Waterworks Pond PISP Erie Schools Refugee Program Vol. Needed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon. July 15th</td>
<td>2:30-4 Liberty Pier Kids from John Horan Apartments Fishing Vol. needed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri. July 19th</td>
<td>10-2 Waterworks Pond PISP Union City family Support Center Outing Vol. needed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues. July 23rd</td>
<td>10:20-12 Liberty Pier Neighborhood Art House Fishing Volunteers needed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri. July 26th</td>
<td>10-12 Lawrence Park Public Library National Fishing Month Vol.needed to do casting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat. July 27th</td>
<td>8-12 Waterworks Pond PISP Discover Presque Isle Family Fishing Volunteers needed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon. July 29th</td>
<td>12-2 Waterworks Pond PISP Edinboro YMCA Kids fishing Volunteers needed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon. Aug. 5th</td>
<td>5-7 Shade’s Beach Volunteers’ Picnic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon. Aug 12th</td>
<td>1-3 Waterworks Pond PISP St. George’s Summer Day Camp Volunteers needed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues. Aug 13th</td>
<td>5-8 Liberty Pier 8 Great Tuesdays Family Fishing Volunteers needed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat. Aug. 24th</td>
<td>8-12 Gem City Outdoorsman Club Youth Field Days Volunteers needed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurs. Aug 29th</td>
<td>11-2 Waterworks Pond PISP LECOM Senior Citizens Volunteers needed</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Watch for changes in the upcoming summer issues of the Bucket

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.

FOR SALE: Boat: 18 ft. 2002 Trophy w/ 115 hp. Mercury, two rod trees, downriggers, planer board mast, 2 planer boards, and 4 trolling poles. Asking $ 8,500 Call Ron at 814-651-3262
NEW STATE RECORD LAKE TROUT RECORDED

HARRISBURG, Pa. (May 17) – The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) is pleased to announce a new state record lake trout!

On May 11, 2019, angler Keith Miller, 73, of Cranberry Township, Venango County joined friends with God’s Grace Sport Fishing, a charter company, for a scouting trip for the upcoming summer fishing season on Lake Erie. Departing from the North East Marina in Erie County, Miller along with Captain Lane Brown and first mate Tom Thompson ventured between 2 and 2.5 miles off shore, fishing in an area known as “The Mountain.” At around 4:30pm, the boat was trolling above 55 feet of water when a fish struck on an Orange Crush UV Copper colored Michigan Stinger spoon on 30-pound braided line.

“I could tell it was a lot bigger than the ones we’d been catching,” recalled Miller, who said the crew had already boated several lake trout in the 14-pound range earlier that day. “At first it was like dead weight, but then the fish started taking quite a bit of line and put up a really great fight.”

After an approximately 15-minute tug of war, Miller says the large lake trout appeared at the surface of the water and the crew immediately suspected it could be a state record contender. Upon boating the fish, a preliminary weight taken using a handheld scale indicated the lake trout was approximately 31 pounds. If accurate, Miller’s catch was heavier than the previous state record lake trout weight of 29-pounds, 4-ounces, also caught in Lake Erie in 2012 by an angler from Nazareth, Northampton County.

“It was almost like one of those ‘You’ve got to be kidding me’ moments,” said Miller. “We’re just out there fishing for fun and all of the sudden you might have a state record on your hands.”

The crew immediately pulled its remaining lines from the water and headed back to shore where the fish was transported to Poor Richard’s Bait and Tackle in Fairview, where a certified scale is located. At 6:40pm, a weigh-in was conducted under the supervision of PFBC Waterways Conservation Officer Matthew Visosky, where the lake trout tipped the scales at 31-pounds, 13-ounces, exceeding the previous record by two-pounds, nine-ounces. Miller’s fish measured 40-inches in length with a girth of 24.25-inches.

As is required for state record consideration, in addition to a witnessed weigh-in and PFBC in-person inspection, Miller completed an official state record fish application including color photographs, which was reviewed by PFBC officials and confirmed. State record fish are judged only by weight and must exceed the previous state record by at least two ounces.

Miller says while he is proud to hold the new record, he gives credit to Brown and Thompson.

“It was a team effort. Those guys are the ones who know the lake and found where the fish were biting,” he said.

Upon weighing the lake trout, Miller turned the fish over to staff at Poor Richard’s to be preserved in a freezer so that it can eventually be accurately replicated and mounted for display at the business.

“I live alone,” said Miller. “If I put it at my house, nobody would ever see it and all it would do is collect dust. I also think records are made to be broken and this might not last very long. I suspect there are other lake trout in Lake Erie that would enjoy mine for a snack.”

A list of current Pennsylvania State Record Fish, official rules and application can be found at www.fishandboat.com

PHOTO OF LOW WATER FROM FEBRUARY 2013 ISSUE OF BUCKET

Fluctuating water levels are constantly taking place on the Great Lakes. The photo on the left was taken in February 2013 the one on the right was taken June 9th, 2019 of the stationary fishing pier on the Bay at the foot of Walnut St.
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.

HIGH WATER HIDES SUNKEN DANGERS

Water levels in the great lakes have been increasing over the last months with Lake Superior up by 14 in., Lakes Huron and Michigan up 26 in., Lake Erie up by 30 in and Lake Ontario up 21 inches. Forecasts are for increasing levels in June. The last time the lakes were this high was in 1986. Forecasts are for record high water higher than 1986.

Towns like Port Clinton, OH and Greece, NY has water overflowing the lake banks into the streets. Locally stationary docks are underwater, ramps to floating docks are in an upward angle, on windy days water is washing over the break walls along the waterfront, cottages in the Ferncliff area are experiencing flooding, there are new puddles formed along the roads on Presque Isle, beach areas are shrinking and much more.

Normally visible obstructions are now hidden by the high water. One of the most obvious situations exists at the Chestnut St. boat launch. The launch ramp enters a basin that is enclosed by a rip rap wall on the east side, a concrete wall on the north side and a concrete pier on the west side which is now underwater and hidden. In order to remedy the problem the Erie Western PA Port Authority have placed large concrete blocks on the end of this pier to mark the west side of the narrow channel leading into the launch basin.

NEW LIFE FOR AN OLD LADY

The Jo-Ann M was built in 1980 and was the last commercial fishing vessel built by Paasch Marine Services (200th hull). The boat was named after the matriarch of the Munch family and is well-known in the Erie area. Following the Munch Family, the boat was owned by Captain Ron Zielinski. In October 2016, through the Western Pennsylvania Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, purchased the boat and started repurposing efforts. With the help of generous volunteers and donors, the vessel has been converted to carry passengers and in particular those with special needs. Inside the boat, there are beautiful benches and over-sized deck chairs that are placed in front of gangway doors. The deck chairs are removable in order to welcome guests who use wheelchairs. The entire boat is covered, as well, to protect guests from the elements. Fishing gear and bait are also provided for the trip along with U.S. Coast Guard approved lifejackets.

Former commercial fisherman and captain of the PFBC research vessel Perca and his son the Reverend Rob Wilson have spearheaded the project. Rev. Wilson is the Executive Director of the At the Lake Ministries. Check their website at athelakeministries.org. You are also invited to support this ministry through a donation. Use the donation page or send a check to At The Lake Ministries/WPAUMC and mail directly to the United Methodist Center, 1204 Freedom Rd., PO Box 5002, Cranberry Township, PA 16066-0002 with “ATLM Support” listed on the memo line.

They are also looking for volunteers to assist passengers’ fish. If you would like to volunteer call Rev. Rob Wilson at 814-657-4024. The SONS are currently planning to sponsor fishing trips for our disabled veterans and members.

FOR SALE: Boat: 16 ft Bass boat w/ 40 hp Merc & trolling motor and fish finder Call Dan 814-881-8567

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

WANTED: Boat Trailer for 16 ft deep V boat call Dan at 814-881-8567

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.
Fishing Report:
Walleye fishing has been good and getting better. Perch fishing has been okay but some limits have been reported.

No Meetings until September!!! Have a fun and safe summer!