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FISHING REPORT

Anglers have realized good success harvesting perch and crappies from Presque Isle Bay. Holland St Dock a location of choice for many. There also were numerous boats working the head of the Bay, areas just inside the channel as well as Misery Bay.



◀ Scene at Holland Street on March 25th

SONS Director Jack Klaphor shows a nice perch ▶

FIRST DAY OF TROUT 2024

On Saturday April 6, 22 SONS of Lake Erie Volunteers joined with staff from PI Staate Park at Waterworks Pond to help kids fish for trout. Most of the kids were accompanied by a parent or grandparent. Bait and tackle were provided free of charge. We have been part of this event for more than 25 years. It's always fun and marks the beginning what looks like a busy season. There were a lot of rout caught this year as well as you can see from the photos.





SONS 2024 MEMBERSHIP BUTTON

is a depiction of a bluegill this year. This is in keeping with featuring a native species fish on the button. You can pick up the 2024 pin at anyone of our events or meetings or you can get one by sending \$3.00 to SONS of Lake Erie, PO Box 3605, Erie, PA 16508

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LAKE ERIE FACES A NEW THREAT

The *Erie Times News* published an article on Thursday March 24th. The headlines "House committee passes Lake Erie wind farm bill". The State House Committee Environmental Resources and Energy Committee passed House Bill 254 would allow the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection to lease tracts of land in the lake to develop a wind farm. Apparently our State House Committee is not aware that attempts to develop a similar project off of Cleveland, has failed to come to fruition. More attempts in New York have reached the same roadblocks. Our Reps. apparently are not fully informed on the structure, the importance and threats to our Lake by this endeavor.

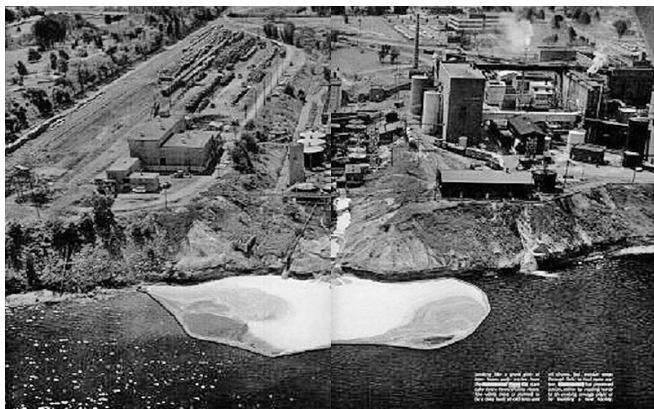
Lake Erie is prone to about 4 or 5 earthquakes a year, there are miles of salt mines under Lake Erie's bottom off of Cleveland and Mentor Ohio, for over fifty years the former International Paper facility pumped millions of gallons of highly toxic waste into the sub structure of the Lake and the former Erie Coke Plant is an environmental time bomb. The toxic paper company waste has actually made it to the surface on Presque Isle State Park causing emergency capping of the blow out. I don't think that the legislators fully understand the potential threats posed by doing this. Do we know what drilling 100 ft into the lake to support the turbine bases could break into or stir up? Would this induce more earth quakes? Do we know what the low frequency vibrations from the turbines will stir up? Would the 100+ years of contaminants that have settled to the lake bottom get released from their coating of silt?

I was assured by one of our State Rep. that there was enough language in the bill to mitigate these threats but we know how our government works and by the time a bill makes it though the mill it no longer is the same due to the amendment process. What amendments initiated by lobbyists could find their way into it to remove these protections?

The same legislator said that it probably will face the same hurdles as encountered in Ohio and New York. I say, then why even do it? Are the Legislators in New York and Ohio more informed than ours?

With our Lake Erie already dealing with, invasive species, toxic algae blooms and climate change we don't need more problems. It's not just our fishery it's our water and our life being threatened and besides all that wind turbines will ruin our beautiful views!

Our club has endeavored to stay out of politics but maybe it's time to circle the wagons.



This photo from Life Magazine shows the plume of effluent being emptied into Lake Erie from the Hammermill Paper Co., predecessor of International Paper. These contaminants were later pumped underground into the substructure of the lake.

THE MARCH MEETING PROGRAM

was presented by Mr. Tony Sobina of Oil City, PA who has managed to make time to go fishing every day for 4 years straight. Tony presented a slide show showing some of his favorite fishing holes, favorite flies, experiences, and tactics. There were close to 100 attendees at the meeting and Tony kept their attention with his down to earth personality.



As a token of our appreciation for his great presentation, we presented Tony Sobina with a specially laser engraved trout net. Photo by Chuck Miller.

WHAT COLOR LURE WORKS BEST WHEN THE SUN IS LIKE THIS?



2024 ICE OUT PARTY WAS AN ABSOLUTE SUCCESS

We would like to thank all of you for your generous support that made our 2024 Ice Out Party which was held on Sunday, March 24 a huge success. There were 720 paid attendees including, men, women, and children and a whole slew of toddlers.

There were games for adults and activities and games for kids too. Every child in attendance was given either a SONS kid's fishing vest or a small tackle box; All of the ladies were invited to participate in a game where each and every lady won a prize which varied in value from \$10- to \$50. SONS VP Ed Kissell drew hundreds of tickets from a raffle drum for hundreds of regular door prizes including over fifty fishing rods and reels along with tackle boxes, lures, minnow buckets, gift certificates and lots more.

It took 65 of our member volunteers to produce this event. Team Lubak kept up the tradition started by their Dad and Grandfather and former SONS President Ron Lubak by keeping the kids busy with games and a coloring contest. They also conducted a huge merchandise tip board raffle and a Chinese auction which took over 50 ft. of tables to display all of the auction items which included some great prizes.

Other games included a wine and ham raffle, spirits raffle, pull tabs and card games. There were also a outdoor grilling raffles and a silent auction. Auctioneer Paul Holtz auctioned off assorted bottles of his home made wine.

1430 hot dogs were cooked and served along with several side dishes by our volunteer kitchen crew. 100's of gallons of beverages served to wash it all down.

We also owe a vote of thanks to the management and staff of the Erie Shrine Club for all of their hard work that made the party a success and all of those who attended to make this event so successful.

The conclusion of the Ice Out Party was the drawing of the winners of our Annual Fantastic Fin and Fur fund raiser. There were 13 prizes were awarded. The top prize was \$5000 cash. The winners are listed below in the order they were drawn:

2024 FIN and FUR RAFFLE WINNERS

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Annette Wheeler Girard, Pa. | 7. Rich Cass North East, Pa. |
| 2. Mark Fisher Greenville, Pa. | 8. Dave Hess Fairview, Pa. |
| 3. John Raun Conneaut Lake, Pa. | 9. Dan Wilson Girard, Pa. |
| 4. Jason Pier Erie, Pa. | 10. Craig Kramer North East, Pa. |
| 5. Gregory Swanson Erie, Pa. | 11. Nick O'Donish Sheffield, Pa. |
| 6. Amy Stewart North East ,Pa. | 12. Jerry Rinderle Fairview, Pa. |
| | 13. Glen Obringer Union City, Pa. |

NEWS BRIEFS

Weather Destroys Two More Houseboats In Horse Shoe Pond



This nearly sunk houseboat is slated to be refloated and repaired in mid-April. Another one beached and broke up so it was demolished and removed, making a total of three casualties to the wind this year.

The Fish Cleaning Station at Lampe Marina

will be dedicated and officially opened on May 1, 2024.

Many Thanks to the Families

of Fay Thompson and Al Sassman as well as Linda Burfield for their recent donations of used fishing gear. It will be refurbished and given to those who need it.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Saturday April 27th

9-12 PISP Rotary Pavilion Presque Isle Clean-up
Volunteers needed.

Saturday May 4th

9-11 Girl Scouts at Waterworks Pond.
Volunteers needed

Saturday May 4th

9-12 Fishing at Harborcreek Community Park
Volunteers needed

Tuesday May 7th

6PM-? Waterworks Pond Cub Scout Pack 59
Volunteers needed

Saturday May 11th

10-1 Liberty Pier Our West Bayfront kids
Volunteers needed

2023 FIN & FUR WINNER GIVES BACK

Justine Kuno the winner of the fourth prize in our 2023 Fin & Fur drawing, the Walleye charter which was donated by Capt. Steve Skrypzak and Capt. Tom Mascharka on board their boat. The "Waterboc", She had such a great time that she donated 2 beautiful deer prints as prizes for our Ice Out Party to show her appreciation. We held a special raffle for one of the prints and sold the other as part of a silent auction.



Paul Olszewski proudly shows off the beautiful framed print he won in a special raffle, donated by Justine Kuno.



2024 ICE OUT PARTY



MANY THANKS TO OUR GENEROUS PRIZE DONORS

Teams made up of some of our directors and volunteers went out into our community and solicited our generous friends and business for contributions of items that could be used for door prizes or raffle items. Over 100 gift cards and certificates were collected, There were some outstanding that are worth

mentioning including an oil change, inspection and complete car detailing which was donated by Roth Cadillac, a gas fire pit donated by Ferrier Hardware. There were buckets of cleaning supplies, car care products, quilts, gift baskets , tools, bottles of moonshine and more.

Below is a list of all of our generous supporters and we ask that you support those that support us.

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HATCHERY HAPPENINGS

Brown Trout Stocking On Wednesday March 27, 2024 the SONS of Lake Erie Hatchery Crew and seven volunteers stocked approx. 800 legal size brown trout in to the waters of Presque Isle Bay which are adjacent to the SONS hatchery. The trout were carried by volunteers by the bucketful out of the hatchery. The browns were brought to the facility on Nov. 17, 2023 where they were fed and cared for by the volunteer crew. Approx. 100 fish were held behind so that they could be held for display for visitors to our upcoming open house.



Brown trout Stocking 2024

Our Hatchery's Allotment of Walleye Eggs was picked up at PFBC's Linesville hatchery by members of our hatchery team on Wednesday April 3. The walleye began spawning earlier than usual due to the mild winter. Our allotment this year was 1,600,000 eggs, they were packed into large plastic bags of water which are given a shot of oxygen and sealed. When they arrived at our hatchery the bags were kept closed and floated in one of our holding tanks until the temperatures match the water flowing into our tanks. The eggs were then gently transferred from the bags into our hatching jars using a ladle. They eggs were already eyed up and even some were already hatching.



Walleye eggs arrive 2024

NORTH EAST MARINA BOAT LAUNCH AREA TO OPEN FOR DAY USE ON APRIL 27

HARRISBURG, Pa. (March 28) — The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) announced today that on April 1, 2024, maintenance work will begin at the public boat launch area at North East Marina, Erie County. The boat launch ramps are currently closed and will remain closed throughout the duration of the maintenance period over the next several weeks.

During this time, contractors will move heavy equipment into the area to perform concentrated dredging operations near the boat ramps and in the channel leaving the marina, sedimentation removal, and erosion control activities. Visitors to the North East Marina property should use caution and avoid the active work zone.

Beginning Saturday, April 27, the public boat launch area will reopen for day use and provide boaters with access to amenities including two boat launch ramps, a fish cleaning station, portable toilets, and seasonal courtesy docks for use while launching and retrieving boats at the boat launch. Courtesy docks will remain in place throughout the summer and fall boating seasons, weather permitting.

As previously announced, following a thorough assessment process to determine future operations at North East Marina, the PFBC closed the portions of the marina basin which contained privately leased boat slips at the end of the 2023 boating season. The decision was made due to significant costs associated with current and future environmental permitting requirements, as well as increasing infrastructure needs. Subsequently, other concessionaire-provided services at the marina have been reduced as well.

The PFBC is actively collaborating with local officials and members of the public to explore all options to preserve public boating access at the North East Marina site.

On another note: The North East Marina was the subject of a borough council meeting whose officials voted to proceed with forming a NE Marina Authority. Now township officials must do the same.



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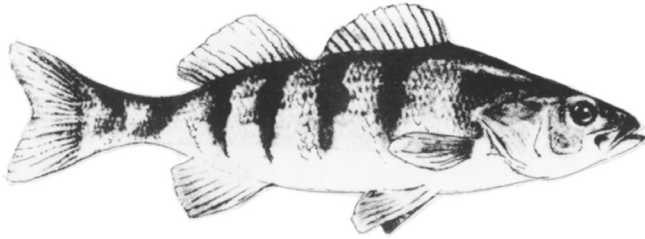
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WOULD YOU LIKE TO GET YOUR SONS NEWS LETTER BY EMAIL?

If so, send us an email to sonslakeri@aol.com list your name, address and note that you would like to change to the electronic version. So far we have about 420 members who have requested the change so far. You can always read the current and past issues of the Bucket at our web site, sonsoflakeerie.org at any time.



"A REPLENISHING SPECIES"

TIME DATED MATERIAL

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GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

MONDAY, APRIL 22 7:00 PM

POLISH FALCONS CLUB

431 E. 3rd Street, Erie

PROGRAM: Our friend and expert angler Jeremy Scott will talk about early season walleye tactics. He has been soliciting questions from our members through Facebook to be discussed at our meeting.

WALNUT CREEK DREDGING IS COMPLETE & MORE COMING

On March 25th 2025 PFBC's special long boom excavators were hard at work dredging the mouth of Walnut Creek The dredge material was loaded into trucks and then it was dumped on the beach adjacent to the Walnut Creek access area.

More dredging is scheduled for the East Ave boat launch from April 15-30th. The ramp will be closed during the dredging. The North East boat launch was dredged out in early April.



PFBC SEEKS COMMENTS

We received an Email from PFBC District Commissioner Dan Pastore to let us know that the regulation requiring that a 2"X2" piece of skin be left attached to the fish fillet that are produced at authorized fish cleaning stations will be one of the subjects on the agenda at the PFBC's upcoming April 29, 2024 meeting.

When the cleaning stations were first put in, there was no requirement that a piece of skin be left on the fillet. The requirement to leave a piece of skin on was adopted at the July 2022 Commission meeting at the request of the Commission's law enforcement division. There is some skepticism as to whether that requirement was really necessary to help law enforcement, and whether it was diminishing the value of the cleaning stations since fish cannot be completely cleaned at the stations.

If you or anyone you know has an opinion on whether the requirement that a 2" x 2" piece of skin be left on a fillet for fish cleaned at the Commission's cleaning stations, you are encouraged to submit a comment to the Commission at least several days before the April 29, 2024 meeting, so those comments can be presented to the Commissioners before the meeting. You can submit comments here: <https://www.fishandboat.com/About-Us/Pages/Regulatory-Changes.aspx>.

In your comment, reference 58 PA Code § 63.15a(e) relating to the requirement that a piece of skin be left on fillets at the Commission's cleaning stations.