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S.O.N.S. PHONE NUMBER 814-453-2270 (ALSO FAX NUMBER)
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Fishing Report

During periods of favorable weather many boats are making their way into Presque Isle Bay waters and others onto the piers around the bay.



THE PERCH ARE BITING

This picture of the Holland St. Pier was taken in late March and is indicative of similar scenes scene in and around Presque Isle Bay. Most of the anglers we talked to had perch in their buckets.

Fish Picture!



A MOUNTED STATE RECORD PERCH

can be seen at East End Angler bait shop located at 4702 E. Lake Rd. in Erie. Kirk Rudzinski shown in a photo inset caught the record fish in 2021.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Note: if you would like to volunteer
There will be sign up sheets at our
April 24th meeting.

Saturday April 29th 9-1 French Creek
Council BSA and Reverend LaMont
Higginbottom and a group from Second
Baptist Church PI (Note: Two different
groups) Volunteers needed

Saturday May 6th 9-11 pond at
Harborcreek Township Community Park
Family trout fishing Volunteers needed

Saturday May 13th 930-1030
Waterworks pond PISP. Girl Scouts
group Volunteers needed

Wednesday May 19th 10-12
Waterworks pond PISP Wild & Free
Homeschool Group Volunteers needed

Thursday May 25th at 9:30 AM.
Waterworks pond PISP General McLane
3rd grade. Volunteers needed

ASA HIGHLIGHTS ACCESS AND CONSERVATION

The American Sportfishing Association's (ASA) Southeast Fisheries Policy Director, Martha Guyas, testified on the importance of sound fisheries policy before the U.S. House Committee on Natural Resources Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife and Fisheries. Guyas began by showcasing the various ways that fishing benefits conservation, jobs and the U.S. economy. In 2021, 52.4 million people went fishing in the U.S., supporting 826,000 jobs and contributing \$129 billion to the economy. Through fishing license purchases, excise taxes and direct donations, the recreational fishing community contributes approximately \$1.7 billion toward aquatic resource conservation each year.

The economic impact to Erie County is estimated to be about \$49 million according to a 5-year-old study by Penn State University.



SONS 2023 MEMBERSHIP BUTTON

You can get one at any of 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.

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RECORD OF MEMBERSHIP

2023

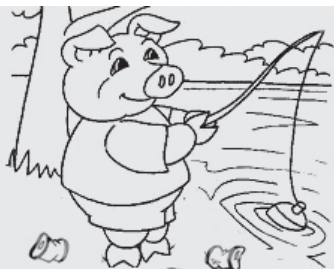
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OHIO DNR FORECASTS GOOD FISHING

COLUMBUS, Ohio – Lake Erie anglers can expect the 2023 fishing season to provide more world-class fishing and lasting memories, according to the Ohio DNR Division of Wildlife. After another year of strong walleye hatches, Lake Erie maintains its title as the Walleye Capital of the World. Additionally, a stable yellow perch population in Lake Erie's west zone will provide good fishing in 2023, while low catch rates are expected to continue in the central and east zones. You want to learn about the 2023 fishing prospects for Pennsylvania waters of Lake Erie come to our April 24th meeting where our speaker, Captain Mark Hafley Unit Manager for PFBC's Lake Erie Unit provides us with a forecast of this seasons' fishery and estimates of the fish population.

REMINDER-MANDATORY LIFE JACKETS REQUIRED

November 1 through April 30 while underway or at anchor
on boats less than 16 feet in length or any canoe or kayak.

ROD AND REEL

winner Blake Silvis (R) proudly poses with his brother (L) alongside the rod and reel combo he won in a drawing at the Erie RV and Sports Expo. For all youth members that joined at the show.



FISH USA's WALLEYE-PALOOZA WAS OUTSTANDING



On March 25, 2023! A free walleye fishing seminar was held at the the FishUSA Pro Shop at 6960 West Ridge Road Fairview, PA. Approx. 300 interested anglers were afforded the opportunity to learn the expert techniques for walleye fishing by tournament champions, charter captains Pete Alex and Paul Snyder. Attendees also learned how to get the most out of their electronics from Garmin expert Greg Richmond

SONS volunteers participated by preparing and serving hot dogs, snacks and beverages to the guests while also selling SONS memberships and raffle tickets.

2023 HATCHERY SEASON ENTERS PHASE II

Phase I of the 2022-23 hatchery seasons at the SONS of Lake Erie Fish Hatchery located at the foot of Chestnut St. on Presque Isle Bay in Erie was completed today when the hatchery crew and volunteers planted 450 9-to-10-inch brown trout into the Bay. 609 5" long brown trout fry were

brought to the SONS hatchery from the PFBC facility in Linesville, PA on November 17, 2022. They were fed and cared for by daily visits from volunteers since then. Their care and feeding prepared them for today's stocking.



Above are a few photos showing the crew of SONS Volunteers who worked stocking this year's batch of brown trout.

Phase II of the 2022-23 hatchery season began on Wednesday April 5th when our allotment of 1 million 700 thousand walleye eggs were brought from PFBC's Linesville hatchery by our members of our hatchery crew and placed into our hatching jars for incubation. This operation has been in operation since 1985 during which millions of walleye perch and thousands of trout and steelhead have been produced and stocked into Presque Isle Bay.



Above is a photo of the walleye fry hatching with a close up picture of a newly hatched walleye called an "eyed wiggler" in the lower left corner.



ABOVE: SONS hatchery manager Jack Bock and volunteer Mary Runser carefully transferred the 1,700,000 fertilized walleye eggs into our hatching jars. The eggs normally take about 21 days to hatch however this year the eggs were fertilized days before they were picked up at Linesville and began hatching in 4 days. The hatch was completed by April 11, way too early due to the warmer intake temperatures. With the potential of higher temperatures during the week of April 10 it was necessary to stock the walleye fry as soon as possible. This was accomplished on April 13th ending our season. We would like to thank our Hatchery Manager, Jack Bock and our permanent hatchery crew including Joe Springer, Don Tombaugh, Ron Morrow, John Krupinski, Bob Zawadzki and all our other volunteers for their dedicated work throughout the season.

MORE THREATS ON THE HORIZON FOR LAKE ERIE FISHERY

A recent article in USA Today called attention to the water crisis in our western states. The U.S. has plenty of drinking water — it's simply in the wrong place. That's a seemingly fixable problem that has inspired a number of creative ideas. Unfortunately, everything except conserving water has proven to be a longshot proposal riddled with logistical, legal or cost problems.

The problem: The Colorado River is drying up from drought and overuse. It's the literal lifeblood of the West but demands continue to be high.

A rainy year doesn't solve the water crisis: Rain and snow, particularly in California, has offered temporary relief to water worries. But experts say the water demand in the west is set to keep exceeding supply — unless major conservation efforts successfully roll out.

Meanwhile, massive amounts of fresh water are readily available to the East. Ocean water can be processed into drinking water. And even glaciers could be helpful sources of fresh water.

One of the ideas is to drain the Great Lakes by diverting water to the Colorado River (A similar proposal has suggested diverting the Mississippi River into Lake Powell.)

How it could work: With 20% of the available surface fresh water in the world, the Great Lakes are essentially massive reservoirs that could quench the thirst of states like Arizona and California.

This is not a new idea and it raises its ugly head periodically and fortunately it has been tabled until now.

Why it's a longshot: First, to get across the Continental Divide and into the Colorado River, you'd need an uphill pipeline about 1,000 miles long, which is longer than any other drinking water pipeline ever built, and longer than even the Trans-Alaska oil pipeline, which is 800 miles long. There might be a flatter route, but it would likely add hundreds of miles in length.

Second, pulling any large amount of water from the Great Lakes is illegal. Water diversions from them are



barred by the Great Lakes Compact, an agreement between the eight surrounding states, along with a similar agreement between the United States and Canada.

In the Erie Times News on April 8th an article discusses the pros and cons on the idea of placing wind turbines into Lake Erie with the one of the proponents saying "The goal is to wean cities off fossil fuels by providing clean energy without taking up valuable land and space."

A dumber statement could not be uttered in light of the role that the Great Lakes play in our water supply.

We have expressed our concerns in a prior issue over the following concerns: We must consider that that drilling into the Lake bottom could expose years of toxic substances now safely covered by sediment. Lake Erie is prone to earth quakes with more than 7 occurring in 2022. There are miles of

salt mines located under Lake Erie near Cleveland. Could the low frequency vibrations trigger more tremors? For years the International Paper Co. pumped millions of gallons of toxic effluent into deep wells under the Lake also at risk of release.

Other concerns were brought out in a recently completed by NOAA, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management and the Responsible Offshore Development alliance reached more conclusions. The study was focused on the wind energy industry growing on the East coast.

The study points out that the effects of wind energy components on fish and wildlife needs more study. The report said offshore wind turbines can attract fish and marine life, but also repel them. The large underwater platforms are rapidly colonized by smaller marine life which in turn attracts larger predators to the area. Water cloudiness from turbine operations, noise, vibrations and electromagnetic fields could also make them leave the area.

New York and Canada have all placed a moratorium on proceeding with construction. Six wind turbines are slated to be placed offshore in Cleveland but legal hoops need to be taken care of first. Our opinion—Not in my Lake you don't.

THE WALNUT CREEK CHANNEL

was recently cleaned out by PFBC crews using heavy equipment which are shown in photos taken on April 11 by Fred Ralph. The sand is removed from the channel and trucked to the East side of Walnut Creek where it is spread on the beach.



ICE OUT ATTENDANCE GREATER THAN EVER

We would like to thank all of you for your generous support that made our 2023 Ice Out Party which was held on Sunday March 26 a huge success. There were approx. 600 men women and children in attendance which may be the result of our recent joining of Facebook. There were games for adults and activities and games for kids too. Every child in attendance was given a newly designed baseball cap, All of the ladies there won a door prize or were given a consolation gift.

It took 56 of our member volunteers to produce this event. Team Lubak who were shown in a prior post kept the kids

busy and conducted a huge Chinese auction with some great prizes. There were also a special chocolate fish, ham, outdoor grilling raffles and an auction.

Nearly 1400 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.

The peak event of the day was our Fantastic Fin and Fur raffle that had where 15 prizes were awarded. The top prize was \$5000 cash.



2023 FIN AND FUR RAFFLE WINNERS:

The winners are listed below in the order they were drawn

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Mark Freese Linesville, Pa. | 9. Art Foy Girard, Pa. |
| 2. Mike Ruiz Erie, Pa. | 10. Chuck Adams Erie, Pa. |
| 3. Mark Riggle Erie, Pa. | 11. David Kalip Erie, Pa. |
| 4. Justin Kuno Clymer, N.Y. | 12. Joyce Treichel Erie, Pa. |
| 5. David McClenahan Erie, Pa. | 13. Matt Smith Cranesville Pa. |
| 6. Clinton Fuller Niagara Falls N.Y. | 14. Rick Horanic Edinboro, Pa. |
| 7. Mark Freese Linesville, Pa. | 15. Betsy Baker Girard, Pa. |
| 8. William Koehle Erie, Pa. | |

Thank you to all who attended and the volunteers who made the SONS 2023 Ice Out Party a great success.

THANK YOU TO OUR FIN & FUR RAFFLE DONORS!

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Alex Motor Sports	Erie Batteries & Altern	Luminary Downtown	Perry Mill Supply	Stangenelli's
Alfee's Pizza	Ferrier's Hardware	Maria's Pizza	Pet Smart	Sticks N Bricks
Allburn Florists	Firebirds Restaurant	Mary Runser	Pete Sala For Judge	The Cab
Alma Jean Skrypzak	Firestone	Max & Erma,S	Pittsburgh Inn	Tractor Supply
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Domino's Pizza	Kraus Dept Store			
Donato's Pizza	Lake Erie Candy Co.			
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HEADS UP WHILE BOATING

Take a look at these photos and notice the thousands of pieces of driftwood and logs that have drifted onto Freeport and Avonia beaches during the winter. If what has drifted into these small areas is indicative of what is floating around out there-Be Careful!!





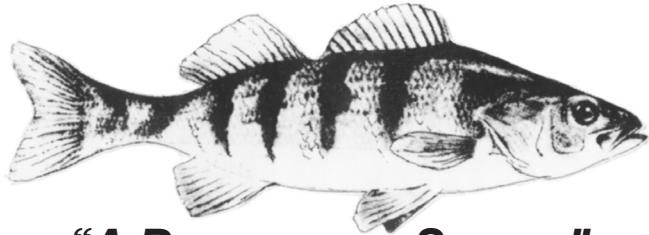
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"The Bucket" published monthly
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VOLUME 20 • ISSUE 4
APRIL 2023



"A REPLENISHING SPECIES"

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

MONDAY, APRIL 24 - 7:00 PM

POLISH FALCONS CLUB

431 E. 3rd Street, Erie

PROGRAM:

PFBC'S Lake Erie Unit Manager Mark Haffley will give us an update on the status of the Lake Erie fishery and a forecast for the upcoming season.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO GET YOUR SONS NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL?

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SONS MARCH MEMBER MEETING DRAWS LARGE CROWD

Avid and knowledgeable angler Jeremy Scott gave a great presentation on the techniques that he uses for walleye fishing. There was an audience of about 150 members and guests who took in the great info Jeremy shared. Jeremy passed out kits to make crawler harnesses and raffled off lure kits donated by the French Creek Tackle Co.



Jeremy Scott at the mike at our March 20 membership meeting

EWPPA CHANGES LEADERSHIP

Former Erie Western PA Port authority Executive Director Brenda Sandberg resigned her position in early September. The EWPPA board has since hired Mr. Martin La Mar who will serve as the new exec, director. Also retiring on April 6th from the Port Auth. was Mr. John Mulligan who was the director of operations and harbormaster. Both Mrs. Sandberg and Mr. Mulligan were always receptive to the needs of our fishery and our boaters as well as our citizenry who have all benefited from their hard work and dedication. They supported and protected public access all along EWPPA property and for this we owe them our sincere gratitude. Looking into the future we look forward to working with Mr. La Mar towards these same goals



Mr. John Mulligan, who is also a SONS member, is looking over a SONS jacket with VP Ed Kissell, which was presented to him in grateful appreciation for his years of service and dedication to our boaters and fishermen and women.