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JANUARY 2023

S.O.N.S. PHONE NUMBER 814-453-2270 (ALSO FAX NUMBER)
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ELECTIONS WERE HELD AT DECEMBER MEETING

Jack Bock, Chuck Miller, Joe Springer and Mary Runser were elected to serve three year terms on our board of directors. We would like to thank outgoing director Bill Henderson for his hard work and dedicated service during the 11 years that he served as a member of the board. We would also like to welcome Mary Runser who is only the second lady to join our board of directors. Barb Lachowski was the first female member serving 1988-1990.

THE ANNUAL FRUIT BASKET DISTRIBUTION

was completed on Saturdays December 10 & 17, 2022 by members of the PA Steelhead Association, S.O.N.S. of Lake Erie, 3.C.U. Trout Association, TU, and Gem City Outdoorsman's club and many others who volunteered their time delivering fruit baskets to landowners that allow public fishing access along their stretches of Steel-head streams. 91 baskets were provided by Sabol's Fruit Farm. The fruit basket program has been in place since the 1990s. Landowner relations are essential to maintain fishing access along the Erie Steelhead streams—there are miles of property that are available for fishing thanks to land-owner permission. Please treat all property with respect but be especially gracious when fishing private property open to the public; stick to clear paths, read and follow all signage.



The above photo, which was provided by Chuck Miller, was taken on December 17, the second day of the distribution, as the volunteers get ready to go out and deliver the baskets.

Fishing Report

The ice came and went during the last days of December. There were a few brave souls that ventured out on to it mostly in Horseshoe Pond and Misery Bay. There were others who fished through the ice while sitting safely on the piers at the PI Marina and a few near the head of the Bay. Some reports indicate that there was some success even one angler reported catching a steelhead, Steelhead anglers are still at it. I counted 19 people fishing on the beach at Trout Run the other day. The long term forecast calls for mostly above average temperatures until around the 17th of January. Maybe we'll get ice after that.



Above is a proud lady showing off a nice steelhead that she caught in the boat basin at Walnut Creek.

A Moment of Silence

is in order in memory of three of our longtime members Tom Mannerelli, Dick Ballmam, and Buddy Yurcak. Tom served as a director for 5 years from 1993-1997 he passed away in September. I forgot to post it in our newsletter. Dick and Buddy passed away in the first week of January. Dick was a director from 1995 to 1999 and one of our hatchery team whose skill and hard work will long be remembered. Buddy was a fun individual who always jumped in to help with our club projects. We will miss all of them.



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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2023

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UPDATE ON 20 MILE CREEK ACCESS

We have learned that the PFBC has completed an acquisition agreement to purchase access on the former Dohler property on 20 Mile Creek south of Route 5. You can now fish only on the west side of the stream from Rte 5 to the iron bridge.

UPCOMING SHOW AND GUN RAFFLE SCHEDULE

Below is a list of shows and gun raffles in which we participate. The organizations who sponsor these events invite us to set up a table to sell SONS memberships and raffle tickets. These shows and raffles offer a chance to escape the winter doldrums. Come and attend these events and support those who support us.

Convention Center Shows

Erie Auto Show February 2-5

Erie RV and Sport Show
February 17-19, 2023

Erie Home and Garden Show
March 24-26, 2023

Our Ice Out Party

will be held on Sunday March 26th from 1-5
at the Erie Shrine Club at West 38th and
Zuck Rd. in Erie.

Rainbow Garden Sport and Gun Raffles

Lake Erie Fanfare
Saturday, February 4 (5-9 PM)

Elks Lodge Saturday February 25 (1-6 PM)

F.O.P. Swanson Memorial Lodge
Saturday March 4 (1-6 PM)

Ducks Unlimited
Saturday March 11 (12-5 PM)

Waterford Lions Club
Saturday April 15 (6-11 PM)

ICE SAFETY TIPS

Here are a few basic ice safety tips to remember:

- Never fish alone.
- Carry a cell phone, and let people know where you are going and when you'll return home.
- Wear proper clothing and equipment, including a life jacket or a float coat, to help you stay afloat and to help maintain body heat.
- Wear ice creepers attached to boots to prevent slipping on clear ice.
- Carry a spud bar to check the ice while walking to new areas.
- Carry a few spikes and a length of light rope in an easily accessible pocket to help pull yourself – or others – out of the ice.
- Be aware of changing conditions (ex- High winds can move ice from shore)
- Fish away from structures. Sun light can heat up water close to them.
- If you fall in, remain as calm as possible. While attempting to get out of the water, call for help. Anyone who attempts to rescue you should use a rope or something similar to avoid falling through the ice themselves.
- Do not travel in unfamiliar areas or at night.
- Have a plan in place noting where you will be and when you plan to return. Along with leaving a written note of your plans.

There's more at the PFBC web site go to-<https://www.fishandboat.com/Transact/AnglerBoater/AnglerBoater2013/JanuaryFebruary/Documents/05tips10.pdf> for creating ice claws and what to do if you fall through ice.

ICE THICKNESS SUPPORT		
ice thickness	can safely support	
4 inches	200 pounds	(one person and gear)
5 inches	800 pounds	(one snowmobile)
7 inches	1,500 pounds	(group of people)
8 inches	2,000 pounds	(one car)

Note: There are many factors that influence ice strength including water chemistry, wind, currents and sunlight. The above table notes general ice thickness guidelines, so carefully check conditions before venturing onto the ice.

WIND TURBINE UPDATE

Agency Study Fails To Support Turbines In Great Lakes

JAN 2, 2023 JOHN D'AGOSTINO Post Journal

A feasibility study by the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority released late last week does not support the placement of turbines in the Great Lakes of Erie and Ontario.

"Great Lakes Wind currently does not offer a unique, critical, or cost-effective contribution toward the achievement of New York State's Climate Act goals beyond what existing, more cost-competitive programs are currently expected to deliver," the study says. "This conclusion is based on a fulsome analysis of the resource development costs, ratepayer impacts, expected State benefits, transmission and interconnection limitations, infrastructure and supply chain constraints, visual impacts, and potential environmental impacts of Great Lakes Wind, as discussed below and throughout the Feasibility Study."

How this report will impact projects being eyed for Western New York waters is uncertain. Since the report was made public right before the holiday weekend, little has been said publicly by those who have previously backed the placement of turbines in Lake Erie.

In creating the analysis, the authority took into consideration a number of factors that included: physical siting, geophysical and geohazards characterization, fixed and floating technology options, interconnection, environmental risk and benefit as well as public feedback. In reaching its conclusion, NYSEDA found that overall "Great Lakes Wind does not provide the same electric and reliability benefits that offshore wind offers" in downstate locations.

Over the summer, an Ohio Supreme Court affirmed the placement of wind turbines in Lake Erie as part of the Icebreaker wind project off the shores of Cleveland. By a 6-1 margin in August,

the justices ruled the power siting board employed "a flexible standing in granting the requested certificate (that) poses no legal problem."

Plans to the west call for a six-turbine wind-powered electric-generation facility on approximately 4.2 acres of submerged land in Lake Erie located between 8 and 10 miles off the shore of Cleveland that is expected to generate 20.7 megawatts of electricity. Work on that project, however, has not yet begun.

Closer to home, a turbine project has been considered by Diamond Generating Corp. from Dunkirk to Buffalo that could include 50 industrial turbines being placed in the Great Lakes waters. This proposal has led to rallies in the region that oppose the effort and an engaged group of some 4,900 Facebook followers who make up the Citizens against Wind Turbines in Lake Erie.

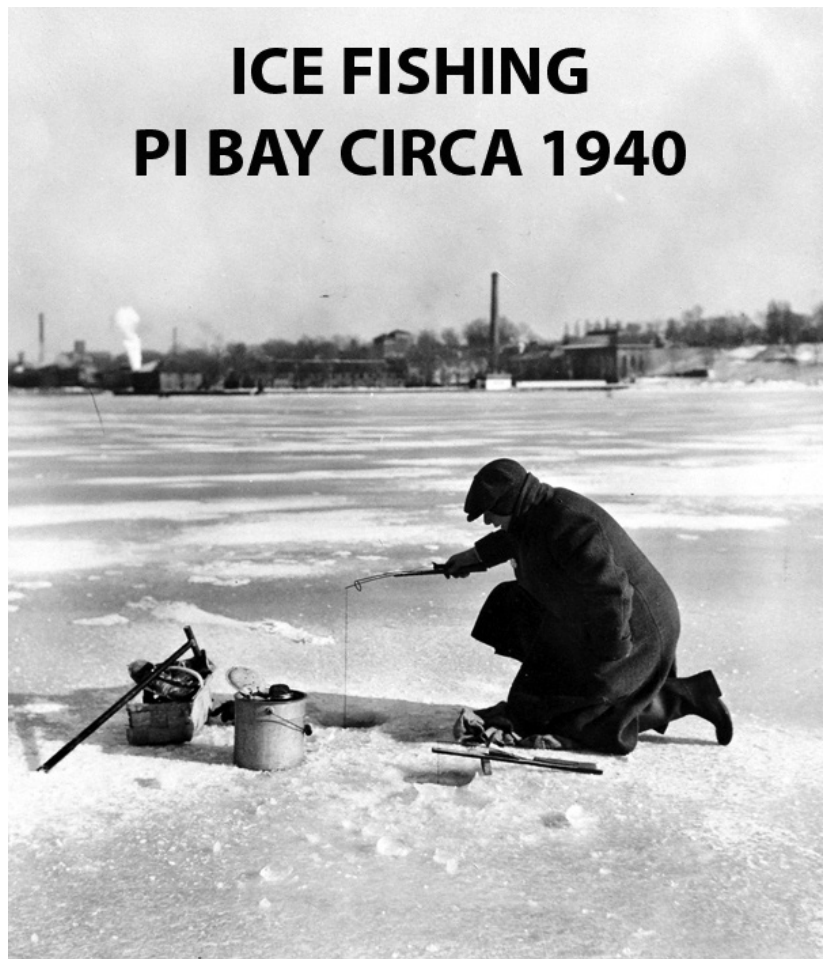
LOW SONS MEMBERSHIP ACTIVITY CAUSES CONCERN

We are starting to get concerned about our diminishing membership numbers. As of January 10th we have only 1706 members that have renewed for 2023. This is 800 less than 2022 and 1300 less than our 3000 peak membership in 2012. An interesting phenomenon happens nearly every year, there were about 1200 members who did not renew. We lose a few members every year but usually make it up. I fear that that may not happen this year.

We are also seeing the demographics of our club getting older with fewer younger members. We have setup a Facebook page in hope of attracting some younger members. It's in a development stage now thanks to SONS members Jeremy Scott and Matt West, who will act as moderators. Try signing on, especially if you can't attend meetings, and see what's going on in our fishery.

Just a reminder if you have not as of yet sent in your benefit tickets for ten \$100 prizes, that were mailed out with your membership packet, the drawing will be held at our January 23rd meeting and you can turn them in then.

ICE FISHING PI BAY CIRCA 1940



CHRISTMAS AT THE TREC RETURNS

On Saturday Dec. 17th we were invited by the Presque Isle State Park staff to participate in a Christmas themed event for kids. There were games, wild life presentations and craft building activities available. We set up our ice fishing game where kids could try to catch a "fish". They were given

packages of Gold Fish crackers, Swedish fish, stickers, coloring books and crayons for their efforts. There was one special "fish" that was all gold and the lucky angler who caught it was given a rod and reel for a prize.



L to R S.O.N.S. volunteers helping kids Ice Fish, (next 4 panels) are the lucky winners of a rod and reel because they caught the "gold fish" They were Emma and her friend Grace, Eva and her mom and sister, Oliver and his family and Baylee and her family.



REMINDER

Yellow Perch caught in Presque Isle Bay or the inland waters of Presque Isle must be at least 7 inches long. The regulation is in effect from December 1 to April 30.

STEELHEAD TAKEN FOR SPAWNING

(Top) on December 12 around 50 volunteers and PFBC staff gathered at the mouth of Trout Run at Avonia Beach in Fairview Township in order to gather steelhead for spawning at PFBC's Fairview hatchery.

There were staff from the hatchery, fisheries biologists, members of the Governor's Youth Council, PFBC's Harrisburg office and Commissioners Dan Pastore and Don Anderson all dressed in chest waders.



(Bottom Left) There were two hatchery trucks on hand to take the fish after they were netted from the creek. Hundreds of fish were taken with the majority being females. The fish were taken to the Fairview facility and were returned to Lake Erie tributaries after spawning.

(Bottom Right) Commissioner Don Anderson pitched in transferring the fish from the creek to the hatchery crew. There was even a crew filming the event for a documentary movie.



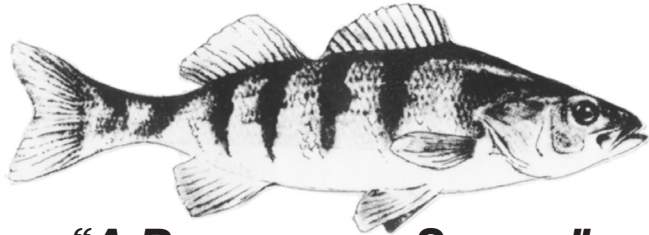
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"The Bucket" published monthly
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VOLUME 20 • ISSUE 1
JANUARY 2023



"A REPLENISHING SPECIES"

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MONDAY, JANUARY 23 - 7:00 PM

POLISH FALCONS CLUB
431 E. 3rd Street, Erie

PROGRAM:

Matt West from the Sportsman's Warehouse and team will present some new fishing techniques and gadgets.

2023 Winter/Spring General Membership Meeting Schedule

to be held at the Polish Falcons Club located at 431 East 3rd St., Erie, PA at 7:00 PM. The public is welcome to attend.

MEETING DATES:

January 23, 2023

February 27, 2023

March 20, 2023

April 24, 2023

May 22, 2023

SONS NEWSLETTER "THE BUCKET" ON LINE?

If you would rather start receiving a copy of our Bucket newsletter by E mail or read it on-line send us an Email at sonslakeri@aol.com. Include your name, street address, email address and indicate that you no longer want a copy mailed. We are hoping to get to our younger members involved and save some mailing and printing costs.

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THIS IS DISGUSTING

This picture was taken in the Millcreek Mall parking lot recently. Some moron emptied their ash tray onto the ground. The idiot is a pig who doesn't understand that this stuff washes in to the Lake.



According to the NOAA web site cigarette butts are the most common type of debris found during cleanups. Consistently, for over 25 years, cigarettes butts have been the top item collected during the International Coastal Cleanup (ICC). In 2017 alone, more than 2.4 million cigarette butts were found at cleanup sites during the ICC. Although the amount of cigarettes consumed in the US is steadily falling, the amount of cigarette butts found in our ocean and Great Lakes is not.

Most people tend to assume cigarette filters are made of natural fibers, like cotton, that will easily break down in the natural environment. When cigarette filters first became popular in the 1960s, tobacco companies found that natural fibers could not keep up with demand. Instead, filters are made out of cellulose acetate, a plastic-like material that's easy to manufacture, but not easy to degrade. The fibers in cigarette filters behave just like plastics in our oceans, the UV rays from our sun may break the fibers down into smaller pieces, but they don't disappear. They persist in water, on beaches, and in urban environments. In 2012 alone, Americans consumed over 300 billion cigarettes and many people still believe that butts are an acceptable form of litter. All those cigarette butts from all those cigarettes smoked can translate to tons of marine debris if not disposed of properly. Pass the word "Knock it off"