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# THE Bucket

VOLUME 20 • ISSUE 7  
JULY 2023S.O.N.S. PHONE NUMBER 814-453-2270 (ALSO FAX NUMBER)  
sonslakeri@aol.com • www.sonsoflakeerie.org

## SANCTUARY DRAWS INTEREST & CONCERNS

As we reported in the June issue of the Bucket there was a public meeting held at the Blasco Memorial Library in Erie on Wednesday June 21st, 2023. There were at least 100 interested people in attendance including Ed Kissell, Bob Zawadzki and I. NOAA representative, Mrs. Ellen Brody, the Marine Sanctuary coordinator, gave a presentation that highlighted the description, benefits and process towards establishing a sanctuary here. The sanctuary will be dubbed the Lake Erie Quadrangle and will include all of the Pennsylvania waters of Lake Erie which has an estimated 100 shipwrecks and evidence of earlier civilization. The purpose of the sanctuary is to protect these historic treasures.

The process includes a public comment period, evaluation and eventually its establishment. The process could possibly take 2-3 years to reach reality. After the presentation the public was invited to ask questions and make comments. Most of the comments were very positive however there were concerned about the effects on our fishery. We were told that there would be little change to how and where we fish.

We confirmed this by contacting 2 charter captains who fish out of Alpena, Michigan which is the location of the Thunder Bay Marine Sanctuary which was established about 20 years ago. Both of these captains assured me that there was very little that affected their sport. They also said that the rules that were negotiated were the result of input presented by all stake holders.

We feel confident that as it stands now there are no red flags that would cause us to withdraw support. We will monitor the process and advise our membership if anything changes. For more info visit NOAA's web site at <https://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/lake-erie/> and 0p;get a copy of the book "Waters of Repose" by Bob MacDonald and Dr. David Frew at the Hagen History Center.

## ERIE HAD A CANADIAN SAILOR INVASION

In case you missed it something happened that has not occurred for many years. Many of our residents and business owners woke up during the first week of July to find their buildings covered with bugs. The insects are mayflies or "Canadian Sailor" bugs as we called them when we were kids. This event brought back memories to early July in the late 1950's when I lived on Lighthouse St. near the lakeshore. I remember waking up to find our porch, walls and windows covered with them causing my mother to sweep and hose them away. I also remember swarms of them flying around street lights and lighted signs.

Mayflies spend most of their life as nymphs underwater - except for a short period in the summer when they breach the surface and sprout their adult wings and take to the skies with one mission to find a mate and then make it back to a watery habitat to lay eggs and die. The eggs then sink to the bottom where the nymphs burrow in and repeat the cycle.



Kirk Rudzinski proprietor of East End Angler bait shop sent us pictures of the outside of his store taken the first week of July showing the mayfly hatch. The photo on the right of a mayfly was taken by SONS director Jack Bock at the same time.

Facebook chatter had anglers commenting that there were dead carcasses floating in the lake and the walleye they caught had stomachs full of them.

Other hatches were reported in the Western Basin of Lake Erie with Detroit TV stations reporting that the hatches were so intense they were recorded on their weather radar.

The presence of mayflies has long been considered a sign of excellent water quality. That's a good sign.

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

**Note:** Some of these were not on our signup sheets so let us know if you can help out by emailing [sonslakeri@aol.com](mailto:sonslakeri@aol.com) or text 814-882-7296.

**Tuesday July 18th 9:30-12**  
Waterworks Pond PISP Kids fishing Volunteers needed

**Wednesday July 19th 6-8**  
Bayview Park Summer Fest Casting and games Volunteers need

**Thursday July 20th 9:30-1**  
Waterworks pond Charter School of Excellence Volunteers needed

**Tuesday July 25th 10-12**  
Waterworks pond PISP Early Connections program Volunteers needed

**Saturday July 29th 8-12**  
Waterworks Pond Discover PI Family fishing Volunteers needed

**Tuesday August 1st 4:30-7**  
Grover Cleveland Night Out Fair. Casting etc. Volunteers needed

**Monday August 7th 5-?**  
Shade's Beach SONS of Lake Erie Volunteer Appreciation picnic

**Tuesday August 22 5-8 PM**  
Liberty Pier 8 Great Tuesdays Family Fishing volunteers needed

**Saturday August 26th 1-4**  
Family Affair Camp Ground kids casting practice and fishing Volunteers needed

**Friday September 8th 9:30 - 12:30**  
East Waterworks Pond PISP McDowell High School Intermediate unit Volunteers needed



## 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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## VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION PICNIC SET

Our SONS Volunteer Appreciation picnic will take place on Monday August 7th, 2023 at the Shade's Beach picnic area on East Lake Rd starting at 5:00 PM. **If you have volunteered to help out at any of our over 35 events and projects since last July, your name should appear on the list below and you are invited to join us.** We owe a vote of thanks to all our volunteers for making

our club a success that it is. We ask that if you **cannot attend** please let us know by calling or texting 814-882-7296 or emailing [sonslakeri@aol.com](mailto:sonslakeri@aol.com) leaving you name no later than August 4th. If we missed your name on the list contact us the same way. There will be great food and beverages on hand, thanks to Team Lubak. Special gifts and door prizes will be given out at the picnic too.

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Bock Jack  
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## FISHING TOURNAMENTS DRAW GOOD PARTICIPATION

Poor Richard's Bait and Tackle and East End Angler bait shops sponsored their annual Walleye Bash tournament on June 23rd and 24th. Forty three teams participated and brought in some nice fish. The big fish winner was team Renegade who brought in a monster 13 lb walleye. Team Reel 'Em In won first place turning 6 walleye with a total weight of 37.08 pounds. The shops will be sponsoring another tournament in August and the Erie PA Sportfishing Association will hold one on July 29 & 30. See their websites for more details.



L Scott Bielatin from Team Renegade holds up this monster 13 lbs walleye and R- team Reel Em In holds up the facsimile of the \$4160 check presented to the first place winners.

## FISHING REPORT

Walleye fishing has been good according to reports an example in the photo below which was submitted by Captains Steve Skrypzak and Tom Mascharka of the charter boat, "The Water Bok" Steve's cousins R.J, Costello and his nephews Andrew and Luke Costello and Joe Herszog were treated to a morning of fishing on July 3rd with this nice catch. Captains Steve and Tom are regular supporters of the SONS and have donated a free charter every year for our Fin & Fur raffle since it started







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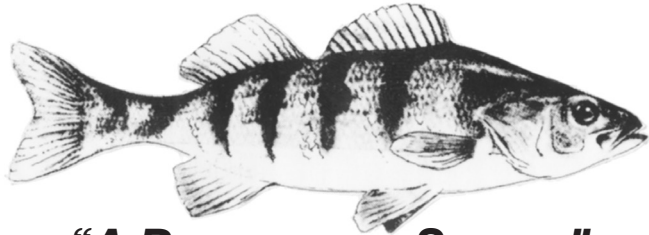
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## SONS RECEIVE RECOGNITION

The SONS received an invitation to attend a North East School District board meeting where our Chairman of the Activities Committee, Rich Brine accepted a plaque in recognition for our participation with Mercyhurst University to present a S.T.E.M. educational program at the North East School District. The program includes a trout in the classroom habitat building, fly tying, trout stocking and fishing with a fly rod and spinning rods. For more info go to our website at <http://sonsoflakeerie.org/STE%20Program%202023.htm>



L-R SONS Activities Committee chairman holds the plaque presented by the NE School District, Dr. Amy Burniston, Chair, Department of Education, Mercyhurst University, committee member Director Mary Runser and volunteer Ken Minns.

## VETS GO FISHING

In keeping with our tradition, the SONS sponsored a fishing trip aboard the Perch Pirate on July 11 for a group of veterans. We use the donations from various veteran clubs to cover the expenses. If you are a vet and would like to take advantage of this program, email us at [sonslakeri@aol.com](mailto:sonslakeri@aol.com)



SONS volunteers, boat crew and veteran guests pose for a group picture after the trip, there were some nice walleye caught including a big 27" walleye caught by John Fillatrout who was given a prize in recognition.