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# THE VOLUME 21 · ISSUE 7 JULY 2024 Bucket

S.O.N.S. PHONE NUMBER 814-453-2270 (ALSO FAX NUMBER) sonslakeri@aol.com • www.sonsoflakeerie.org

## SONS OF LAKE ERIE SPONSOR MARINA FISH CLEANING TABLES

Inflation and construction delays at the Lampe Marina fish cleaning station resulted in a short fall of funds that only allowed for two fish cleaning tables. The SONS provided the funds to cover the purchase and installation of two more tables at a cost of over \$4000.





Erie Western PA Port Authority maintenance workers are shown installing two more tables at the Lampe Fish Cleaning Station

#### **FISHING REPORT**

"The best walleye fishing ever" is a frequent comment one may read on Facebook or hear at the boat launches and bait shops. The only limiting factor is, as always, the wind and wave conditions.

#### FISH CLEANING STATIONS LOOKING BETTER

Spot Checking the Walnut Creek and Lampe facilities has shown a vast improvement compared to what we saw last month.

#### FIN AND FUR WINNERS GO FISHING

We have been fortunate over the years to be able to include fishing charters as prizes for our annual Fin and Fur raffle thanks to the generosity of Capt. PJ Woznicki of "Just Eleven Charters" on Lake Ontario, Capt. Dick Torelli of "Ciao' Charters, Capt. Paul Greiner of Lake Erie Custom Charters and most recently Capt. Bob Ferraro of "Heartbeat" Charters and Capts Steve Skrypzak and Tom Mascharka of "Waterboc" Charters. The two of the winners of the 2024 Fin and Fur Raffle were John Raun of Conneaut Lake, PA who won the 3rd prize, which was the "Heartbeat " charter, and Jason Pier, who won the 4th prize, which was on the "Waterboc."



Shown above posing with their catch are the winners of the charter aboard the "Heartbeat', which was captained by Capts. Bob Ferraro and Joel Carradine. The winner John Raun was accompanied by his wife Sharalee Raun, their son Dalton, and Jay Villaba, and Tom Woodworth

Shown to the right holding up their catch are the winners of the charter aboard the "Waterboc" which was captained by Capts. Steve Skrypzak and Tom Mascharka. Jason Pier, the winner, was accompanied by Ann Pier, Emily Pier, and Jeff Patterson

Coincidentally, both winning charters were scheduled for June 14th, 2024. It was a great day with successful results for both winners.





### 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

JOIN	A	FRI	END	TOD	AY!

MAIL TO: S.O.N.S., PO BOX 3605, ERIE, PA 16508

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#### TEAM RENEGADE

was the overall first place winner of the Erie Walleye Bash sponsored by Poor Richard'Bait and Tackle and the East End Angler Bait Shop. Sportsman's Warehouse Real Nutz Vodka and many moreheld on June 21 and 22. Team Renegade hauled in43.52 pounds of walleye and the biggest walleye weighing in at 9.28 lbs. There were 61 boats participating in the two-day event.



#### **MAY FLIES**

aka, Canadian Sailor Bugs, made a welcome appearance along Erie's waterfront during the later days of June, reminding me of the scenes I observed living on Lighthouse as a child. We called them "Sailor Bugs". The presence of May Flies indicate a healthy lake waters where they hatch after the larvae mature on the lake bottom.





## SONS RECEIVES A SUBSTANTIAL DONATION

On May 5th, while I was parked in a lot on upper Peach Street, I received a call from a man who identified himself



Jeff Walton 1962-2024

as Craig Laposky from Greensburg, PA. Mr. Laposky stated that he was calling on behalf of a friend of his who wanted to make a sizeable donation to the SONS of Lake Erie. He said that his friend, Jeffrey Walton of New Stanton, PA was in the care of Hospice suffering from advanced cancer. Craig Laposky said that he had the check with the donation and that he would bring it in person to Erie. Craig came to town on May 31 where we met him at a Fairview restaurant. He announced that his best friend Jeff Walton had

passed away on May 30. He told us all about Jeff and what an avid outdoorsman, gardener, taxidermist, bee keeper, and hunter, and what a fine man he was. He said that he and Jeff frequently came to fish in Lake Erie. It was here that he heard about the SONS and the great work we had accomplished and wanted to support our efforts. We were dumbfounded when we learned of the level of Jeff Walton's generosity. Unfortunately, we never met with Jeff. We will never be able to thank him in person. May he rest in peace.

#### **U.S. LIFE SAVING STATION ERIE**



To the left is a vintage photo of the US Life Saving Station Erie, the predecessor to the USCG.

It was established in Erie in 1876. The Coast Guard in Erie began as the United States Life-Saving

Service. The Life-Saving Service was a United States government agency that grew out of private and local humanitarian efforts to save the lives of shipwrecked mariners and passengers. It began in 1848 and ultimately merged with the Revenue Cutter Service to form the United States Coast Guard in 1915.

#### **USCG STATION ASHTABULA TO BE UNMANNED**

According to a July 7, 2024 story on WJET/WXFP, the Ashtabula U.S. Coast Guard which has been manned only during the summer boating season for several years now, will no longer be manned at all. The Erie and Cleveland stations will now cover the waters previously patrolled by Ashtabula along with air support from Detroit. All the 22-person Ashtabula crew have been reassigned to other Lake Erie positions.

An announcement on November 4, 2023 stated that 10 Cutters

would be taken out of service as well that 29 stations would be closed. The reason was that a drop in recruitment and a lack of retention had resulted in a 3500 person shortfall in spite of a growing threat caused by illegal border crossings. There are 57,000 overworked guardsmen who protect our security, interdict illegal drug trafficking and providing safety and assistance for boaters.

The original Ashtabula Station #237 was built in 1893. By 1938, a new facility was constructed to support larger crew sizes and modernized equipment. By the late 1990s, the habitability of the station was examined due to it's proximity to a coal conveyer and gravel stockpile, as well as limited berthing for females. The current facility was dedicated in 2000.

Coincidentally other stories that week left a realization of the gravity of this stations closing.

The U.S. Coast Guard was busy on Saturday responding to multiple calls of boaters in distress and rescuing several of them.

**ASHTABULA TOWNSHIP** — A U.S. Coast Guard helicopter from Detroit was responding to a distress call that came in at 10:34 a.m. on Saturday when a second call diverted its efforts, said U.S. Coast Guard Public Affairs Officer Christoper Yaw.

While responding to the original call that did not have a pinpoint location, a separate call from boaters about 8 miles off the Ashtabula Township shoreline came in at 11:34 a.m., Yaw said.

The report indicated five boaters were clinging to a white cooler, Yaw said. He said the dispatch center in Buffalo, New York, was able to pinpoint the people in the water after their 22-foot boat capsized. The dispatch center was able to maintain contact on a cellphone.

Yaw said all five of the people and their life jackets on and were hoisted into the helicopter and flown to the Northeast Ohio Regional Airport. He said none of them were injured.

The helicopter had a four-person crew plus the five people rescued.

After refueling, the helicopter went back on the search for the boaters from the original call, Yaw said. A boat from Cleveland Harbor Coast Guard Station was also looking for the boaters.

At 1:36 p.m., some debris was seen about 1 to 2 miles north of the Perry Nuclear Power Plant, Yaw said. The helicopter was able to find one person responsive and a local rescue boat found another responsive boater.e missing boater. The Ashtabula County Water Rescue Team was activated just before noon on Saturday after reports of a boat in distress with



five people in the water off the Ashtabula Township shoreline.

Vosburg said there were numerous calls for assistance from boats located on Lake Erie from Cleveland to the Pennsylvania state line.

(WJET/WFXP) — Locally — There was a tense moment on the bay Sunday afternoon for a reported boat fire. Calls came in around Sunday July 7, 2024 2:30 p.m. Sunday afternoon for a 42-foot vessel on fire in

Presque Isle Bay.

According to dispatchers, the Erie and Millcreek Fire Departments and the U.S. Coast Guard were called to 2 Sassafras Street for the fire.

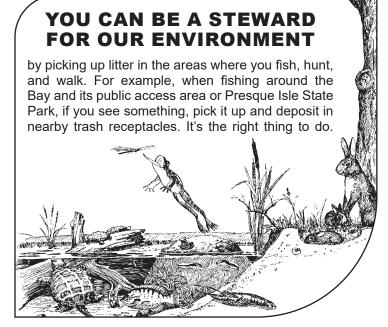
The fire was put out shortly before 3 p.m. and the vessel was towed to the Bayfront Marriott courtesy dock.

All four people on board were rescued by the Coast Guard and there are no reported injuries.

These incidents that occurred in such a short time cause one to realize how necessary the USCG to our safety as we pursue our sport.

## USCG NEWS RELEASED STATED THE FOLLOWING JUNE 16, 2024:

This morning the fishing charter boat Edward John reported smoke coming from their engine compartment. There were 26 passengers on board and the captain requested assistance via marine radio with removing them from the vessel. The tugboat good Samaritan Kristen Joell and vessels from USCG Station Erie responded and together took the passengers off of the Edward John. Comment at the end read: This was an impressive mass rescue mission by our dedicated Station Erie Crew, local partners and good Samaritans.



## VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION PICNIC TO BE HELD AUGUST 5th

The volunteer appreciation picnic will be held at Shade's Beach on Monday August 5th, 2024 starting at 5 pm. This annual picnic is our way of thanking our hard working volunteers who responded to nearly 50 requests for help at our various events and projects.

Listed below is a list of over 100 SONS of Lake Erie members who tirelessly and generously donated their time and resources working towards furthering our organization's primary mission to "the restoration and protection of the Lake Erie fishery". These individuals participated an aggregate time of over volunteer 8000 hours working at our hatchery stocking fish, teaching over 1000 kids and their families the art and joys of fishing on over 40 separate occasions since July 1, 2023.

This was only accomplished by those who are listed below. If you find your name on the list below, you are invited to attend our volunteers' picnic which will be held on Monday, August 5, 2024 at 5:00 at Shade's Beach near the intersection of Route 5 and Bartlett Rd. Come and join in on the fun. Please call or text 814-882-7296 or email sonslakeri@aol.com and leave your name if you cannot attend. Please do so by July 31. If your name does not appear below and you have volunteered 3 times or more, call or text phone at 814-882-7296 and leave your name and phone number.

iii or text piioi	ile at 0 14-00			
Anderson	.Wendy			
BockJack				
Brace	Jerry			
Brine	.Nancy			
Brine	Rich			
Brown	Bill			
Brown	Bill Jr			
Brown	Sandy			
Byler				
Camp	.Bert			
Capella	. Steve			
Capella				
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Carlson	Eric			
Carpenter	. Jim			
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Cauvel	Keith			
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Christensen				
Cole	,			
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Cook	Alyssa			
Corvaglia				
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Felege				
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Fisher	Novalee			

Friend ......Connor

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Gleichner Terry	
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JaruszewiczJoe	
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KelleyDick	
Kightlinger Herb	
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King Doug	
King Helen	
Kissell Ed	
KlapthorJack	
KovachJohn	
KrupinskiJohn	
KrupinskiKatie	
LareseJohn	
LipinskiLarry	
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LubakEmily	
LubakKevin	
LubakKevin li	
LubakLeslie	
LubakLynda	
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MakowskiRick	
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.John
.Don
. Mark
. Jerry
Steve
.John
Doug
Joe
.Joe
.Bill
. Mike
.Karen
.Don
. Doug
Bob
Mary Kay

#### LAMPE MARINA TO GET NEW DOCKS

Miller.....Aiden

The Erie Western PA Port Authority will be replacing the docks at Lampe Marina with new ones at a cost of \$2,718,000 for the docks and 1,821, 909 for the construction, after this boating season.

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

We have a very busy summer ahead. Any time you can give to help out will be greatly appreciated. Try to get there a little early to help get ready.

July 23rd TUES 5-7 JEH Garden APTS Office safety and casting instruction Tacoma Rd Vol. Needed

July 25th THURS 11-1 Waterworks pond Housing Auth. COPPS Program 15-20 kids Vol. Needed

July 27th SAT 8:30-12 Waterworks Pond Discover Pl Vol. Needed

July 29th MON 10-12 Waterworks pond Edinboro YMCA Volunteers needed

Aug 2nd FRI 10-NOON
Eastside YMCA (48-60 kids) Waterworks Pond Vol.
Needed

**Aug 5th MON 5-?** Shade's Beach Park SONS Annual Volunteer Appreciation Picnic

Aug 9th FRI Barb's Care A Lot 15-20 kids Waterworks Pond

Aug 13th TUES 5-8 Liberty Pier 8 Great Tuesdays family fishing event Vol. needed

Aug 15th THURS 10:45 - ? Waterworks Pond Downtown YMCA Volunteers needed

Aug 21st WED 9-11 Cascade Pier Area Residence Retirement Home fishing Vol. Needed

Aug 24th SAT 10-1 Liberty Pier Area Our West Bayfront Kids Volunteers needed

**Aug 13th TUES 5-8** Liberty Pier 8 Great Tuesdays family fishing event Vol. needed

Aug 15th THURS 10:45 - ? Waterworks Pond Downtown YMCA Volunteers needed

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"A REPLENISHING SPECIES"



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

If so, send us an email to sonslakeri@aol.om list your name, address and note that you would like to change to the electronic version. So far we have about 481 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.

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#### N.E. MARINA AUTHORITY TAKES OVER MARINA OPERATION

According to a June 25th, 2024 news release Tuesday, the North East Community Marina Authority has signed an agreement with the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission to assume operations at the marina, located at 11950 East Lake Road.

Under the agreement, the authority, instead of the commission, will oversee day-to-day operations, maintenance and improvements at the marina. The authority will continue to collaborate with the commission to "uphold high standards of environmental stewardship and public service," according to the release.

The authority intends to realize the marina's full potential by "implementing strategic upgrades, enhancing visitor amenities and promoting educational initiatives related to great lakes conservation, sustainability and safety," according to the release.

#### **VOLUNTEERS FROM POTRATZ FLORISTS**

are shown here planting beautiful flowers in the welcome garden located at the intersection of the Bayfront Parkway and the Port Access rd. This park and a similar one at the west end of the Parkway at W.8th St. were the brain child of SONS VP Ed Kissell. Ed initiated the projects over 30 years ago to welcome visitors to our beautiful bayfront area. (Too bad this photo is not in color)

Since then Ed has tended to the gardens along with the help Allburn Florist on the west side and Potratz Florists on the east end park who provide and plant the flowers shrubs.

