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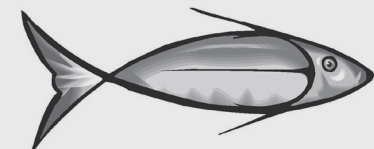
ANGLER PIGS LEAVE MESS BEHIND

On Saturday, June 1, I visited the fish cleaning station at the Walnut Creek Access area. What I saw was shocking. There were hundreds of pieces of fish guts and flesh on the floor under the fish cleaning tables, as shown in these photos. This is not just a health risk but a safety hazard. It can be slippery. Come on, fellow anglers, clean up after yourselves. We spent a lot of time and energy pushing to get the fish cleaning stations built. Let's not ruin it!



FISHING REPORT

Fishing has been improving daily. It is evident by the boat trailers I observed at Walnut Creek and Lampe Marina on good boating days and the bin full of fish carcasses at the Lampe Marina fish cleaning station shown in the photo below.



MONTH LONG FISHING DERBY ANNOUNCED

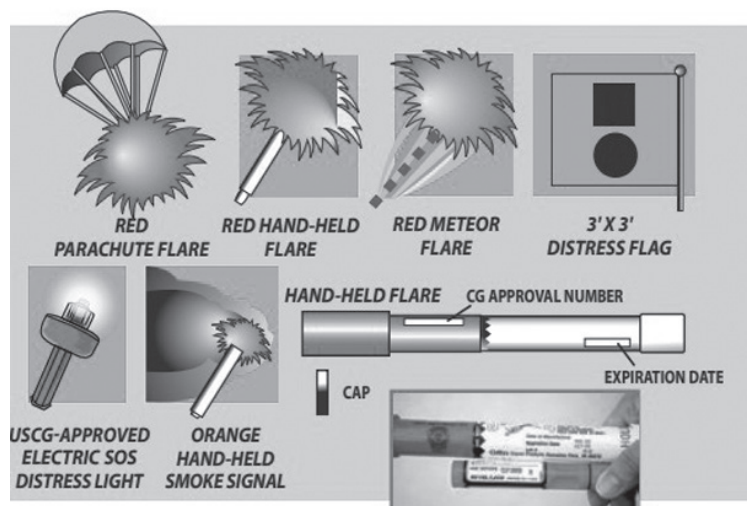
Presque Isle Fish and Farm, Poor Richards Bait and Tackle, and East Angler Bait and Tackle have announced that they will be sponsoring a month long Walleye fishing derby to be held through the entire month of July 2024. PARTICIPANTS MAY BRING THEIR WALLEYE TO ANY OF THOSE THREE LOCATIONS THROUGHOUT THE MONTH FOR WEIGH IN.

For more details call Poor Richard's at 814-474-5623, East End Angler at (814) 898-FISH (3474), and Presque Isle Fish and Farm at 814-520-5047

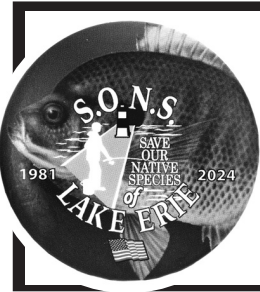
THE MAY MEETING PROGRAM

was presented by US Coast Guardsman EXPO, Matt Woodring. He spoke about the organization and duties, staffing at USCG Station Erie boating safety. He answered numerous questions on the subjects from our members. There were several questions regarding the regulations regarding visual distress signals (VDS) for boats on Lake Erie. As you know VDS flares are quite expensive and the use of approved electric emergency signals is now recommended. Flares are still acceptable as long as they have not yet expired. In addition to the electric VDS you are required to carry an emergency orange flag or orange smoke flares for daylight use and the electric VDS for night. (Carry extra batteries too)

Checking on line the electric VDS signals cost between \$59 and as high as several hundred dollars, orange smoke flares are \$41 and flags are about \$12.



Here is VDS chart from the PFBC Boater regulation book



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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HARBORCREEK TOWNSHIP – SONS PROVIDE FISHING OPPORTUNITY

For the last 11 years the SONS of Lake Erie has partnered with the Harborcreek Township Recreation Department and the Wesleyville Conservation Club to put together a fishing opportunity for kids.

Initially we started at Whitford Park and Six Mile Creek but due to high waters we moved the event to the safer MacQuarie's pond at Harborcreek Community Park. The area was wide open but did not offer shelter from inclement weather for the young anglers.

We voted to provide the funds to buy materials to build a picnic style shelter adjacent to the pond. The work was completed by Harborcreek maintenance personnel. The beautiful and well-built structure was completed in the early Fall of 2020 and was dedicated on Thursday May 6th, 2021.

Last Fall township supervisors had the pond dredged, contoured the banks and installed an aerator in the center of the pond. The pond was then allowed to refill.



MacQuarie's Pond at the Harborcreek Township's municipal park.

This year on Saturday May 4th the event was held again at the Harborcreek Community Park on Saturday May 4th. The Wesleyville Conservation Club stocked hundreds of brown trout in preparation for our annual kids fishing derby at MacQuaries's Pond.

The SONS provided the equipment and bait. The trout were cooperative. Most of the kids caught trout but along with some bullheads and blue gills caught. Over 100 individuals came out for the fun.

After the May 4th event a private fish grower was hired by the township who stocked hundreds of fish into the pond including bluegills, crappies, bullheads and others. The SONS of Lake Erie paid for the fish stocking. Catch and release rules for all species except for trout which can be harvested.

The pond offers a comfortable fishing opportunity for kids and families, check it out.



Pictures from this year's kids outing at McCreary's pond.



SOUTH PIER PARKING LOT UPDATE

As we reported last month, gates were installed blocking the driveways into the South Pier parking lot to stop parking in the lot from sunset to sunrise. Hopefully, this will curtail dangerous and disorderly behavior in that area after dark.



SHOREWOOD BEACH SELECTED TO TEST RENEWABLE ENERGY TECH

By Drew Miller (WJET/WFXP)

Renewable energy company Breakwave Energy announced Thursday they'll be using the shores of Lake Erie in Harborcreek Township as the spot to test their new technology that would convert waves into energy.

Breakwave said they'll be conducting their tests along at Shorewood Beach this summer after reaching an agreement with Harborcreek Township supervisors and the Brenton Davis administration.

The tests being conducted will aim to further understand how wave energy converters hold up to different marine conditions while also focusing on sustainability, energy efficiency and potential impacts on local ecosystems.

If all goes well, Breakwave said their work over the summer could lead to massive advancements in renewable energy tech and help with economic growth for the area by creating new manufacturing initiatives.

DREDGING UNDERWAY IN PI BAY CHANNEL

A dredge is at work in Presque Isle Bay and the channel, making it easier for larger bulk material cargo ships to navigate.

The work is part of more than \$7.5 million worth of activity in Erie by US Army Corps of Engineers in 2024, including dredging of the harbor's federal navigation channel and continuation of the Presque Isle Beach Nourishment project.



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STREAM TREATED FOR LAMPREY CONTROL

According to a press release from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, lampricides were applied to the Conneaut Creek system last month, in order to kill sea lamprey larvae in the creek. The creek was last treated in 2018. This was the 12th time since 1986. Sea lamprey larvae live in some tributaries of the Great Lakes, and when they become juveniles, they migrate from the tributaries to the lakes, and kill fish. Tributaries must be treated every three to five years, and the treatment is preceded by studies of water chemistry and toxicity, as well as stream flow and discharge. The lampricides are toxic to lampreys, but few fish, insect and broadleaf plants are sensitive to them.



Sea Lamprey attached to trout.

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.

June 25th TUES 10-NOON
Waterford YMCA (60 kids)
Waterworks Pond Vol. Needed

June 27th THUR 10-NOON Sr Gus Kids
Cafe Waterworks Pond Vol. Needed

June 28th FRIDAY 10-NOON
Eastside YMCA (48-60 kids)
Waterworks Pond Vol. Needed

July 5th FRIDAY 5:00 PM Fish USA
Tackle Swap

July 9th TUES 10-noon Barb's Care A Lot
15-20 kids Waterworks Pond Vol. Needed

July 13th SAT 10- noon East Canal
Basin Public Dock area Erie County
Library Vol. Needed

July 15th MON 10-12 Grover Cleveland
School Waterworks Pond Vol. Needed

July 17th WED 6-8 Bayview Park West
2nd & Walnut St. West Bay Fit Event
Vol. Needed

July 19th FRI 10-NOON
Eastside YMCA (48-60 kids)
Waterworks Pond Vol. Needed

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 PI 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

THE SONS OF LAKE ERIE HAS BEEN DESIGNATED

as recipients of memorials in the name of the some of our deceased members and supporters. We have recently received many donations in memory of Gene Hough, Gary Haibach, H.J. Paluh and Jimmy Freeble. We would like to offer our sincere condolences thanks to their families and friends.

We would also like to thank Craig Laposky for his recent generous donation.

Nice Fish, Jovie!

Jeremy Scott posted this photo of his daughter Jovie posing with this nice 8 lb walleye she caught on Saturday, June 1 in 30 ft of water on a Bagley Bango lure. Jovie regularly attends our meetings along with her mom, sister and dad. She is a great angler and hunter. **Please email pictures of your catches to sonslakeri@aol.com.**



TURBINE FARMS IN PA LAKE ERIE WATERS

In reference to last month's Bucket article we followed up by mailing letters expressing our opposition to PA House Bill #254 that allows for the leasing of land in Lake Erie for constructing wind turbines and solar arrays we sent letters to the editors of all the regional newspapers. The only papers to acknowledge and publish our letter was the Outdoor News and the Erie Reader who published it on their web site. Here's what we sent:

Dear Editor,

In April the Pennsylvania House of Representatives passed House Bill #254 sponsored by State Representative Bob Merski of Erie that would allow the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection to lease tracts of lake bed land in Lake Erie to construct and maintain equipment for renewable energy. These devices would be used for developing wind, solar and kinetic (water power) energy.

The S.O.N.S. of Lake Erie has serious concerns for this type of development on one of the world's most precious fresh water aquatic resources. While we strongly support efforts to develop an improved environment, there are far too many unanswered questions on this proposed legislation.

Lake Erie is a natural wonder enjoyed by hundreds of thousands of people each and every day. Anyone who has ever watched and was awe struck by our spectacular sunsets must realize there is only one body of water like Lake Erie on the planet Earth. The alteration and possible damage to our fishery, drinking water supply and human health could become a reality because of the placement of these devices. With our lake already dealing with invasive species, toxic algae blooms and pollution of all types, why are we doing this?

As a fishing and conservation club of 2,500 members headquartered in Erie, Pa. we are totally against and shocked by any attempt to place solar or wind power generating devices or structures in Lake Erie. We respectfully ask you to join us in opposition to Pa. House Bill #254.

We also sent letters to all of our State Senators. Only Senator Dan Laughlin responded and not only expressed his opposition to the bill but pledged his support. He also sponsored bill boards illustrating his opposition but publicly posting his opposition on his web site. All of our Democratic State Reps voted along party lines and supported the bill.

The bill is up for consideration in the PA Senate at this time. Please write your local state legislators if you support our opposition to the bill becoming law.

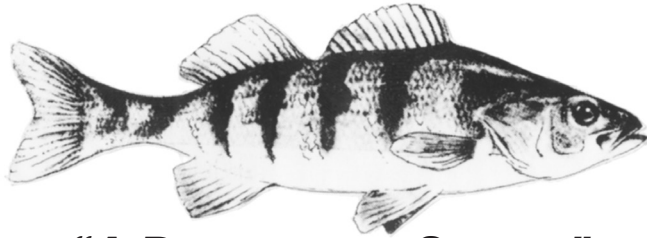


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PO BOX 3605 ERIE, PENNSYLVANIA 16508

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by the S.O.N.S. of Lake Erie**

**VOLUME 21 • ISSUE 6
JUNE 2024**



"A REPLENISHING SPECIES"



**PLEASE
DON'T LITTER.**

YOU CAN BE A STEWARD FOR OUR ENVIRONMENT

by picking up litter in the areas where you fish, hunt and walk. For example, when fishing around the Bay and its public access area, or in Presque Isle State Park, if you see something, pick it up and deposit in nearby trash receptacles. It's the right thing to do.

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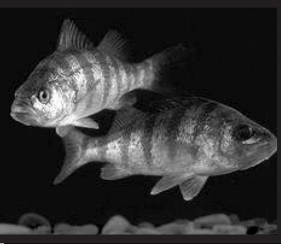
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**NO MEETINGS UNTIL
SEPTEMBER!!!**

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AND SAFE SUMMER!



PFBC REMINDS BOATERS OF LIMITED SERVICES AT NORTH EAST MARINA, ERIE COUNTY

ERIE, Pa (May 31) – With the busy 2024 summer boating season now underway, the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) is reminding visitors to North East Marina, Erie County, about changes to services offered at the facility. While the public boat launch area remains open for day use, various marina services that were provided in past boating seasons under an agreement with a private concessionaire are no longer available.

North East Marina currently features two public 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.

TIPS FOR A SAFE BOATING SEASON

Fishing season is open and summer is right around the corner. In other words, it's boating season! To make the most of your time on the water, be sure to check all of your boat's equipment and review basic safety tips before your next trip to the launch.

Check that your boat and trailer lights and safety equipment are in working order to save time and frustration at the boat launch. A full checklist of required equipment is available on the last page of the Wisconsin Boating Laws and Responsibilities Handbook.

It's also important to inspect your life jackets for wear and tear. Most inflatable jackets should be checked for leaks every six months, and the cartridge should be checked before each use. The jacket manufacturer's website should have instructions on how to check your life jacket status.

Follow the safety tips below and enjoy Wisconsin's great lakes and rivers with family and friends.

Sign up now to take an online boater education course.

- Always wear a properly fitted and fastened life jacket when you're on or near the water. A life jacket will keep you on top of the water if you walk off an unexpected drop-off, a wave or current overpower you or you fall out of a boat.
- Enjoy the waters sober and know your limits. Alcohol blurs a person's judgment, reaction time and abilities.
- River shorelines and sandbars pose unseen dangers. Higher, fast-moving water can tax an individual's boating, and swimming skills.
- Keep an eye on the weather and always tell someone where you are going.
- Be ready for the unexpected, and always wear your life jacket.