“A Replenishing Species”

No general meeting until September. Have a Fun and Safe Summer. Good Fishing!

Fishing Report:
High winds have been keeping anglers off of the Lake. Those that have made it out have caught a few perch but you have to look for them. Like last year they are not schooling in large numbers yet. Walleye fishing has been ok in shallower water. The Lake has been slow warming up and we may still in a Spring mode. Pier fishing has been sporadic but some nice rock bass are being caught off of the channel piers. Hopefully fishing will improve by the time you get this newsletter.
NEW EXHIBIT OPENS AT TREC
A new exhibit has opened at the Tom Ridge Environmental Center called “Plastic Pollution Solution: One Small Change”. It is free and open to the public daily from June 1 to October 31, 10 am to 6 pm, on the second floor of the TREC.

Plastic pollution in our waters has many bad effects on humans, wildlife and the environment. It illuminates this issue and its local implications. A free film, sponsored by the S.O.N.S. of Lake Erie, “Plastic Ocean” will be shown on July 20 at 7 pm.

PFBC SENIOR BIOLOGIST OFFERS PREDICTION
According to Chuck Murray, Senior Biologist of PFBC’s Lake Erie Unit who spoke at our May 22nd General Membership meeting, walleye fishing should be very good in 2018, and in the years to come. There was a 23% decrease in abundance from 2017 to 2018 but there will be mixed sizes in 2018 – lots of age-3 (56%) age-4 (16%) walleye. There will be a lot less throw backs of under size fish. There are still walleye of the 2003 Year Class that will still provide trophy size fish.

The Lake Erie East basin Walleye abundance is at record levels.

Yellow Perch fishing should remain about the same in 2018, but will still remain below average. There was average reproduction in 2016 and 2017. Age 2 and age-3 perch will represent about 66% of the population in 2018. 2012 and 2014 year classes should provide quality size perch, (greater than 10”), but there will still be lots of small perch.

Steelhead fishing has improved steadily over the last 5 years

Brown Trout fishing should improve with added yearlings by PFBC.

Lake Trout continue to provide a unique experience for trophy fish

Forage fish like emerald shiners and rainbow smelt populations are down but they are cyclical and usually rebound.

DEP RESEARCHERS CAPTURED A MONSTER
Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection scientists Nate Irwin, Kaitlin Knopsnider, and Jim Grazio caught a huge grass pike while electrofishing in Sara’s Cove at the Head of the Bay on May 30th. The fish was 51 inches long and weighed 69 pounds. Another Grass Carp was turned in at Poor Richards Island Bay on May 26th and weighed 47 pounds. Both fish will be examined by the US Geological Service to determine if they are sterile (triploid) and attempt to determine their origin using otolith microchemistry.

Grass carp are a non-native species that are introduced into ponds to control vegetation but only by permit. The fish must be sterilized and not able to reproduce, however many people throw them into the Lake.

FIRST TELEMETRY PROJECT WALLEYE CAUGHT
As a follow up to the story we featured in our May 2018 issue of the “Bucket” regarding the Walleye Telemetry Project to study migration habits of our local walleye population, local angler, Mark McMahon, caught one of the recently tagged walleye that was fitted with a telemetry transmitter off of Crooked Creek more than 12 miles away from where the fish was tagged and released on April 23rd. This was the first tagged fish turned in. Mark received his $100 reward.

2018 MEMBERSHIP PIN
If you would like to have a 2018 S.O.N.S. member pin, you can pick one up at one of the upcoming events or 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.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY
Ray Yurcak (L), Buddy Yurcak (M) (Ray’s son) whose birthdays are on the same day shared a birthday cake with SONS Treasurer Terry Pfeiffer (R) at our May meeting. See picture below taken by Chuck Miller.

The cake was inscribed

Happy Birthday Ray, Buddy and Terry.

“Remember Old Fishermen never die they just smell that way”

NORTHERN PIKE CAUGHT IN LAKE PLEASANT
Recently, David Nichols and Holly Sandberg were canoeing on Lake Pleasant when Mike caught and released this beautiful 39” northern pike on 8 pound test line. Holly and David just graduated from Seneca High School. The photo was submitted by EWPAPA’s Executive Director, Brenda Sandberg, Holly’s mom.

FOR SALE:

Outboard Motor: 6 hp Johnson asking $475 Call Ron at 814-455-8343 or cell 814-431-5711.

WANTED:
Boat: 16 foot inboard or outboard. Call 724-504-7561
The cormorant population on Lake Erie has grown in our area in over the last few years. As a duck hunter in the 60's and 70's I can never remember seeing the bird around at all. Now a population center of the bird has been established on the old Hammermill intake crib in the Lake and along the break walls at Lampe Marina wall. There are a couple of trees on the wall on which they roost. The trees are covered with their waste and the trees are dead. Take this and multiply this mess by thousands of times in the Western basin of Lake Erie. Other articles described the cormorants voracious appetite for fish. Here is a photo that has been circulating on Face Book. Its origin and authenticity has not been verified however from other sources that I have questioned these photos may be accurate. The photos depict the stomach contents of a cormorant that contain mostly perch. I wonder how many perch per day are being taken by the cormorant population?

In May of 2014 the Regional Science Consortium received grants to purchase, deploy and operate a weather buoy on Lake Erie. Funding for the buoy came from a grant from the Great Lakes Observing Systems (GLOS) for the Weather, Water, & Wave Buoy System. The buoy collects the following data:

Weather - Air Temperature, Wind Speed, Max. Wind Speed, Relative Humidity, Barometric Pressure, Daily Rain, Rain Duration, Rain Intensity, and Solar Radiation
Water - Temperature, Specific Conductivity, pH, Turbidity, and Dissolved Oxygen
Wave - Wave Height, Wave Period, and Wave Direction

The buoy is also equipped with a video camera.

Another buoy has been deployed off of Walnut Creek with the same features however the camera is out of service and needs to be replaced.

If you want to know Lake conditions before you go out on your boat, you can view data from the buoy at:

Observing System: http://glos.us/data-access/boaters-forecast

National Buoy Data Center: http://www.ndbc.noaa.gov/

Save the date!

The annual volunteers’ picnic will be held at 5 PM on August 6th at Shade’s Beach for those volunteers who have given their time for 3 or more events since July 2017. A list of those volunteers who are eligible to attend will be posted in the July issue of the Bucket.

No meetings until September!!!

Have a great Summer!!