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Official Publication of the S.O.N.S.

THE Bucket

VOLUME 21 • ISSUE 3
MARCH 2024

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

Next meeting is Monday March 18, 2024 at 7:00 PM
Polish Falcons Club, 341 East 3rd St
(Note this is one week early)
You can turn in your Fin & Fur Raffle Tickets at this meeting.

FISHING REPORT

The ice never returned, leaving a lot of disappointed anglers, but being an adaptable bunch others soon hauled out their regular gear and began fishing from piers and docks as well as their boats. The Presque Isle Anglers Face book page has up to date entries by other fishermen providing details of both successes and failures. Our January program presenter, John Scherrer, posts regularly on Facebook. **John Scherrer posted the following:**

March 3, 2024 – Pier fisherman had the advantage today. I can't imagine a boat being out in the wind and I didn't see any watercraft at all. I felt like Captain Dan standing in the shrimp boat in a hurricane... but... the fishing was fabulous as it often is when its rough and windy. Felt like I was fishing into a washing machine.

I kept the casts low and the line tight. High visibility line was a huge plus. Even though casting directly into the wind with waves and current I was able to stay with my 1/8-oz. drop-shot weight carrying the same Chartreuse/Pearl Case Li'l Fry bait that I used yesterday. I always use the lightest weight that just touches bottom. And keep the bait moving. Stop and go.

By the way, minnows or plastic? My bait cost 20¢ and I caught all my fish yesterday and today with it and likely the fishing trip or two before that. And I'll start with that same bait next time. That's well over 100 fish on the same bait. Quite the value! So that was a near limit yesterday and limit today and as many thrown back.

Boats are being utilized with increasing numbers. On Monday March 4th the Erie temperature reached a record high of 76 deg. with plenty of sunshine. At about 1pm I counted 20 boats on Misery Bay and sixteen more at the head of the bay. We sure are an adaptable bunch.

Misery Bay-March 4, 2024



**PLEASE
DON'T LITTER.**

APRIL 8 SOLAR ECLIPSE IS CAUSING CONCERN

WCO's from the PFBC as well as the USCG are concerned that there may be heavy boat traffic on Presque Isle Bay by boaters who may choose to view the April 8th Solar Eclipse from their boats as to will visible in Erie. Most of the boating infrastructure such as courtesy docks will not be in place at the launch ramps. The concern is because of the cold water temperature any mishap could result in fatalities. The eclipse will be just as visible on land

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Sunday March 24th 1-5
Ice Out Party

Saturday April 6th 8-12 AM
Waterworks Pond PISP First
Day of Trout Kids Fishing
Volunteers needed.

Saturday April 27th 9-12 PISP
Rotary Pavilion Presque Isle
Clean-up Volunteers needed.



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 FRIEND TODAY!

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



RECORD OF MEMBERSHIP

2024

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COMPANIES PLEDGE TO UTILIZE ALL FISH PARTS

By Healyn Paulis , Feb. 23, 2024, Marquette —

Fish-leather purses and wallets may make their way into Great Lakes fashion with an initiative to use 100% of commercially caught fish by 2025.

One of the latest projects of a binational Great Lakes organization is to fully use the region's whitefish, lake trout, yellow perch, walleye and white sucker.

The conference consists of leaders of eight states and two provinces bordering the Great Lakes. It was founded to grow the regional economy and protect the world's largest surface freshwater system.

According to the article there are food products you can make out of non-traditional parts of the fish. Commercially caught fish are used primarily for their fillets, about 60% of the remaining fish becomes low-value animal feed or is discarded.

Commercial Great Lakes fishing is a \$7 billion-a-year industry.

MEMBERSHIP LEVEL IS STILL LAGGING

Our annual membership drive was launched earlier last fall and as of the end of February the level was at 2100, well below last year. We need your help to solicit more members to reach our goal of 2600.



Using 100% of commercially caught fish means expanding and sustaining an already profitable lake economy and culture. The pledge details how a fish can be turned into products, increasing profits and eliminating waste.

Fish skin can be turned into leather and artistic materials. Collagen can be used as pharmaceutical supplements. Oils and collagen can be used in cosmetics and creams.

Fish skins have been used to treat burn victims because of their anti-inflammatory and anti-bacterial properties that support and improve wound healing. Nutrients from their flesh and bones can be turned into medications and collagen beverages.

Anything leftover can be turned into organic liquid fertilizer which is where the carcasses from our fish cleaning stations are taken by an Ohio based collector.

REMINDER – MARCH 24 IS THE

ICE OUT PARTY Sunday, March 24, 1 - 5 p.m. Erie Shrine Club

Our "Ice Out Party" will take place on Sunday March 24th, 2024 from 1-5 PM at the Erie Shrine Club. This family friendly event is open to the public. There will be free food, beverages, door prizes, kids games, raffles, and fun.

Admission to the party is \$10 for adults, \$5 for kids 15 and under. Toddlers are free.

THE FEBRUARY MEETING PROGRAM

was presented by Environmental Educator John Laskos from the TREC center. His presentation to the approximately 100 members in attendance at the meeting was about the history of the Presque Isle Peninsula and PI State Park. He used a power point program with maps and illustrations telling it's geological history, commercial, and ecological aspects, battle with erosion control, and its transition to a state park. His program included many vintage photos that kept the interest of the audience. We all walked away from the meeting with a greater understanding of the value of the Presque Isle peninsula as our greatest asset.



FISH USA'S WALLEYEPALOOZA III DREW HUNDREDS

On Saturday March 2, 2024 FishUSA held its third annual Walleye fishing seminar "The Walleyepalooza" at its flagship location on West Ridge Rd. Nearly all of the 300 chairs were occupied by those anglers anxious to learn the secrets of achieving success at walleye fishing. There were two parts to the seminar. The first was by "Small Boat Tactics" by charter Captains Ryan Raines and Keith Eshbaugh who shared their experiences catching walleye and Captain Joe Nemet's presentation on seasonal strategies for Lake Erie walleye trolling success.

This well attended event was free and opened to the public. The SONS of Lake Erie were invited to participate. Our crew cooked and served hundreds of hot dogs and beverages. We were able to solicit new SONS members and sell some benefit tickets. There were representatives from the PA Steelhead Association, Erie Pennsylvania Sport Fishing Association and the Charter Boat Charter Captains on hand to promote their memberships too. There were some great bargains on fishing gear available in FishUSA's pro shop.



Walleyepalooza III crowd

FISH USA MAKES DONATION

We got an unexpected surprise at the Walleyepalooza III event, FishUSA presented the SONS of Lake Erie with a check for over \$400. The money was raised through a special raffle of specially decorated Christmas tree. The tree was decorated with fishing lures.

*LtoR SONS Pres.
Jerry Skrypzak
accepts a check
from FishUSA's
spokesperson
Sheri Chambers
while program
MC, Aaron Gast
looks on. Photo
by Jack Bock*



SONS crew serving hotdogs

SHASTA RAINBOW TROUT TO BE STOCKED IN LAKE ERIE TRIBS

The following was posted on Facebook by Paul Olszewski:

On Friday, March 1st, members of several fishing organizations (3-CU, PA Steelhead Association, SONS of Lake Erie, Gem City Fly Tiers, and Northwest Pennsylvania Chapter of Trout Unlimited) along with Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission personnel, clipped the fins on approximately 15,000 Shasta Rainbow Trout at the 3-CU Mitchell Raceway near Lake City. These fish were placed in the raceway during the summer and will be released into one of the Pennsylvania tributaries draining into Lake Erie in the next few weeks. In 2 to 3 years, these Shasta Rainbows should be returning to our tributaries to spawn. By fin-clipping these fish we hope to get an idea on how well they imprint on our streams and return to them at that time.

The fish are netted up and placed into tubs of water containing an anesthetic for fish. The fish slow down in 2-3 minutes and their bellies turn upward. They are gently picked up and the adipose fin (that small fin on the back that is in front of the tail) is snipped off with small scissors and the fish are placed back into the water. Within 15 minutes they make a full recovery and swim about normally.

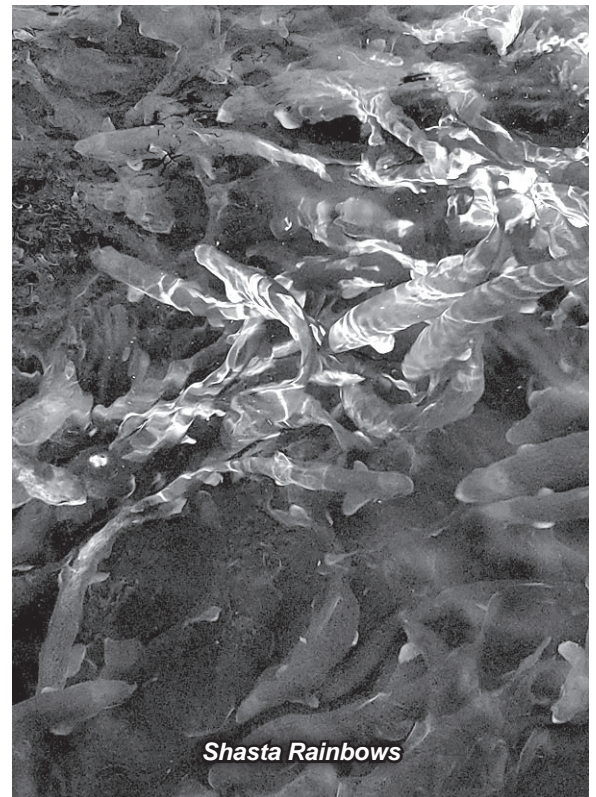
On Wednesday, February 28th, a similar group of people with the addition of an employee from Tudor Hook-n-Nook, fin-clipped 13,000 Shasta Rainbows at 3-CU's Ro-Zee Raceway. Conditions were pretty miserable that day as the raceway water was off-color after the rain the night before and a front went through while the crew was working bringing ferocious winds and a big temperature drop. Despite all of this the crew got things done.

A BIG thank you to everyone who helped with these projects

A Little Background---- Shasta Rainbows are native to Lake Shasta in northern California. The lake was created by the Shasta Dam which blocks the northern end of the Sacramento

River. The dam is 602 ft high and is a complete barrier to fish migration. It creates a freshwater impoundment with a surface area of 29,740 acres. Shasta Rainbows behave like other rainbow trout as they spawn in the Spring, but they run up into tributary creeks and rivers Fall through Spring. Unlike Pacific Coast steelhead which are anadromous (hatch and mature in freshwater, live several years in saltwater, and return to freshwater to spawn); Shasta Rainbows live their entire life in freshwater.

Below are a few pictures taken by Jack Bock and Paul Olszewski—



Shasta Rainbows



Volunteers gathered at 3-CU's Mitchel Raceway



The adepost fin was clipped

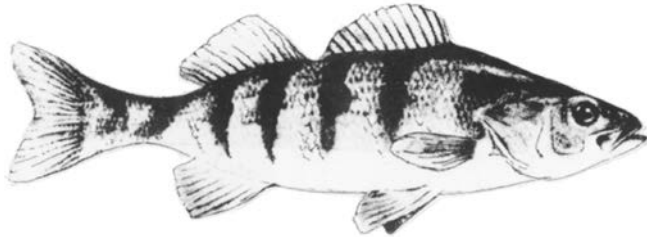


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"The Bucket" published monthly
by the S.O.N.S. of Lake Erie

VOLUME 21 • ISSUE 3
MARCH 2024



"A REPLENISHING SPECIES"

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

MONDAY, MARCH 18 7:00 PM

POLISH FALCONS CLUB
431 E. 3rd Street, Erie

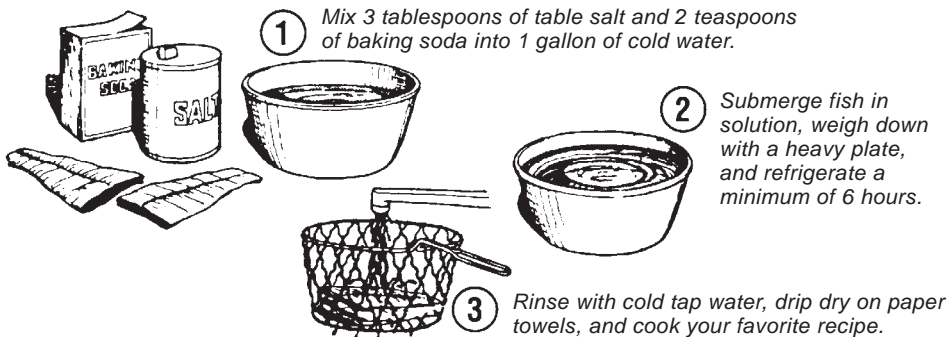
PROGRAM: Pennsylvania Angler Tony Sobina will present a program on what it is like to go fishing every day for four years straight as well as favorite fishing opportunities and techniques.

(Note this month's meeting is one week early)

You can turn in your
Fin & Fur Raffle Tickets
at this meeting.

SWEETEN THE CATCH

We used to print this recipe back in the 80s. Quite possibly got it from **Field And Stream Magazine**. Great way of removing gaminess and oily taste from fish (trout, salmon, etc.)



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

If so, send us an email to sonslakeri@aol.com list your name, address and note that you would like to change to the electronic version. So far we have about 320 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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Fish Picture!



BROTHERS BAG THREE MORE WALLEYE

John Skrzypczak submitted this photo of three walleye beauties that he and his brother Dan caught on Feb. 14, 2024 on Liberty Pier.