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

# THE Bucket

VOLUME 21 • ISSUE 5  
MAY 2024

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

## FISHING REPORT

As the days become warmer, marinas are opened, fish are becoming active and so are the anglers. Some nice catches of crappies and perch are being reported from boats and the piers. Walleye season opened on May 4th and boaters are on the water looking for bass and lake trout, too.

## WE SCREWED UP LAST MONTH

when we failed to include the East End Angler in the list of the door prize donors for our Ice Out Party. We apologize to Kirk for the oversight. He has been more than generous in his support of the SONS for many years.

## PRESQUE ISLE MARINA PROJECT NEARLY COMPLETE



This drone's eye view of the Presque Isle Marina was provided by Lake Shore Towing Co., the project's general contractor. All the new docks are in place. Yet to be completed is the electrical system which is awaiting transformers for its completion. The completion date is set for June 6, 2024

## THE APRIL MEETING PROGRAM

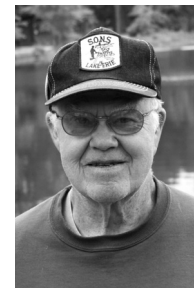
was presented Jeremy Scott, who was assisted by his 12-year-old daughter Jovie. They presented a really great program to the over 120 members and guests who were present at the SONS of Lake Erie Monday April 22 meeting. Jeremy gave a detailed description of all of the public access fishing areas along our Pennsylvania north shore using posters held by Jovie. He gave a description of all of the fish species available at each location. He also brought with him a complete array of all of his gear which he uses to fish these areas. He also distributed a collection of lures and more that were donated by Poor Richard's Bait and Tackle and the Reno Bait Co., which were passed out to the audience members.



Jeremy and daughter Jovie showing an illustration listin fishing opportunities

## IN MEMORIAM

Former SONS Director Bob Gibbs passed away on Friday, April 26, 2024. Bob was director from 2002-



2011 Here's a quote from his obituary:

*"He volunteered for the S.O.N.S. of Lake Erie Fishing Club and enjoyed participating in any event teaching young*

*children to fish. He loved the annual ice fishing clinics, first day of trout, and any event to get to the lake. He was enthusiastic about a necessary daily visit to see what was happening at Walnut Creek, right up until his death, enjoying the beauty of nature." He was a great guy and will be sadly missed.*



## 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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### RECORD OF MEMBERSHIP

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## NEWS BRIEFS

### WCO Honored



*Matt Visosky flanked by PFBC Exec., Tim Schaeffer, Col. Warner Chief Law Enforcement Ofc., and Commission President Bill Gibney (PFBC photo)*

According to a news release by the PFBC "Matt Visosky, of Central Erie County, received the Northeast Conservation Law Enforcement Chiefs Award during Monday's meeting. He was selected as the PA Fish and Boat Commission's NECLECA Officer of the Year for 2023.

### "Bad" Fishermen Had Licenses Revoked

In an article Outdoor Writer Brian Whipkey in the May 1, 2024 edition of Goerie.com, The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission has revoked fishing privileges for six anglers for five years. During the April 29th, 2024 quarterly meeting, the PFBC approved the revocations for six people involved in two separate incidents that happened on steelhead nursery waters in Erie County.

Four were arrested on Sept. 24 at 2:45a.m. at Avonia Beach. They were charged with netting fish and had 25 steelhead in possession. Each was fined \$1,616. Two were arrested on Oct. 15 at 1:55 am in the same place they were in possession of 15 steelhead and each paid \$1,989.

### The 2"X2" Skin Issue

was not reviewed at the PFBC's April meeting of the PFBC hopefully it will be addressed at a future meeting. Until then, Remember- Do What the Sign Says! Please Clean Up after using the facility.



### House Boat Raised



This photo submitted by the Lake Shore Towing Co. shows the use of a crane and pumps to refloat a sunken houseboat on Horseshoe Pond.

### Parade Street Dock Repaired

This photo shows some repairs to a portion of the Parade St. Dock making it safe for fishing until more permanent repairs are complete. This popular fishing area was repaired by crews from the EWPPA.



### Noisy Work on North Pier

Crews are at work repairing the walls of the North Pier channel into Erie's harbor. The work is creating some loud equipment noise. Be prepared to find portions of the pier closed for fishing occasionally during the project.





## SOUTH PIER PARKING LOT WILL BE CLOSED DUSK TIL DAWN

Due to some bad behavior that include fights, public intoxication, gun violations and more that took place in the picnic area adjacent South Pier channel last summer the EWPPA is planning to install swing gates across the two entrances into the South Pier parking lot that will prevent parking in that lot from dusk til dawn. The plan is to prevent these crowds from gathering for everyone's safety. Night fishing will be permitted on the pier but you must park inside the Lampe Marina gates.

## SUCCESSFUL HATCHERY OPERATION SHUT DOWN FOR SUMMER

Last month's issue of the "Bucket" highlighted the stocking of brown trout and the arrival of 1.6 million walleye eggs. The walleye eggs completed their hatching cycle on April 12 affording the opportunity to show off our great facility and brag about the hard work of our volunteer hatchery crew. The public was invited to tour our facility on Saturday and Sunday April 13&14. A few days earlier on April 10, twenty seven participants from the Erie Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors program toured our hatchery.



Above are pictures taken at our hatchery open house on April 13&14 as well as April 10.

More — The 2023-24 hatchery operation came to its conclusion on Tuesday April 16 when the remaining 130 brown trout were released and the walleye fry were transferred from our holding tanks by buckets to a boat provided by SONS volunteer Paul Holtz and his crewman Ralph Friend. They transported and spread the 1.6 million walleye fry throughout Presque Isle Bay. Hatchery crew members emptied and scrubbed all of our tanks and other equipment and shut the facility down until next season. This scenario has been part of our standard operating procedure since the hatchery was built in 1985.



Walleye were transferred to buckets then to boat and spread in Bay then system was cleaned and closed

# LAMPE MARINA FISH CLEANING STATION DEDICATED AND OPENED

Wednesday May 1st ,2024 marked the celebration for the completion of a new refrigerated building and fish cleaning station. Here, besides efficiently cleaning the fish, Lampe will now repurpose the waste for environmental sustainability, thanks to the collaborative efforts of PA Fish & Boat Commission, SONS of Lake Erie, and our Erie Western PA Port Authority board. Lampe Marina's public fish cleaning station will be the first public fish cleaning station of its kind in the City of Erie and the third of its kind on Lake Erie, joining alongside the stations at the Walnut Creek Access Area and the Northeast Marina. The station features power outlets, cutting tables, running water, and sinks. A refrigerated storage area at each station will allow anglers to dispose of fish remains appropriately, which will be recycled for agricultural use.(Face Book Posts)

We would like to express our gratitude to the Erie Western PA Port Authority for allowing the station to be located on Authority property and for the hard work of EWPPA management and Staff, especially former Exec. Director Brenda Sandberg and former Operations Manager, John Mulligan who helped initiate this project and the current Exec. Director Julie Slomski and the present Operations Manager Tony Pianta for bringing this across the finish line and CFO Robin Waldinger for writing and bird dogging the grant. . We also would like to thank the PFBC Lake Erie Public Access staff and grants committee, Ashley Porter architects, Perry Construction Co. and all of the sub-contractors an each and every one of you that purchased the Lake Erie Access permit over the years. It was the funds from the program that paid for this project and many others on our waterfront and our surrounding county over the years.

There is room in the building for two more cutting tables that were not included in the budget. The SONS of Lake Erie will be paying for two more thanks to your hard work and generosity,



*L to R The ribbon was cut at the Lampe Marina Dedication by EWPPA Facilities Mgr. Tony Pianta, ,Jamie Martin- Stewart SONS Pres. Jerry Skrypzak, PFBC VP Dan Pastore while EWPPA Exec. Director Julie Slomski, Mayor Joe Schember and Port Authority Pres. Jeff Brinling and other Port Auth. members looked on. In the bottom left photo EWPPA treasurer Carl Wolfram and Capt. Steve Skrypzak were the first to clean fish and provided a demonstration for the crowd in attendance*

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

Below is list of all of the events we have scheduled so far. Since May 20th is our last meeting until September we will have a signup sheet at that meeting and we ask you to let us know when you would like to help out. Keep an eye on our June, July and August issues of our newsletter for any changes

**May 23rd THURS** Erie Day School casting class 40 students Greene Township Park 9333 Tate Rd, Erie, PA 16509 Vol. Needed

**May 24th FRI** 10-11:30 McKean Elementary School 35 kids Waterworks Pond Vol. Needed

**May 25th SAT** 9-12 EPSFA Kids Day Perry Monument Vol. Needed

**May 30th THURS.** 2:30-4 casting and info table Grover Cleveland School Vol. Needed

**June 13th THURS** 10-noon Barb's Care A Lot 15-20 kids Waterworks Pond Vol. Needed

**June 17th MON** 230-345 SR Pat 15 kids Waterworks Pond Vol. Needed

**June 19th WED** Waterworks Pond Elks Club Vets Picnic Vol. Needed

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

**June 26th WED** 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 9th TUES** 10-noon Barb's Care A Lot 15-20 kids Waterworks Pond 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 Housing Authority Police 15-20 kids Waterworks Pond Vol. Needed

**July 27th SAT** 9-12 Waterworks Pond Discover PI Vol. Needed

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

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

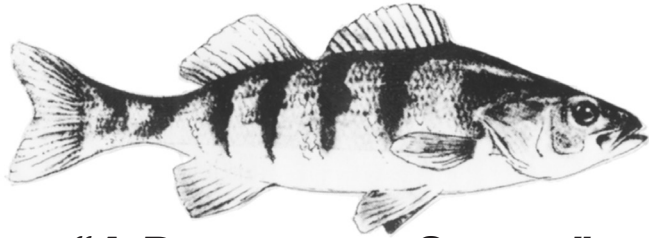


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"The Bucket" published monthly  
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VOLUME 21 • ISSUE 5  
MAY 2024



**"A REPLENISHING SPECIES"**

## GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

**MONDAY, MAY 20 7:00 PM**

### POLISH FALCONS CLUB

431 E. 3rd Street, Erie

**NOTE:** This is one week early due to the Memorial Day Holiday and it will be the last meeting until September—Have a great, healthy and happy summer.

**PROGRAM:** TBA

We promise a good meeting so come and join us!

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

If so, send us an email to [sonslakeri@aol.com](mailto:sonslakeri@aol.com) list your name, address and note that you would like to change to the electronic version. So far we have about 475 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](http://sonsoflakeerie.org) at any time.

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## SONS CO SPONSOR THE 85TH PI CLEAN UP



Twenty seven SONS volunteers partnered with PISP state park staff members and the Presque Isle Partnership to sponsor the 85th Presque Isle Clean Up on April 27th. The weather started off windy and rainy causing a disappointing number of public participants. Only about 125 pitched in to clean up. Our role as usual was to provide lunch for the participants. We served about 220 hot dogs coffee, orange drinks water and some snacks.