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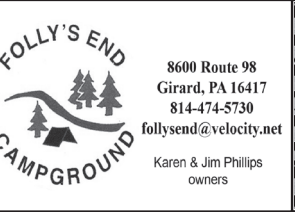


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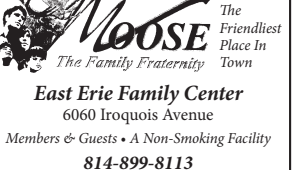
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Official Publication of the S.O.N.S.

THE Bucket

VOLUME 20 • ISSUE 11
NOVEMBER 2023

S.O.N.S. PHONE NUMBER 814-453-2270 (ALSO FAX NUMBER)
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FISHING REPORT

Steelhead are being caught in good numbers. If you belong to Facebook check out the Presque Isle Bay Anglers posting for up to date reports from their members. Here's a couple of pictures to tell the story:



This picture was taken on October 15 at Walnut Creek of successful anglers Jeff Schutzler, Jeff Baker Sr, and Jeff Baker Jr. from Freeport, PA. Our Lake Erie Fishery is worldwide renowned. These pictures taken at Avonia Beach and at the Walnut Creek Access area shows the level of participation at these locations.



Forty-nine anglers lined up on Avonia Beach



Anglers fishing the wall at Walnut Creek



John Scherer posted this nice picture of perch shown above October 25 on Facebook with the following caption — *Math lesson for today: Dropshot rig and/or VMC Neon Moon Eye Jig heads + Bobby Garland Baby Shad = 30 Perch.* John spoke at our February meeting last year about his utilization of dropshot rigs. It was a great program and we hope to get him to come back soon.

SONS Stuff Make Great Gifts

Christmas is just over a month away. If you're looking for some gifts may we suggest some of our logo merchandise? We have hats, T-shirts, 1/3 zip shirts, insulated stainless steel mugs and thermos bottles, towels and much more. You can see a full list at our website sonsoflakeerie.org. Click on Sons Stuff. Ron Morrow will have the stuff available at our upcoming general membership meetings. Or you can email us at sonslakeri@aol.com or text Ron Morrow at 814-651-3262 and leave a message. Include description, color, size and quantity in your correspondence.

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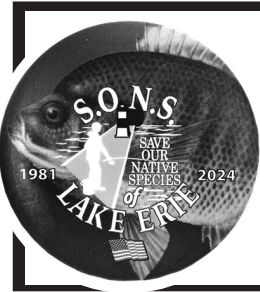
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THE PROGRAM AT OUR OCTOBER MEETING

was presented by local distinguished angler and tackle specialist Matt West from Sportsman's Warehouse. Matt presented information on pan fishing to the 95 members present. His focus was on tackle and tactics using slip bobbers as well as drop shot rigs to target species such as perch, crappies, and bluegills.



Matt West



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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WORK ON THE LAMPE MARINA FISH CLEANING STATION

is coming right along as shown in the pictures below which were taken on November 3rd. The building should be completed by the end of the year. The white cubic structure in the photos is of the freezer component of the building.



EAST END



LAMPE MARINA FISH CLEANING STATION



WEST END

CORMORANTS MAKE MIGRATION STOP HERE

In late October and early November huge flocks of cormorants were scene flying up and down Presque Isle Bay. There were hundreds hanging around the Presque Isle Marina too. Here's a photo taken there in late October---



They are lined up on the silt curtain float that surrounds the dock area that is under reconstruction. Notice how evenly apart they are spaced. Others are swimming within the confines of the silt curtain eating the fish that we would normally catch by fishing from the docks if they were in place.

Cormorants eat mainly fish. Adults eat an average of one pound per day. The birds are opportunistic and generalist feeders, preying on many species of

fish, but concentrating on those that are easiest to catch. One pair taking two pounds a day over a life span of 15 to 20 years really adds up to about 15,000 pounds per pair — and as they reproduce the problem is compounded. Over the past 25 years the cormorant population has increased tremendously to almost alarming rates.

They not only consume large quantities of fish but their mere presence cause serious environmental damage by secreting large quantities of toxic

droppings and competition for food with other water fowl. Cormorants in the U.S. are managed under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and can only legally be killed with authorization from the USFWS The agency has been providing this authorization to the states of Ohio, Michigan and New York as well as individuals, private organizations and other agencies on a case-by-case basis. The Province of Ontario had permitted hunts in 2021.

FISH HABITAT 2023

On Thursday October 26, 2023 seventeen SONS of Lake Erie volunteers joined in with a team of six PFBC habitat specialists led by Ben Page for the purpose of placing more habitat structures into Presque Isle Bay. We have partnered with PFBC every year since 1995. During that period more than 800 structures have been built and placed into Presque Isle Bay and adjacent waters as part of the program. This year there were an additional 84 vertical plank structures placed into the waters off of the area of the Niagara boat launch on PI State Park.

The structures were purchased pre-built using funds from the Lake Erie Access program. In the past the SONS supplied the material and volunteers assembled them. All that was

needed to be completed this year called for the volunteers to attach bundles of brush to the assembled structures. A back hoe and driver from DCNR moved the structures into position for the attachments.

The completed assemblies were then placed into a specially equipped PFBC boat and carried out into their final placement area.

SONS volunteers prepared a lunch for all of the participants which also included volunteers from FishUSA and three out of town attendees from the North American Lake Management conference which was being held in Erie.

More info can be seen on the SONS web site at <https://sonsoflakeerie.org/habitat%20019.htm>.



SPAWN FROM LAKE STURGEON TO BE INTRODUCED TO CUYAHOGA RIVER

Five decades ago the Cuyahoga was a symbol of all that was wrong with the environment. Now it's believed to be clean enough for the ancient fish.

A fire in 1969 ended up being a story in Time magazine. Newspapers across the country picked up the story causing public outrage. Congress passed a series of laws, including the Clean Water Act and the Endangered Species Act.

President Richard Nixon proposed an agency to coordinate the efforts. The Environmental Protection Agency was founded.

Since then these new regulations have resulted in a cleanup of these waters as well as those of Lake Erie making them capable of again supporting a viable fishery.

To start the process fertilized sturgeon eggs from the Upper St. Clair River near Port Huron are taken from adult sturgeon. After fish eggs are fertilized, they're sent to the

Genoa National Hatchery in Wisconsin. Eventually they'll be released into the Cuyahoga River. The sturgeon will likely return there when their mating instincts finally kick in, and then those fish will populate the Cuyahoga River. It will be 15 years or more to know whether the fish will return to spawn because they don't mature sexually until that age or older.

In another project the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service worked with the Toledo Zoo to restore sturgeon to the Maumee River in just the last few years.

Lake sturgeon have also been released into rivers in Michigan.

Since the 1990s the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has been coordinating an effort to revive the population in the Great Lakes.

The number of an ancient fish in the Great Lakes is growing and being re-introduced to rivers where it has not been seen in 100 years or more

MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE:

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REMINDER – NOMINATIONS FOR OUR CLUB'S OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

will be taken at our November 20th, 2023 General Membership meeting. Club Officers President Jerry Skrypzak, Vice President Ed Kissell, Secretary Don Tombaugh and Treasurer John Krupinski have completed their term and will be up for reelection. Four director's terms will be expiring also. The directors whose terms are coming to an end are Jack Klapthor, Rich Brine, Ron Morrow, and Dave Mikeska. Nominations will be taken to fill these officers and directors positions at this meeting as required by our by-laws. All nominees must be present at this meeting or they must indicate their willingness to serve by submitting a letter or email prior to the meeting. Director Tom Nichols is the chairman of the nominating and election committee.

WHY DO WE GO ICE FISHING?

Some answers I found on the Fish Erie forum for you to decide if it's for you.

One of the main requirements is that it allows you to enjoy the natural air in the wonderful season. Another explanation is that you don't have to worry about someone jumping over the line when you get a bite. Also, more often than not, the vast majority of people around you are friendly and welcoming to hobbies. You should pay attention to the thickness of the ice, but provided you dress according to the weather, you can live with it and you don't have to worry much at first. Come out, then go out and watch and ask for an explanation of some urgent matters. With this change of environment, I would be sure that I would buy a lot of the product. In recent years, there has been almost no protected ice here in the southwestern part of Ock. The interesting thing is that ice fishing gives you the opportunity to realize another option than just lounging in a "hurry", good luck and update us as often as possible.

Indiana Lou an Avid Angler posted the following: Besides giving fishermen a chance to go out and wet a line during the "off" season. I think the big thing is that it opens up access to the entire lake. Especially for those guys/gals that don't have a boat and lakes with limited access along the shoreline. And once you get equipped to handle the weather you find out it can be very rewarding.

Lou

REMINDER



A person shall wear a Coast Guard approved personal flotation device (PFD or life jacket) during the cold weather months from November 1st through April 30th while underway or at anchor on boats less than 16 feet in length or any canoe or kayak.

Yellow Perch caught in Presque Isle Bay or the inland waters of Presque Isle must be at least 7 inches long. The regulation is in effect from December 1 to April 30.

LAKE ERIE NOW HOLDS THE WATER SPOUT RECORD

by: Celeste Houmard Oct 11, 2023 Fox News Cleveland

According to the International Center for Waterspout Research, there were 181 waterspouts and funnels over Lake Erie in just one day. One observer even saw 72 alone!

Fox 8 Meteorologist Dontae Jones says, "This time of year we get low-pressure systems that bring cold and warm fronts which help with the contrast of temperatures. This contrast in temperatures between the lake/bottom part of the atmosphere and the upper atmosphere is greatest during the transitional season of summer to fall. The areas of low pressure add a spin to the atmosphere which can help in the development of some tornadic waterspouts."

According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, a waterspout is a "whirling column of air and water mist."

Tornadic waterspouts are tornadoes that either form over

land and move to the water or form over water themselves. This type of waterspout is typically associated with severe weather. NOAA says fair weather and tornadic waterspouts are the two categories this weather.

Fair-weather waterspouts develop on the surface of the water and work their way upward. They can move to land but are typically not associated with thunderstorms, according to the NOAA.

"Waterspout formation typically occurs when cold air moves across the Great Lakes and results in large temperature differences between the warm water and the overriding cold air," explains the NWS. "They tend to last from about two to twenty minutes and move along at speeds of 10 to 15 knots."

According to the ICWR, there have been 1,505 total waterspouts across the world so far in 2023.

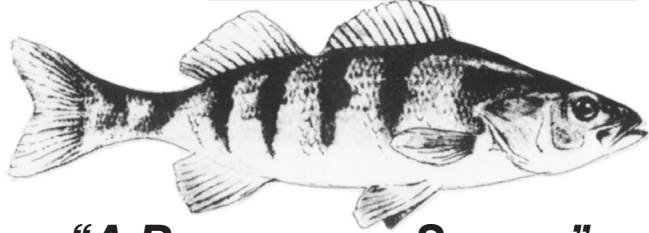


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**"The Bucket" published monthly
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**VOLUME 20 • ISSUE 11
NOVEMBER 2023**



"A REPLENISHING SPECIES"

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

MONDAY, NOV. 20 7:00 PM

POLISH FALCONS CLUB

431 E. 3rd Street, Erie

**NOTE: NOTE THIS IS A WEEK EARLIER
SO THAT OUR MEMBERS MAY GO DEER HUNTING.**

PROGRAM:

PFBC Lake Erie Unit team leader Mark Haffley will present preliminary results taken during their Fall trawl assessment of the of the fish populations of the PA waters of Lake Erie.

OHIO SURVEY REPORTS A GREAT WALLEYE HATCH

Based on 2023 trawl surveys of state water it conducts annually, the Ohio DNR is rating this year's walleye hatch as exceptional. That marks the fifth time in nine years dating back to 2015 that the walleye hatch has earned the division's highest ranking. The exceptional designation doesn't come with numbers. Those won't be released until around March when Ohio and Ontario combine their completed survey results. The final tallies, which also will include yellow perch, are used to set the take of each species next year. The Total Allowable Catch (TAC), generally translates into recreational fishing limits in Ohio waters, although a portion of the Ohio yellow perch population is given over to commercial netters.

The trawl surveys are used to gauge the success of the year's hatch and are a general predictor of the numbers that will enter the population as adult fish in two years. This year's results portend that 20 million or more walleyes will be added during the summer of 2025. Should those fish in the meantime find adequate food supplies, many—if not most of them—will reach the legal 15-inch keeper size in about two years. Given that walleyes are a longlived species, exceptional hatches in 2015, 2018, 2019 and 2021 suggest that tens of millions of keepers, including millions of trophies, already are swimming about in Lake Erie. The DNR announced that, given the latest infusion, walleye fishing in the Ohio waters of Lake Erie is likely to remain outstanding for the next decade and then some.

The PFBC Lake Erie Research Unit also conducts trawl surveys in PA waters of the Lake and the results will be delivered at our November 20th General Membership meeting by Team Leader Mark Haffley.

Remember—The Ohio Walleye Come here for the summer adding to our local biomass of fish.

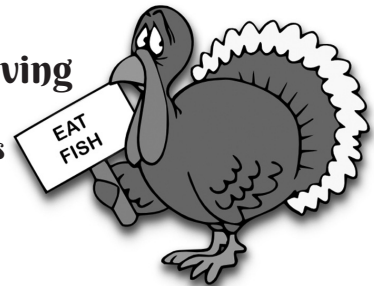
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If so, send us an email to sonslakeri@aol.com list your name, address and note that you would like to change to the electronic version. So far we have about 240 members who have requested the change so far. You can always read the current and past issues of the Bucket at our web site, sonsoflakeerie.org at any time.

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FISH USA STEELHEAD SEMINAR FOLLOWUP

As reported in the October issue of the bucket Fish USA held a free seminar titled "Chrome Fest 2023" on October 27th at their flagship facility in Fairview, PA. We had inquiries from some of our members who could not attend as to the content of the program, so for those of who were asking, the program was recorded and can be viewed on YouTube at the following links:

[https://www.youtube.com/
watch?v=n3FBq9b4vWc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n3FBq9b4vWc)

and

[https://www.youtube.com/
watch?v=sH8IICaAUkU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sH8IICaAUkU)

There are other presentations from prior seminars at the Fish USA website here:

<https://www.fishusa.com/learn/>