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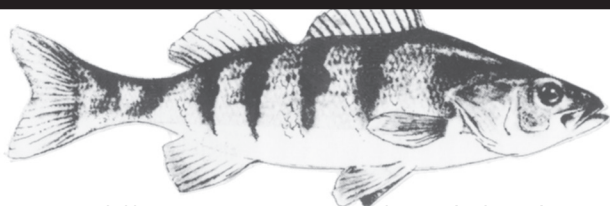
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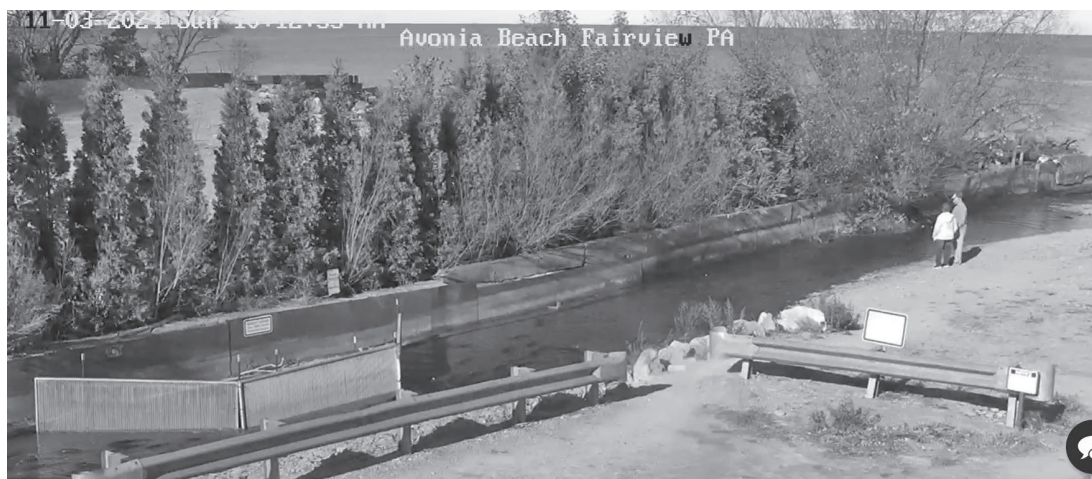
# THE Bucket

VOLUME 21 • ISSUE 11  
NOVEMBER 2024

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

Facebook posts by anglers show that perch and walleye are being caught. Steelhead fishing has ramped up, but lack of rain until now, is preventing the fish from moving upstream due to the low water levels. A real problem arose when a sand bar formed in Trout Run causing the fish to beach themselves and die. PFBC workers cleaned up the dead steelhead and installed a fence around the sand bar to keep from stranding themselves.



*Fence around sand bar in trout run*

The low water has not discouraged anglers from trying, as shown in this drone photo taken on October 19, 2024 by Terry Hosack. It shows 41 fishermen lined up at Avonia Beach at the mouth of Trout Run. Notice the darker patches in the water in front of the fishermen. Those are shadows of schools of Steelhead. For a better view, Terry has posted the video on YouTube at: <https://youtu.be/RZhuD3YA9WQ?si=0P63GXg5Q2fCEgjj> Check it out.



## OUR OCTOBER SPEAKER

was FishUSA Pro Staff Member Nolan Pyle, who talked about his techniques for catching shallow water lake trout to a crowd of about 80 at our October 28th General Membership meeting. He put together a slide show about the history of Lake Erie lake trout their vanishing and now restoration efforts by stocking. His slides showed type of lures and equipment he uses as well as the locations he likes to fish for them.



We Would  
Like to Wish  
All of Our  
Members and  
Their Families  
a Happy  
Thanksgiving!



## SONS 2025 MEMBERSHIP BUTTON

is a depiction of a crappie this year. This is in keeping with featuring a native species fish on the button. You can pick up the 2025 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

2024

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## 2025 MEMBERSHIP BUTTON

The SONS of Lake Erie 2025 edition of our membership button is now available. This year's button follows the native fish theme featuring a crappie. Our Membership button was reminiscent of times when the PA fishing license was printed on a button to be pinned to the fisherman's outer garments. You can get a pin free of charge at any of our events or by mail just include an additional \$3.00 for shipping and handling along with your membership application.

## FISH COMMISSION OFFERS AMENDMENT TO 2X2 SKIN RULE

PA Fish and Boat Commissioners voted to approve the publication of a notice of proposed rulemaking pertaining to regulations for fish cleaning stations (58 Pa. Code § 63.15a). Following comments from the public regarding the current requirement to leave a 2-inch by 2-inch piece of skin on processed fillets at noncommercial officially recognized fish cleaning stations, PFBC staff conducted a review that included internal discussions, a meeting in Erie in September with interested stakeholders to hear and discuss their feedback, and consideration at two Law Enforcement Committee meetings. As a result of this process, staff determined that resource conservation goals could be achieved by eliminating the 2-inch by 2-inch piece of skin requirement in favor of requiring that fillets remain fully intact. If adopted on final rulemaking at a future meeting, the amendments will go into effect upon publication in the Pennsylvania Bulletin.

**The news release leaves a question that must be addressed. Does it mean that the skin must remain on the fish for the fillet to be fully intact? That needs to be clarified.**

## NOTE:

The November meeting is one week early, November 18, 2024, due to the beginning of deer season. The December meeting will also be held one week early on December 16, 2024 due to the Christmas holiday.

### NOVEMBER PROGRAM:

FishUSA Pro Staff Angler  
Matt West



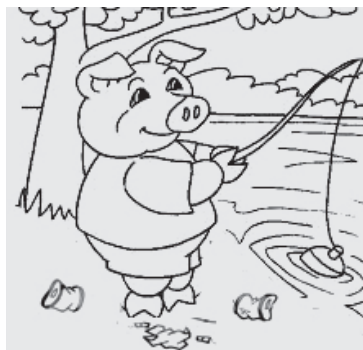
Matt showing off a late season walleye he caught recently.

### NOMINATIONS FOR SONS OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

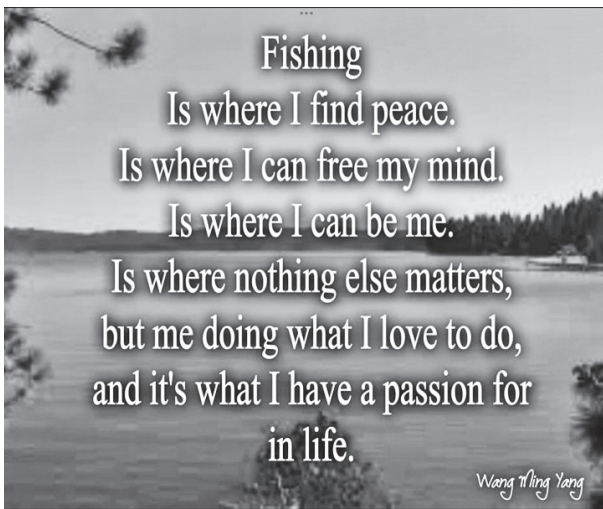
will be taken at our November 18th General Membership meeting. The one year terms of President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer will be expiring and the 3 year terms of 4 of our directors will be expiring therefore we will be accepting nominations for members to fill those positions at that meeting. SONS Director Jack Klaphor will be our elections committee chairman and will be recording these nominations. Elections for these offices will be held at our December 16th General Membership meeting.

## 2025 MEMBER DRIVE KICKS OFF

You will or may have already received or will have received the SONS 2025 membership packet in the mail. Our membership level reached 2600 again in 2024. We are asking your continued support by rejoining and possibly signing up a friend or relative. We are a respected and well recognized organization thanks to members like you. We have served our fishing community and our Lake Erie fishery for nearly 44 years and will continue to do so with your support. Included in the packet are six benefit tickets for ten \$100 prizes which will be awarded at a drawing that will be held at our January 22 meeting. Your donation for the tickets, help defray the cost of printing and mailing the packet.







## BAIT SHOP TO BARBER SHOP

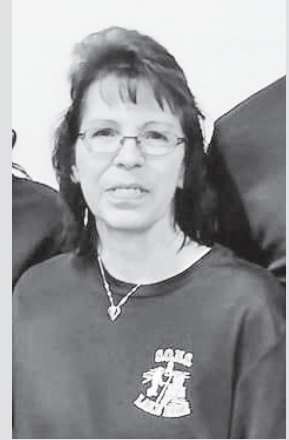
For ten decades and more the Public Dock area at the foot of State Street has had a bait shop for the convenience of our fishing community. Bait shops called Porky's, Smitties, LeClair Bait and finally Presque Isle Bait and Tackle operated at different locations. Development on the bayfront over the years forced the shops to move to several locations finally with Smith's Bait locating in a new building at 34 State St. The operated there until 2008 when Smitty's son Jimmy, decided to retire. Andy Daniels opened Presque Isle Bait and Tackle in that location until he closed about 2018 but still operates out of a trailer at the foot of East Ave. The location is now occupied by a barber shop. We need another bait shop in that area and have tried to encourage the Erie Western PA Port Authority to actively try to attract a new one to the area. Maybe we should give tax breaks to bait shops and boat repair businesses to attract them to the Public Dock area like they did for the hotels.



43 State Street now a Barber Shop location

## IN MEMORIAM

With deepest regret we acknowledge the passing of Leslie Lubak, wife of director Kevin Lubak, daughter in-law of former past president Ron Lubak, and the unofficial leader of Team Lubak. Leslie was responsible for organizing kids events and Chinese auction activities at our annual Ice Out Party. Leslie took over the planning and organizing of our volunteer picnics. Her expert touches to these events made them fun and enjoyable. We will sadly miss her fun personality and wise advice. Our deepest sympathy goes out to her husband Kevin, and children Kevin Lubak II, his wife Lynda, Ryan Lubak, Emily Lubak, and Allie Lubak. May she rest in peace.



Leslie Lubak 1966-2024



## 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](http://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](mailto: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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## SONS HATCHERY GETS NEW ROOF

The photos below show workers from Alex Roofing installing a new steel roof on the SONS hatchery at the foot of Chestnut St. The existing shingle roof was ready for replacement we decide that a steel roof would be a better fit due to the harsh weather conditions at the site, The cost of the project was \$21,000. It should be completed by the time you get this issue.



## REMINDER- MANDATORY LIFE JACKETS REQUIRED

**November 1 through  
April 30**

**In 2012, this regulation was established:** 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.

## PFBC FISH CULTURISTS READY TO SPAWN STEELHEAD

A small building has been moved onto Avonia Beach in preparation for fish culturists to take eggs and spawn from steelhead congregated in Trout Run. The building will be used to complete the egg and spawn gathering. In the past the fish were taken from the creek and transported to the PFBC Fish Cultural Station located on Rt. 5 near Rt. 98 for spawning and some of the fertilized eggs were sent to the Tionesta culture station for hatching and rearing while others were kept in Fairview. As reported last month the eggs are no longer permitted to be transported out of the Great Lakes watershed in order to prevent the spread of the invasive VHS virus. Now after the eggs are fertilized they will be transported to PFBC's Fish Culture Station for hatching where they will be held until they become large enough to stock. The Fairview station has a capacity to handle about 500,000 fish and plans are to modify the facility to accommodate more.

The brood fish will be released into streams and fishable areas throughout the Lake Erie watershed.

The egg gathering process will begin soon and fun to watch. The activity usually extends into December. When we find out the schedule for the spawning we will let you know.



## LAMPE MARINA WEB CAMERA

As reported last month the Lampe web camera is now up and running. It is being provided through a partnership of the Erie Western PA Port Authority, Fish USA and the SONS of Lake Erie. You may access the camera on the Fish USA web site at <https://www.fishusa.com/lampe-webcam/> or at the SONS Web page at <https://sonsoflakeerie.org/web%20cam%20page.htm>. Here's what it can see.



*The Lampe web cam is on top of a pole alongside of the boat launch and pans 360 deg. showing the marina entrance, launch ramp fish cleaning station and parking lot and points out into the lake. It can be set for different views by zooming the lens in and out. It will be in operation throughout the winter. You can watch contractors at work installing new piers.*



*Heavy equipment from Lake Shore, the General Contractor is already in place to begin the multi-million dollar dock replacement project at Lampe Marina.*





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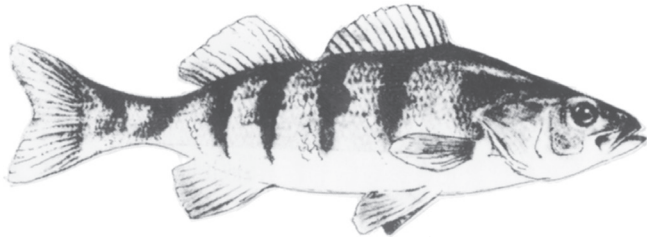
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VOLUME 21 • ISSUE 10  
NOVEMBER 2024

## 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 520 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.



**"A REPLENISHING SPECIES"**

### GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

**MONDAY, NOV. 18, 2024 7:00 PM**

#### **POLISH FALCONS CLUB**

431 E. 3rd Street, Erie

**PROGRAM:** FishUSA Pro Staff Angler Matt West

(Note: The November meeting is one week early due to the beginning of deer season. The December meeting will also be held one week early on December 16, 2024 due to the Christmas holiday)

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## TROUT RUN - AVONIA BEACH, A FALL DESTINATION

If you're looking for a neat thing to do in the fall, take a ride to Avonia Beach located at the mouth of Trout Run at the northern end of Route 98 in Fairview Township, PA. This beautiful public area on Lake Erie has about a 150 yards of sandy beach, parking for about 50 cars, porta potties and easy walking. The PFBC has declared Trout Run nursery waters so it is closed for fishing, however the shore along the beach is open for fishing. In the fall thousands of steelhead

gather in the lake an attempt to swim upstream to spawn. Their progress up stream is prohibited by a gate that has been installed to prevent passage. The water flowing over the top of the gate creates a waterfall of sorts and the determined steelhead try to swim up and over the barrier with no success. Fairview Township and the PFBC have built a public viewing area to watch the action unfold. It's cool to watch as shown by the amount of visitors to the site.



Photo on left shows a scout group gathered to watch the steelhead at Trout Run and the photo on the right shows steelhead trying to overcome the obstacle to spawning.