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THE Bucket

VOLUME 22 • ISSUE 11
NOVEMBER 2025

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

Frequent rains during October turned on the steelhead run, but put a damper on other types of fishing. Face book however still exhibited some nice walleye and perch being caught. Walleye are still being caught as shown by these photos posted by East End Angler on their Facebook page.



Joe Mazur (left) holds his 10.38 lb 31 in. monster and Mike Higinbotham Jr (Right) holds his 11.46 lb 31 in walleye. Both men brought in these fish to be weighed at East End Angler as their entries in the Blaster Products Walleye Fall Brawl tournament. On Saturday November 8th I made my daily check of our Trout Run and Walnut Creek web cams. The Trout Run Camera showed heavy surf and no fishermen. The Walnut Creek camera recorded over a 100 fishermen trying their luck fishing off the channel walls, boat launch, and boat basin.

OUR WEB CAMERAS ATTRACT THOUSANDS OF VIEWERS

In September 2021 the SONS of Lake Erie partnered with Fairview Township, Fish USA, and the PA Steelhead Assoc. installed a web cam at the mouth of Trout Run at Avonia Beach in Fairview, PA. Since then 100's of thousands of visitors have visited the sight. In October 2025 there were 135,083 views by 68,145 unique viewers. WOW!

We also partnered with the PA Fish Commission and Fish USA and installed another camera at the Walnut Creek Access area in December 2023. It is popular year around and October 2025 it drew 68,349 views by 38,901 visitors. We have another camera at Lampe Marina in partnership with the Erie Western PA Port Authority and Fish USA. It had 8,301 views by 4,738 viewers.

You can join the host of viewers at Fish USA
<https://www.fishusa.com/webcams/>
or by visiting our site at
<https://sonsoflakeerie.org/Web%20Cm%20Page.htm>.
24hours a day 7 days a week.



COOKING CLASS

Mark Corsi is conducting cooking classes at Presque Isle Fish & Farm Market. Call 814-520-5047 for more info.

HALLOWEEN TREATS?

John Emiling posted this picture on Facebook.



SONS 2026 MEMBER DRIVE IS UNDERWAY

You will or may have already received the SONS 2026 membership packet in the mail. Our membership level reached 2500 in 2025. 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 45 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 26 meeting. Your donation for the tickets help defray the cost of printing and mailing the packet. If you would like to get your newsletter by email rather than regular mail please carefully print your e mail address into the space provided on the member application. Also, if you are renewing your current membership please check the block provided. You can always change the method of getting our newsletter at any time by sending us an email to sonslakeri@aol.com list your name, address and note that you would like to change to the electronic version. In 2025 there were 760 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.

Happy Thanksgiving!



SONS 2026 MEMBERSHIP BUTTON

is a smallmouth bass this year. This is in keeping with featuring a native species fish on the button. You can pick up the 2026 pin at anyone of our events or meetings or you can get one by sending \$3.00 to SONS of Lake Erie, 3411 Peach St Box 233 Erie, PA 16508

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THE STREAM



AND THE MARINA BASIN



NOTICE – DUE TO THE UPCOMING CLOSURE OF THE USPS FACILITY AT W36th and POPLAR STREET

our new mailing address will be SONS of Lake Erie, 3411 Peach St. Box 233, Erie, PA 16508

SOLD! SAID THE AUCTIONEER

At our October 27, 2025 General Meeting SONS volunteer and retired auctioneer Paul Holtz helped us auction off hundreds of items of fishing gear we have accumulated from donations. We take the used equipment and it is cleaned and put into working order thanks to Larry Lipinski. Over the years we have donated this equipment to numerous school groups, scout groups, and many more. There were bits and pieces cluttering our storage areas, so SONS Director Chuck Miller put the equipment together and organized the auction. There were about 70 people on hand who took part in the auction, and many bid on and won the gear until it was all gone. We had fun and were able to distribute it to our members who can put it to use.



2025-26 HATCHERY SEASON KICKED OFF

The 2025-26 hatchery season kicked off on Thursday November 6, 2025 when a truck from PFBC's Linesville Fish Culture Station. The driver brought with him 750 brown trout for us to raise in our hatchery at the foot of Chestnut Street in Erie. This was half of our 1500 allotment as part of the PFBC's Co Operative

program. The balance of 750 brown trout will be delivered on November 13th. The local TV stations were on hand to record the event. The fish will be cared for by our hatchery crew, led by our Hatchery Manager Jack Bock with a host of volunteers until late March, when they will be stocked into Presque Isle Bay.



Nineteen SONS volunteers were on hand to help transfer the brown trout into the holding tanks within the hatchery. Photos were taken by Tom Pruzenski.

REMINDER: Nominations for officers and directors will be held at our November meeting.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the board and possibly assuming some of the technical oriented jobs, please mail or email a resume listing your experience and computer skills to our nominating committee at sonslakeri@aol.com or the SONS of Lake Erie, 3411 Peach St. Box 233, Erie, PA 16508

LANDMARK RESTORATION COMPLETED

In 2017, restoration of a landmark steel intake gear tower that is located at Presque Isle State Park was commenced. The 37' steel tower resembles a lighthouse. It housed an emergency shutoff gear for the city's water supply. The work was financed from a grant by former Erie natives Dan and Sallie Shipley. Work was completed with the help of Alex Roofing Co, Lake Shore towing, Rog's Crane Service, Don Jon Shipbuilding Lake Shore Towing and many more. SONS frequent volunteer Ray Halt acted as Project Manager. Solar powered lighting was recently completed to finish the project. It looks great.



LAKE LEVELS ARE NEARLY BACK TO NORMAL

In 2018 the water level in the Great Lakes rose to a high of 5 ft. above normal in June/ July of 2019 on Oct . 29, 2025 the level was down to .5 of a foot as demonstrated in the photos below.



High water East Canal Basin 2019



*Exposed beach at the foot of Walnut St.
Nov 2025*

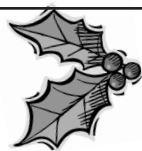
OHIO DNR REPORTS SUMMARY OF FALL SURVEY RESULTS

Hatch Results: The Ohio Division of Wildlife has reported that the 2025 walleye hatch has been designated as "Exceptional," which suggests a high probability of around 20 million young walleye entering the fishery by 2027. This is significant as walleye typically reach the legal keeper length of 15 inches by their third summer.

Current Fishing Conditions: As of October 2025, walleye anglers are experiencing good fishing conditions in Lake Erie. Reports indicate successful catches while trolling in deeper waters, with average sizes of kept walleye ranging from 16 to 22 inches, and some larger specimens reaching 23 to 27 inches. The daily limit for walleye remains at six fish per angler, with a minimum size requirement of 15 inches.

Future Expectations: The strong hatch in 2025 follows several years of above-average hatches, which should contribute positively to the walleye population in the coming years. Anglers can expect a variety of sizes, including younger fish that will grow into the catchable size range as the season progresses.

Summary: The fall 2025 walleye survey indicates a robust population due to the exceptional hatch, promising good fishing opportunities for anglers in Ohio. The combination of favorable conditions and a healthy walleye population suggests that the fishing season will be productive, with expectations for continued success in the coming years.



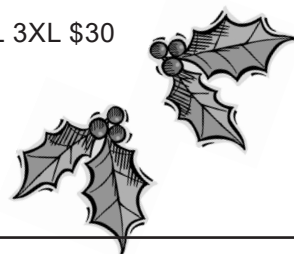
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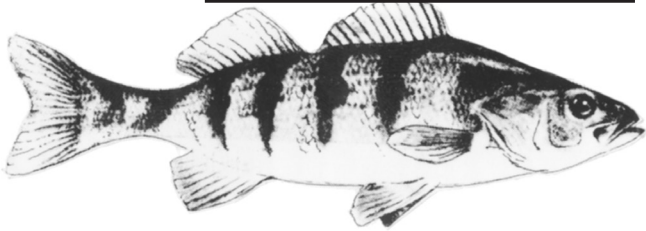
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"A REPLENISHING SPECIES"

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

MONDAY, NOV. 24, 2025 7:00 PM

POLISH FALCONS CLUB

431 E. 3rd Street, Erie

PROGRAM: Dr. Jeanette Schannars, Executive Director of the Regional Science Consortium, will give us an update of the current scientific work in Lake Erie.

REMINDER: EXTENDED TROUT SEASON REGULATIONS

Trout anglers can take advantage of the Extended Trout Season which began on September 2, 2025, and lasts through February 16, 2026. During the extended season, the daily creel limit is three trout of combined species with a minimum size of seven inches, unless the water is managed under special regulations. Extended Trout Season regulations apply only to designated Stocked Trout Waters, and harvest of trout in other waters during the extended trout season is prohibited.



**PLEASE
DON'T LITTER.**

SPAWNING SHACK IN PLACE AT AVONIA BEACH

The PFBC recently placed a portable building on the beach at the mouth of Trout Run in preparation to remove eggs and spawn that will be collected from the steelhead that are gathered in the stream. Egg Harvest at Trout Run will begin on Tuesday, December 2nd. The time is 8 AM.



IN MEMORIAM

We are sad to report the passing of John Ehrman, a longtime ally and supporter of the SONS of Lake Erie. John was the longtime owner of Allburn florists. He used his many years of experience to advise and help us maintain our gateway park to our waterfront at the corner of West 8th and the Bayfront Pkwy. He not only provided expertise but contributed hundreds of plants and flowers at that location. Thanks for everything, John.

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 760 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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BOATING THIS FALL? WEAR IT!

From November 1 through April 30, anyone on a boat less than 16 feet in length, including all canoes, kayaks, and paddleboards, is required to wear a life jacket. Children ages 12 and under must always wear a life jacket while paddling.