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THE Bucket

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Fishing Report: Steelhead fishermen are experiencing success but they would probably rather like to have more rain for more fish movement but the weather has been suitable for crappie and perch fishing. The marinas are closed and fishing around them could be productive.

NOTE!!! THE S.O.N.S. NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS WILL BE HELD ONE WEEK EARLY

The November General Membership meeting will be moved to Monday, November 21 because the first day of deer season falls on the fourth Monday, which is our regular meeting night. This will enable many of our members to enjoy the hunt. In December, our meeting will be held on Monday, December 19th so as not to conflict with the day after Christmas and the holiday festivities.

SOMMERHEIM ACCESS ROAD

IS CLOSED to access due to construction during the upgrade of the Water Authority's facility. It will most likely be closed during our ice fishing season.

NOMINATIONS

FOR OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS will be taken at our General Membership meeting on Monday, November 21st. The positions of president, vice president, secretary, treasurer as well as four directors will open for nomination. If you are seeking nomination to any of these positions you must be present at this meeting. If you cannot attend you must submit a letter that indicates that you will accept a nomination to any of these positions prior to the meeting.

TROUT AND SALMON

Regulations changed on September 6th, 2011 for Lake Erie and its tributaries. Minimum size is now 15 inches, with a creel limit of 3 (combined species)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday Nov. 21 General Membership meeting at the Polish Falcons Club

Monday Dec. 19 General Membership meeting at the Polish Falcons Club

GRADUATE DEGREE CANDIDATES STUDY FISHERY

The Regional Science Consortium held its Annual Research Symposium at the TREC on November 3 & 4. The purpose of the Symposium is to provide a venue to present all types of scientific research. The S.O.N.S. were invited to participate as an exhibitor. While at the event we were afforded the opportunity to hear the presentations of over 35 graduate degree candidates.

Each presenter was afforded only 15 minutes to present his or her thesis. We were amazed to hear how many of these researchers were involved in experiments that were directly related to Erie, Lake Erie and our environment.

One of the research projects was performed at Erie Bluffs State Park. The research was focused on restoring black oak trees and the removal of invasive plants. Another project by Marti Marz from PA Sea Grant was to restore and repopulate endangered plant species on Presque Isle. Carla Kaczmarek, also from PA Sea Grant, discussed her Lake Sturgeon research, which included an attempt to catch sturgeon in Lake Erie with the use of long setlines equipped with numerous hooks in order to collect DNA samples. No sturgeon were caught. The project also includes the use of side scan sonar to evaluate potential sturgeon habitat. There were other presentations regarding the use of buoys to monitor water quality. Other studies included E coli monitoring on Presque Isle beaches.

Jim Grazio from PA DEP has been studying lake trout spawning habitat near Presque Isle using under water videography. Lake trout are stocked into Lake Erie and do not appear to be reproducing. This may be caused by the fact that the trout are consuming rainbow smelt and alewives. The flesh of these forage fish contain thiaminase a known inhibitor of reproduction. Rainbow smelt and alewives are invasive species to Lake Erie. The study hopes to find habitat that is suitable for spawning. Round goby studies were conducted to identify diet and digestive habits. Another new goby, the tubenose goby was found living in the Bay.

Other research projects included invasive species and climate change. The presenter predicts that by 2099 our climate may be similar to that of North Carolina. Lake temperatures could support many invasive species of fish that could not survive in today's climate and our current native species could disappear. There were other presentations that include deer, birds, algae, Dakota Badlands, Louisiana Bayous and Africa.

It is comforting to know that these gifted young scientists are conducting research that will protect our fishery.

WANTED: Old photographs of Erie's Waterfront-Ships, Boats, Buildings, Fishing and Fishermen, Railroads, etc. Call Jerry at 814-452-6291. I would like to borrow and scan them for my slide presentations.

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MONDAY, NOV. 21, 2011 7:30 P.M.

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Note: David A. Skellie, Coastal Land Use & Economic Specialist, Pennsylvania Sea Grant Program will speak about PFBC's Erie Access Improvement Program.

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\$3.00 JR. (under 16)

PFBC FORMS LAKE ERIE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

On November 1, PFBC's Executive Director, John Arway held a meeting at the T.R.E.C. Center with the representatives of six organizations that represent fishing and boating interests on Lake Erie. These stakeholder reps are part of a Lake Erie Advisory Committee (LEAC) whose purpose is to advise the PFBC on the use of revenues raised by the sale of the Lake Erie Stamp. The funds must be used only for angler and boater access and habitat improvement on Lake Erie and its tributaries.

The LEAC members include representatives from the S.O.N.S., the PA Steelhead Association, the Erie Pennsylvania Sport Fishing Association, the PFBC Co-Operative Nursery Program, Erie County Planning Commission and Unaffiliated Anglers. The members will meet at least once a year. During the year the committee members were given the task of meeting with the members of their individual groups to identify potential projects for the improvement of the Lake Erie fishery.

S.O.N.S. director Ken Plonski has volunteered to represent us on the LEAC. If you have any ideas regarding improving the fishery please contact Ken to share your thoughts.



The Lake Erie Advisory Committee at their first meeting on Nov. 1, 2011

PFBC SEEKS PROPERTY EASEMENTS

Private landowners in Erie who own stream frontage on Four Mile, Conneaut, Crooked, Elk, Walnut and Twenty Mile creeks were invited to attend a public meeting to explain the benefits of the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission's (PFBC) public fishing access and conservation easement programs.

The meeting was held on November 1 at the Tom Ridge Environmental Center. It was hosted by the PFBC and PA Sea Grant.

"Acquiring public access easements is part of the agency's strategy to improve public fishing areas and ensure that the public has access to these opportunities," said Jackie Kramer, the statewide fishing and boating access coordinator for the PFBC Bureau of Boating and Access. "Private landowners interested in providing public access for anglers and learning how this easement purchase program operates are encouraged to attend."

A public fishing easement is a voluntary and permanent legal contract between the landowner and the Fish and Boat Commission. The easement typically provides a 35-foot corridor along a stream bank that allows the public to wade in or walk along the stream bank for the purpose of fishing. The landowner continues to own and control the land.

Note: Dave Skellie from PA Sea Grant will talk about the program at our November meeting

OUTDOOR WRITER ADVOCATES ERIE COUNTY AS FISHING CAPITAL

"Maybe it's time for the State Legislature to proclaim Erie County the fishing capital of Pennsylvania" Mike Bleech wrote in an article that appeared in the Sunday Nov. 6th issue of the Erie Times News. He's right. We were once called the Freshwater Fishing Capital of the World. Why not now?

FAST FACT

(from GLSFC August Newsletter)

- Lake Erie is the eleventh largest freshwater lake in the world and fourth largest among the five Great Lakes. Its average depth is 62 feet and its greatest measured depth is 210 feet. The lake stretches for 241 miles between Detroit and Buffalo. Lake Erie is the warmest of the Great Lakes and supports one of the best freshwater sport fisheries in the world.

2012 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE MATERIALS MAILED

You should have received your S.O.N.S. 2012 membership drive materials by now. If you have not, please call 814-453-2270 or e-mail sonslakeri@aol.com and they will be mailed to you. Included in the packet are two membership applications and 5 raffle tickets for a drawing to be held at our January General Membership meeting. The raffle helps to offset our printing and mailing costs of the membership drive. Our goal is to exceed our 2011 roster of 2056 members. Please rejoin yourself and pass the other application to a friend or relative. Our membership defines who we are and we need you to keep the S.O.N.S. alive.

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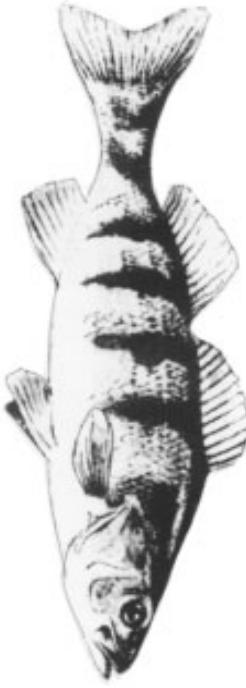
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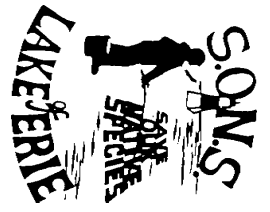
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