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FISHING REPORT

As the cooler days are upon us, walleye are still being caught on calmer days but they are in deeper waters. Recent posts on the PI Bay Anglers Facebook have detailed nice perch catches off Shade's Beach. Cool days and rain will soon start the fall steelhead run in the PA tributaries.

PA STEELHEAD ASSOCIATION

will be holding its 2024 Fall Run Banquet on Saturday September 28 from 2-6PM at Pleasant Ridge Park 8371 Barker Rd. Girard, PA. The event will honor Dan Hill. Catered dinner will be served (Note: BYOB). The price of admission is \$20/person. Tickets may be purchased at www.pasteelhead.com.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Any time you can give to help out will be greatly appreciated. Try to get there a little early to help get ready.

Sept 28th SAT 2-6 PM Pleasant Ridge Park
PA Steelhead Assoc. Fall Run picnic.

Oct. 9th WED PISP (Exact location TBA)
Fish habitat structure construction Vol.
Needed

Oct. 19th SAT. 11-3 Steelhead Kickoff Party
Folly's End Camp Ground, 8600 Route 98,
Girard, PA, Admission is free.

SONS PARTNER APPRECIATION FISH FRY WAS A HUGE SUCCESS

For over 40 years now the SONS of Lake Erie has held a fish fry for all of our partners. Our partners list includes our local, state and federal legislators, public officials, members of entities, agencies and commissions such as the DEP, DCNR, CZM, PFBC, EWPPA, PA Sea Grant, Regional Science Consortium etc. all who which we have worked with us throughout the years to promote public accessibility, protect our fishery and promote the interests of the fishing community and our club members.

This year the fish fry was held on Wednesday September 4, 2024 at the picnic facility located at the Bay Harbor East Marina. The facility is one of the finest on our bayfront but in spite of this, the event requires quite a bit of logistical effort and pre planning. We set up tents, bring in extra tables, chairs, cooking tools, coolers, deep fryers, pans, bowls, paper plates, utensils, ice, table cloth and more. Most of the above was brought in the day before ready to set up and organize.

Over twenty SONS volunteers joined in to help set up starting at 8:30 AM. The group split into teams each led by one or more of our dedicated directors who set up the tents, covered the tables, set up the frying station, the sign in tables serving tables and the kitchen. A group of about 10 volunteers brought in cutting boards and filet knives to trim the over 100 pounds of walleye fillets. They carefully inspected each removing bones and less desirable portions of the fillet and then cut them into sandwich size pieces. This process took nearly two hours.

Bob Zawadzki who has planned these fish fry's for over forty year arrived with the trays of salads, coleslaw and beans at 10:45. The kitchen crew led by Jack Bock with the help of Sandy Brown The beer batter which was pre mixed dry by former SONS Pres. Ralph Corvaglia was finished by mixing in the beer and eggs by former VP Bill Brown The fryer crew including John Krupinski, Ralph Friend, John Kovach and Joe Chmielewski and runners led by Chuck Miller started battering and frying the filets. The serving team included Larry Lipinski, Ray Halt, Bert Camp, Mary Runser and Rich Cass. The guests started arriving about 11:00 AM but by then everything was up and running to serve them. Rich Brine, Tom Nichols, Ron Morrow and Tom Pruzenski signed in the guests who were met and greeted by Ed Kissell and Jerry Skrypzak and Jack Klaphor. The welcome team helped 83 of the guests with renewing their memberships and many of them purchased raffle tickets while others made donations. About 130 guests came to enjoy the day.

September 4th was an absolutely perfect day with light winds and moderate temperatures. Thank you to all who helped create a successful event.. Another thank you goes out to Heidi and Gerard who came out from retirement and the Bayshore Marina Manager.Tim Schmitt and Crew for their help and the use of the facility.

Finally we owe a great vote of thanks to all of those contestants in the local summer tournaments who donated their catch so that we can hold our annual fish fry at the Emmaus Soup Kitchen which is scheduled for October 4 as well as this annual Partners Appreciation Fish fry.



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

JOIN A FRIEND TODAY!

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2024

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SONS PARTNER APPRECIATION FISH FRY 2024



FOLLY'S END FLY SHOP AND CAMPGROUND

will be hosting its 2nd Annual Steelhead kickoff party on Saturday October 19th, 2024 from 11 AM to 3:00 PM. This free event will be held on the grounds of the Folly's End campground 8600 Route 98, Girard, PA. Activities will include fly tying demonstrations, manufacturer's reps from several well-known companies and pre-owned tackle swaps. There will be food trucks and live music. Anyone who would like to sell used fishing equipment will have the opportunity to do so at this event, however they must register either by phone (814-474-5730) or in person on October 12.

Fish Stories!

SONS VOLUNTEERS ENJOY CHARTER



Above is a photo of SONS volunteers L to R Larry Lipinski, Ken Mims, Wendy Anderson, and Bert Camp, who were the lucky winners of a free raffle for a fishing charter aboard the "Waterbok" which was held at our volunteers' picnic. Only volunteers were eligible to win a place on the fishing trip captained by Tom Macharka and Steve Skrypzak. A nice limit of walleye were caught on August 27, 2024.

NICE FISH!

Is the best comment on the photo submitted by Bill Brown showing him showing off two nice walleye.



**Keep on
Fishing!**

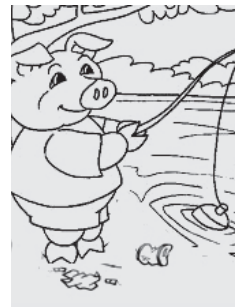
RELEASE YOUR CATCH RESPONSIBLY

One of our favorite sounds in the summer is the sound of a fishing line being reeled in.

Once you've got the fish reeled in, if you don't plan to keep it, **R.E.L.E.A.S.E.** it.

- **R**educe reel-time with fish.
- **E**ncourage the use of rubber nets and cradles.
- **L**iterally wet hands before handling fish.
- **E**asy access to unhooking tools.
- **A**lways use two hands to support fish.
- **S**tick to 60 seconds or less of exposure time.
- **E**nable fish to recover in water before letting them go.

Release your catch responsibly and give another angler the opportunity to catch that fish.



**PLEASE
DON'T
LITTER.**

PA STEELHEAD STOCKING TO BE RE-EVALUATED

PFBC Exec. Dir. Tim Schaeffer was the keynote speaker at the September 11, 2024 PA Steelhead Assoc. meeting. Dir. Schaeffer announced that during last year's collection of steelhead eggs during spawning the eggs were tested for diseases and a false positive result for the VHS (Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia) was recorded in some of the eggs. Even though it was found that the eggs did not have the virus, red flags were raised, causing the rethinking of where the eggs were taken for hatching. Up until now the fertilized egg were taken to other PF BC hatcheries outside of the Lake Erie watershed for hatching. The USDA forbids the transport of any fish out of our watershed. Therefore all of them must be hatched here. Up til now the PFBC has been stocking one million steelhead into Lake Erie tributaries. The only hatchery within our watershed is the Fairview facility. It only has the capacity to produce 500,000 eggs so the amount of steelhead will be cut to that level. This will be the case for the future until the capacity in Fairview is increased. All remedies are being explored including the utilization of CO-OP nurseries such as 3-CU. Dir. Schaeffer offered assurance that all remedies will be instated as soon as possible.

MAJOR LEAGUE BASS TOURNEY HELD HERE



While down at Lampe Marina we saw one of the tournaments staff members set up with computer, monitors and broadcast equipment. In the Left photo Jack Klaphor is talking with the staff member as he monitors the action live on the boats as shown in the center picture. Shown in the right photo Team B & W Trailer Hitches Matt Becker and Spencer Sheffield congratulate each other for taking first place in the tournament by catching 64 bass.

On August 25-30 the first General Tire Team Series B&W Trailer Hitches Challenge Cup tournament was held here. This event was a different format than we usually have had here. It was comprised of 12 two man teams.

For the first time ever, the General Tire Team Series was live streamed daily, meaning every cast and every catch was covered live and fans watched teammates work together to break down a brand new body of water in real time. There were live cameras on each boat. The MLFNOW!® team broadcast the extended action live all six days of competition at the Challenge Cup from 7:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. ET. MLFNOW!® was livestreamed on MajorLeagueFishing.com, the MLF and MyOutdoorTV (MOTV) apps and on Rumble.

The weight of each fish caught was recorded live and the fish are released. The totals are tallied live and with no formal weigh in ceremonies as was the case with previous tournaments.

In keeping with traditional MLF Cup protocols, Erie, Pennsylvania, was not revealed to Team Series anglers

until 30 days prior to the start of the tournament. All fishable waters within 60 miles of Erie. Competitors discovered exactly where they were competing only after arriving at the boat ramp on the morning of competition. Fans watching the MLFNOW! live stream. They also fished on Chautauqua Lake.

The 2024 General Tire Team Series revives the highly successful MLF Cup events of prior years, while adding a team-style twist. The 2024 Team Series season is comprised of four Cup events, featuring two-man teams of Bass Pro Tour pros competing from the same boat, and working together to claim part of a season purse of more than \$720,000.

The participants in the tournament were not told where they would be fishing until the morning of each day.

Part of the broadcast crew was set up at Lampe Marina on those days that they fish in PI Bay, with TV monitors and broadcast equipment.

PFBC HOSTS MEETING IN ERIE

On September 11, 2024 PFBC Exec. Director Tim Schaeffer and PFBC President, Dan Pastore hosted a meeting of stakeholders at the TREC Center in Erie in order to discuss the 2" patch of skin rule for those utilizing the approved fish cleaning stations. Also present was Commissioner Bill Gibney, Commissioner Rick Hoffman (by phone), Col. Clyde Warner Director Bureau of Law Enforcement, WCO Matt Viosky, Lake Erie Unit Leader Mark Haffley and representatives from the SONS of Lake Erie, the Erie Sport Fishing Association and the Charter Captain's Association totaling 24 participants. The rule mandating the leaving a 2X2 inch piece of skin on the filets on your catch when using the fish cleaning facilities. PFBC Pres. Dan Pastore stated his reservations about the need and use of the regulation. Col Warner gave his input expressing the need and usefulness of the regulation. Most of the other attendees expressed a variety of reasons for their opposition. Exec Dr. Schaeffer thanked all present for their input and said that the issue will be discussed by the full board of commissioners.

CHEATERS' BOAT SOLD AT AUCTION

COLUMBUS, Ohio – The Ohio DNR announced that the fishing boat seized from Chase Cominsky, 37, of Hermitage, Pa., was sold through an online auction. Cominsky and Jacob Runyan, 44, of Ashtabula, were convicted in May 2023 of felony cheating and misdemeanor animal ownership charges. If you can recall, the pair was arrested for cheating in tournaments around Lake Erie. They put lead sinkers into the mouths of fish they caught in tournament increasing their weight totals.

The forfeited boat, a 22-foot Ranger, was sold in an online auction that closed on July 23. The winning bid for the boat was \$82,000 with a final price of \$96,288.50 including fees and taxes. The boat was offered for sale with its motors and trailer. The boat was the first prize in one of those tournaments and had been forfeited as a result of the conviction by the Ohio DEP.

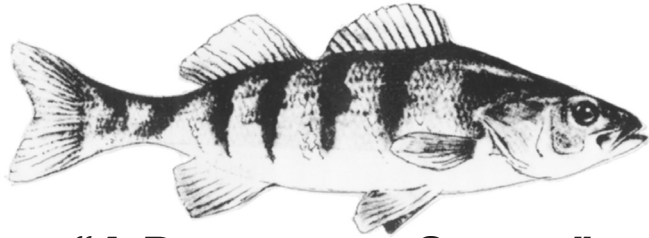


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**VOLUME 21 • ISSUE 9
SEPTEMBER 2024**



"A REPLENISHING SPECIES"

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 23 7:00 PM

POLISH FALCONS CLUB

431 E. 3rd Street, Erie

PROGRAM: TBA

We promise a good meeting so come and join us!

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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 481 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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news briefs

ALLIGATOR UPDATE

According to EWPPA Executive Director Julie Slomski there have been no more recent sighting of the alligator that was reported in the waters off of the East Ave boat launch.

ANOTHER WEB CAM COMING SOON

A partnership between the Erie Western PA Port Authority, Fish USA and the SONS of Lake Erie to install and maintain a web camera at the Lampe Marina has been formed. The EWPPA will provide the location and web infrastructure, FishUSA personnel will handle the technical aspects and the SONS will share in the expenses. This camera will be the third location which includes others at Walnut Creek and Avonia Beach. We have formed similar partnerships at those locations with Fairview Township, PA Steelhead Association and the PFBC along with FishUSA. The camera at Lampe should be up and running by the time you get this issue. You can access all three cameras at our website at sonsoflakeerie.org, Fish USA and it is planned to have a link available at the EWPPA site.

THE NORTH EAST MARINA BAIT AND TACKLE SHOP

has been reopened at the marina facility. 11950 East Lake Rd, North East, PA to service fishermen on the far East County and New York.

SONS HATCHERY DEBUGGED

Our hatchery located at the foot of Chestnut street had an infestation of spiders this year. Thanks to Jim Reese from the General Exterminating Co, that is no longer the case. The spiders were eliminated making the facility a little less creepy.

FLOAT PLANES

have been landing in the bay and refueling in the PI Marina. PI Bay was designated as a seaplane area in 2023 with the approval of the USCG, DCNR, DEP and more agencies.



*This photo was submitted by John Skrzypczak
on Sunday Sept. 8, 2024. Taken that day.*