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THE Bucket

VOLUME 23 • ISSUE 8
AUGUST 2026

S.O.N.S. PHONE NUMBER 814-453-2270 (ALSO FAX NUMBER)
sonslakeri@aol.com • www.sonsoflakeerie.org

FISHING REPORT:

Just a couple of photos showing examples of the great fishing we have had so far this season.

On the top is the Frank Pluta family and friends showing off the catch of walleye they made on the Charter boat "Waterboc" recently and below a photo of the Walnut Creek Access area parking lot on Sunday August 9, 2026. Facebook posts like these have been frequent throughout this summer. The only thing holding things back were high winds, storms and waves.



UPCOMING EVENTS:

Note: you can sign up to volunteer via email at sonslakeri@aol.com

Fri. Aug. 14th 10-12 East Waterworks pond East Side YMCA Vol. Needed

Sun Aug. 16th 8:30-11 North East Marina Kids Fishing Tournament Vol. needed

Sat. Aug. 22nd 8-1 Gem City Outdoorsmen's Club Youth Field Days Vol. needed

Tues. Aug. 25th 5-8 Liberty Pier 8 Great Tuesdays family fishing Vol. needed

Sat. Sept. 26th 11-1 East Waterworks Pond Edison School Vol. needed

Wed. Oct. 14th 9-12 Niagara Boat Launch PISP Habitat building Vol needed

SAD NEWS

As we were concluding a story last month about the great water rescue work of our local first responders, a report came in on July 9th, that multiple land, air, and water-based assets were searching for 19 foot boat that was overdue. The boat was eventually located aground at Long Point Canada with no one on board. The search for the missing boater was suspended after 60 hours. Unfortunately, the body of the missing boater was found on July 20th by two jet ski operators off of Four Mile Creek. Our condolences go out to the family and friends of Corey Zearfoss.

EPSFA SUMMER SLAM TOURNAMENT WINNERS

The Erie, PA Sport Fishing Association "Summer Slam" held a two day fishing competition held Saturday July 25th and Sunday, July 26th, 2026. Team Vision Quest, shown below, and Captain Pete Alex won the Over All Champion award with 266.1 pts.





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

JOIN A FRIEND TODAY!

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POOR RICHARD'S BAIT AND TACKLE SHOP

has partnered with The Country Fair Co. and has placed live bait for sale in seven of their stores located in proximity to the Lake Shore. More live bait is now for sale at the Bi Centennial Tower at the Public Dock thanks to a partnership established with the Erie Western PA Port Authority. (Check for tower open hours) Tom Pruzenski took the pictures below that will give you an idea of how the project is being displayed. The bait is kept in a small refrigerator. They are stocked with containers containing 100 grubs, 36 meal worms, 12 night crawlers and 24 red worms. Each container is priced at \$3.99 each.



MORE BAIT AND TACKLE SHOPS

in the Erie Area are listed below. Many of them are sponsors of our newsletter:

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Fairview, PA 16415, Ph. 814-474-5623

Tudor Hook n Nook, 10543 Old Lake Rd., Lake City, PA,
Ph. 814-774-8755

Presque Isle Angler Bait and Tackle,
Foot of East Ave at the boat launch, Ph. 814-455-2973

Fishermen's Haven Bait & Tackle, 11782 Middle Rd.,
East Springfield PA, Ph. 814-909-9016

Sportsmans Warehouse, 2075 Interchange Rd. Suite 100,
Erie, PA

North East Marina Bait and Tackle, 11950 E. Lake Rd.,
North East, PA., Ph. 814-725-8244

Folly's End Fly Shop & Campground, 8600 Avonia Rd.
Route 98, Fairview, PA, Ph. 16415, 814-474-5730

Presque Isle Fuel & Bait, Located at the Presque Isle State
Park Marina, Ph. 724-321-6729

SO MUCH TO CHOOSE FROM

Boy, have things changed! A trip to the bait shop or sporting goods store nowadays is not only different than it was 30 years ago but it's kind of confusing. Take lures for example, there are so many manufacturers, configurations etc, that it makes your head spin. The chart below from the pros at Fish USA should help. Then, there other choices – shallow or deep divers? Jigs or plugs? It makes your head spin. That's where your tackle dealer can help.

Lure Color Usage Chart

Condition	Best Colors	Why It Works
Clear Water Sunny	White, Silver Natural (Shad, Perch Shiner Patterns)	Match the hatch, Flash mimics bait fish in bright light
Clear Water, Overcast	Yellow, Orange, Chartreuse, White, Firetiger	High-visibility colors walleye see best; diffused light rewards contrast
Stained Water, Sunny	Gold, Silver, White, Orange	Flash cuts through color; white stays visible at depth
Stained Water, Overcast	Orange, Pink, Chartreuse, Hot Metallic	High contrast at reduced detection distances
Muddy Water	Hot Pink, Red, Orange, Gold	Maximum visual contrast; only bold colors register in near-zero visibility
Low Light / Night	Glow White, Glow Chartreuse, White	Residual glow + high contrast amplified by walleye's tapetum lucidum

More popular colors to be considered like black and purple, white spotted called Wonder Bread and on and on.



VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION PICNIC

The SONS of Lake Erie Volunteer Appreciation picnic was held at Shade's Beach on Monday August 3rd, 2026. This annual picnic is our way of thanking our hard working volunteers who responded to nearly 50 requests for help at our various events and projects.

There were about 90 of our volunteers in attendance where they experienced some great picnic food and beverages thanks to the capable hands of SONS director Kevin Lubak who with the help of Team Lubak. Team Lubak was first organized by their Dad an former SONS Pres., Ron Lubak. Even after their Dad

passed away they have continued to carry on the tradition. They always do a great job and for this we offer our whole hearted thanks.

Everyone in attendance was given a new SONS of Lake Erie Hat in commemoration of our 45th anniversary and the 250th birthday of the USA.

Chuck Miller organized a door prize raffle with over 40 prizes.

We also held a special raffle for SONS volunteers at the picnic in which they could win a place on a fishing Charter aboard the Waterboc captained by Steve

Skrypzak and Tom Mascharka. The winners were Bill Brown, Steve Capela Jr., Ava Lubak and Rich Zamiroski. The charter is scheduled to take place on August 24th. Weather permitting.

Our volunteers donated over 14,000 volunteer hours working on community events and teaching over 800 kids and their families the art and joys of fishing on over 40 separate occasions since July 1, 2025. Our 5 person permanent hatchery team and 22 part time volunteers also spent another 1252 hours operating and maintaining the operation. They sure earned our recognition.

ADDITIONAL SONS SPONSORED VETERANS' FISHING TRIP

On July 13th another trip was held for Lady Veterans only on July 13th. Twenty one ladies made the trip. It was a nice day and it appeared that everyone had a great time. After disembarking the Edward John the group posed for a photo. SONS director and Veterans Coordinator Chuck Miller gave each of them a small bouquet of flowers as a finishing touch.



A third trip, an all-male, was held on the afternoon of July 24th. Twenty veterans participated. There were some nice walleye and other fish caught as exhibited in the photo below. A trip for some of our disabled veterans is being arranged for Wed. Sept. 24th aboard the specially equipped, handicapped accessible



boat, the JoAnn M. We are working with the VA hospital and the Soldiers and Sailors home to complete the arrangements. These trips are free of charge and include equipment, bait and lunch. All of the trips are made possible through donations from various veterans' organizations, private individuals as well as SONS members.

HAROLD THE HERON JOINS THE SONS DURING DISCOVER PRESQUE ISLE

The SONS have taken part in the Discover PI celebration every year since it was started. This year on Saturday July 25th we provided a hands on fishing experience for families in attendance. This year we were joined by Harold the blue heron who landed on the Waterworks Pond floating fishing platform and proceeded to join in the fishing experience.



BILL BROWN'S REVIZED BEER BATTER RECIPE

1 cup flour
1 egg
1 16 oz can of beer
1 tsp baking powder
1 tsp baking soda
1 tsp paprika
2 tsp Mrs. Dash garlic & herb seasoning
2 tsp Tony Chachere's Creole seasoning
Mix then dip fish into the batter and deep fry in oil at 350 degrees





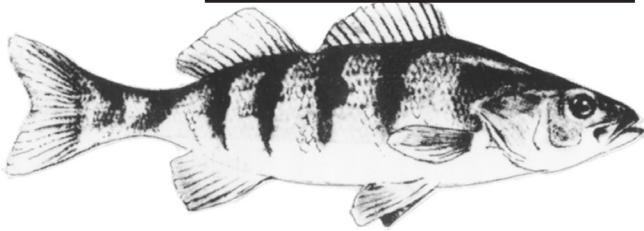
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**VOLUME 23 • ISSUE 8
AUGUST 2026**



"A REPLENISHING SPECIES"

WOULD YOU RATHER GET YOUR NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL?

If you would like to get your newsletter by email rather than regular mail please send us an email to sonslakeri@aol.com list your name, address and note that you would like to change to the electronic version. In 2026 there were 938 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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GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

MONDAY, SEPT 28, 2026 7:00 PM

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CURRENT GREAT LAKES LEVELS

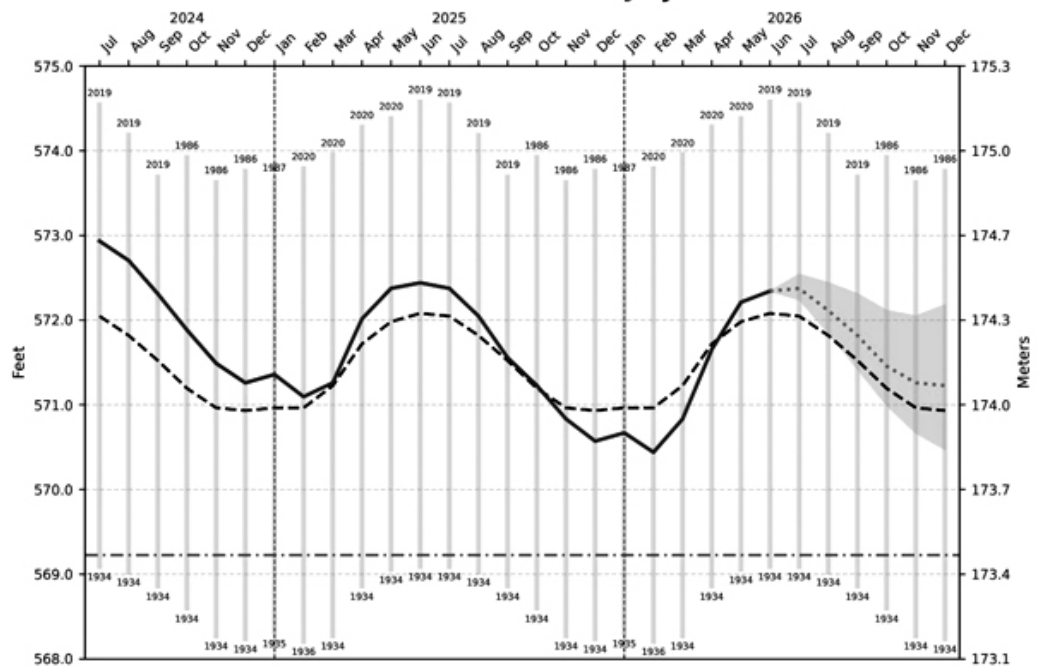
by Michigan Live

The Great Lakes water levels go through an annual cycle. The lowest water levels are usually in February, just before the snow starts to melt and spring rain amounts increase. Rising water occurs from March to July, due to snow melt runoff and heavier rain in spring and summer. Sometime in August or September, the evaporation goes up and rainfall goes down, causing the Great Lakes water levels to decrease through fall and winter. The cycle starts all over in March.

Here are the current water levels for Lake Erie and the forecast for the next six months.

Lake Superior is the only Great Lake that is currently below its long-term average. Lake Superior is up two inches from last month, three inches higher than this time last year, but still two inches below normal.

Lake Erie Water Levels - July 2026

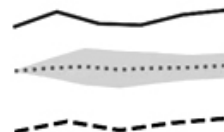


Legend Lake Levels

Recorded

Projected

Average**



Maximum**

Minimum**

Chart Datum

