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Official Publication of the S.O.N.S.

# THE Bucket

VOLUME 22 • ISSUE 12  
DECEMBER 2025

S.O.N.S. PHONE NUMBER 814-453-2270 (ALSO FAX NUMBER)  
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## WHAT IS IT?

Harborcreek Township is in the process of upgrading the area at Shorewood Beach. During the work they uncovered this buoy partially buried in the sand. According to Supervisor Steve Oler the buoy broke away from its mooring near the North Pier and drifted on to the beach in 1984. They plan to incorporate it into the landscaping of the area. More improvements to the park are planned in the future.



## STEELHEAD WERE TAKEN

for spawning on December 6th out of Trout Run at Avonia Beach on Lake Erie in Fairview Township by PFBC personnel and a volunteers. The fish were netted from the creek and then taken to the portable building where the fish were sedated and eggs and spawn were extracted from about 100 females and 60 males. The fish transferred into the waters of Presque Isle Bay after the process.



Left Fish were netted from Trout Run, sorted separated and sedated and taken to a portable building for the removal of the eggs & spawn (Photos thanks to Mark Haffley Team Leader PFBC's Lake Erie Research Unit.

## FISHING REPORT

In spite of some nasty weather and high winds, which inhibited fishing however there are still reports of walleye and perch being caught from the piers in the Bay. Steelhead on the other hand attracted a lot of anglers however the success rate this year appears to be a lower. We are not surprised, due to the fact that there was about 50% less fish stocked into the Lake Erie tributaries. The PFBC's Tionesta hatchery was forbidden to receive any Lake Erie steelhead because of the Federal regulation that live fish are not permitted to be transported out of the Great Lakes watershed due to the threat of spreading the VHS disease that has invaded the Great Lakes. . That left the Fairview hatchery as the only producer of steelhead. That facility can only raise about 500,000 fish at this time, which resulted in the reduced stocking in the last round. The Fairview hatchery is undergoing expansion and hopefully more hatching capacity. Be patient, help is on the way.



## WE GOOFED UP



In the November edition of the Bucket we posted the above photos of: Joe Mazur (left) holding his 10.38 lb 31 in. monster and Mike Higinbotham Jr (Right) holding his 11.46 lb 31 in walleye. Both men brought in these fish to be weighed in at Poor Richards Bait & Tackle Shop as their entries in the Blaster Products Walleye Fall Brawl tournament.

## NEW YORK STATE JOINS RESTORATION EFFORT

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation says 1,000 young lake sturgeon were released into Cattaraugus Creek in Chautauqua County recently as part of a long-term plan to reestablish the fish in one of its former spawning grounds along Lake Erie. This follows similar efforts in Ohio rivers.

## REMINDER

Try to mail in your membership applications and benefit tickets in by our January 26th meeting when there will be a drawing in which ten \$100 cash prizes will be awarded. Your donation for the tickets, help defray the cost of printing and mailing the membership packet.



## 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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### RECORD OF MEMBERSHIP

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## RARE 'SEICHE' CAUSE STORM SURGE ON LAKE ERIE

Forty plus mph steady winds blowing from west to east on Lake Erie on November 27, 2025 created a seiche, pushing Lake Erie waters from the western basin causing low water condition on the west end of the Lake and high water in Buffalo, NY on the eastern end of the Lake.

**What is a seiche?** A seiche occurs when strong, persistent winds push water toward one side of a lake or other enclosed body of water. The stronger and longer the winds blow, the more pronounced the rise and fall become. When the winds eventually subside, the water slicks back and forth, similar to water moving in a bathtub. On Lake Erie, the largest seiches occur when high winds blow from southwest to northeast, which matches the orientation of the lake. The water is pushed northeastward by high winds then sloshes back in the other direction and continues to oscillate at lower levels. This can occur on any small body of water.

Reports indicate that the seiche on November 27 caused the water in the lake at Toledo, OH to drop 4 feet and to raise 4 feet at Buffalo, NY.

### LAKE ERIE SEICHE



Illustration shows how the water in Lake Erie fell on its west end and went up on the east end. Other reports tell about the lake bottom that was exposed by the water drop revealed some normally hidden objects. In Avon Ohio beach combers were digging up beach glass.

In Kingsville, Ontario the receding water revealed a shipwreck. In Erie the water level rose and flooded the top of the South Pier as shown in this photo posted on Facebook by Joe Kempisty.

The largest known seiche on Lake Erie was a 22-foot event in 1844 that killed 77 people and dammed Niagara Falls with ice, temporarily stopping the waterfall from flowing. More recently, a 16-foot seiche flooded homes in Buffalo in 2008. Seiche info published by Jesse Ferrell, AccuWeather meteorologist and senior weather editor published on Nov. 26.

was Dr. Jeanette Schannars, Executive Director of the Regional Science Consortium (RSC) presented a summary of all of the work that has been accomplished by the organization. Dr. Schnarrs summarized the following: The RSC is collaborative, non-profit organization that focuses on and coordinates educational and research projects for Lake Erie and the Ohio River Basin and more. The Consortium has a membership consisting of forty-five colleges/universities, state/federal agencies, school districts and other nonprofits. The organization was formed in 2004 with its headquarters at the Tom Ridge Environmental Center. Its Mission Statement is to promote and enhance knowledge and understanding of the Lake Erie and Ohio River Basin ecosystems through research and education.

During its 21 years of existence, the Consortium has performed research and established programs to address the influx of invasive plants along our waterfront, sand dune restoration on Presque Isle beaches, storm water management, studying litter abundance in our lake and tributaries and advocating the placement of litter booms to stop trash from entering our bay and lake. The RSC has ongoing studies such as the monitoring of water quality on Presque Isle beaches, harmful algae blooms, lake conditions and data by maintaining specially equipped buoys, yellow perch migration and educational programs for students such as hydroponics, NOAA Bwet program, student fly fishing, the School of Sustainability and Experiential Learning, problem solving and forensic science.



Christmas is just over a few weeks 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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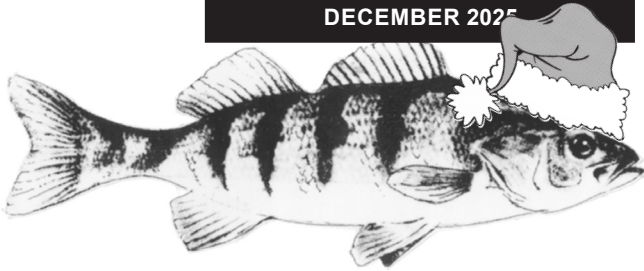
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**VOLUME 22 • ISSUE 12  
DECEMBER 2025**



**"A REPLENISHING SPECIES"**

## **WOULD YOU LIKE TO GET YOUR SONS NEWS LETTER 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](mailto: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](http://sonsoflakeerie.org) at any time. On a side note we have found that many of our members have included donations in their return envelopes. Thank you for your generosity.

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**MONDAY, DEC. 15, 2025 7:00 PM**

**POLISH FALCONS CLUB**

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**(NOTE: THIS IS ONE WEEK EARLY  
DUE TO THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY)**

**PROGRAM:** we are planning a holiday themed meeting.

## **WHY DO SO MANY ANGLERS QUIT FISHING**

*by Sam Hudson*

A statistic recently from Southwick Associates – a research firm specializing in sportfishing – that less than half of all licensed anglers renew their fishing license each year.

An American Sportfishing Association (ASA) study found that the reason people start fishing is for fun, relaxation, socialization, or outdoors experiences. When those initial reasons they tried fishing aren't satisfied, or a different outdoor activity does satisfy their itch, fishing goes out the window. It's not even that they dislike the act of fishing, according to the ASA study. Why?

Simply put, other outdoor activities are easier to learn, more convenient, or preferred by family and friends.

"Another way of looking at this is a lack of basic fishing skills, not knowing where to fish, and not having someone to fish with are critical problems causing many would-be anglers to find other ways to spend their dollars and time," said Rob Southwick, of Southwick Associates.

I'd add another one: not knowing what type of gear to use when fishing. How often are you asked by a new angler what rod to buy, what bait or lure to use, or how to set the

drag? Even if you don't have any friends that fish, those types of questions are likely asked on the social media platforms you follow. The learning curve is steep! Imagine what a brand-new angler must go through: Do I start with spinning or bait casting gear? What type of fish is that? Can I keep it? How do I tie knots? Why is this string called braid? How do I buy a license? What bait should I use and do I have to touch it? How many lures do I need? When should I use them? Where should I go fishing? Is a boat better? Wait, that's how much boats cost?

Fishing is hard. So much so that a professional bass angler can compete in a big-league tournament with money on the line and still bring zero pounds to the weigh-in. It happens all the time. I'm starting to wonder how any angler gets into this sport without a parent, grandparent or mentor around to guide them. There's a reason why anglers tend to pick up fishing at a young age – because that's when mentorship and guidance most often happens.

Let's Turn the Tide. The barriers all start to add up. It's truly up to current anglers to bring new and forgotten fishermen back to the water. Becoming a mentor is an obvious choice and an easy thing to say. But not

## **NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS**

were presented at our November 24 by the Nominating Committee. They presented the following nominations—for President Jerry Skrypzak; Vice President, Ed Kissell; for Secretary Tom Nichols; for Treasurer, John Krupinski; and for Directors, Jack Bock, Chuck Miller, Joe Springer and Mary Runser. The floor was opened to accept more nominations. There were no further nominations from the floor so therefore the nominations were closed. There is need for an election and all of the nominees will now serve in their respective positions, officers will serve one year terms each and the directors will serve for two years.

everyone has kids, grandkids, nieces or nephews to take under their wing. And yet the act of taking someone fishing – when an experienced angler can teach the sport and put some fish in the cooler – is likely the most crucial step. Developing a fishing program in your area or joining a local fishing club might also be a worthy route in finding folks young and old interested in fishing.