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

# THE Bucket

VOLUME 21 • ISSUE 8  
AUGUST 2024

S.O.N.S. PHONE NUMBER 814-453-2270 (ALSO FAX NUMBER)  
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## VETERANS WENT FISHING ON THE JO ANN M

On July 30, 2024 we organized another veterans fishing trip. Fifteen disabled veterans and their care givers from our local Veterans Administration facility and the Pennsylvania Soldiers and Sailors home joined a group of our volunteers at the ferry dock on Presque Isle State Park. There they boarded the JoAnn M which is owned and operated by the At the Lake Ministries branch of the Western Pennsylvania Conference of the United Methodist Church.

The Jo-Ann M is wheelchair friendly with a ramp to board the boat and removable seats to accommodate for any wheelchair size

The trip was commenced with a brief prayer and blessing prior to boarding the vessel. July 30 sunny and warm but there were storms in the area so Captain Rob Wilson who is also a minister, piloted the JoAnn M, a converted former fish tug, onto Presque Isle Bay for a boat tour of Erie's magnificent waterfront. Choppy conditions on Lake Erie forced the Captain to pilot the boat into the Presque Isle Marina for calmer water and easier fishing. Most veterans caught pan fish in the marina. After the trip the vets and crew posed for a group picture. Polling the veterans we were told that they had a good time. After the trip all of the veterans and their caregivers were treated to a picnic at the PI cook house.



Group photo of veterans taken after their July 30 outing on the Jo Ann M



## CONGRATULATIONS!

to PFBC District 1 Commissioner who was elected as President of the PA and Boat Commission at their July Quarterly Meeting

## 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.

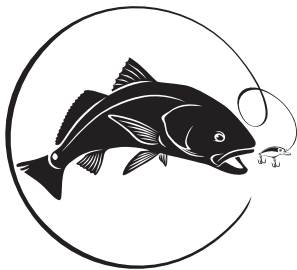
**Aug 21st WED** 9-11 Cascade Pier Area Residence Retirement Home fishing Vol. Needed

**Aug 24th SAT** 10-1 Liberty Pier Area Our West Bayfront Kids Volunteers needed

**Sept. 12th THURS** (Time to be announced) Wilson Middle School Life Skills Class Vol. Needed

**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



## FISHING REPORT

Fishing continues to be outstanding with the bulk of the activity by boat in the lake. The lake turned over due to the strong and cold north winds so fishing tactics will change to adapt to the conditions.

## A MEMORIAL SERVICE

honoring our First Responder heroes that comprise our County's Law Enforcement, Fire Services and Emergency Medical Services it is scheduled for Wednesday, September 4, 2024, at 6pm at Street Stanislaus Church, 12th and Wallace Streets in All active and retired First Responders are invited, as well as all active and veteran Military Personnel, who serve or served as our great nation's First Responders. THE PUBLIC IS INVITED AND ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND. You don't have to be Catholic to attend the service.



## SONS 2024 MEMBERSHIP BUTTON

is a depiction of a bluegill this year. This is in keeping with featuring a native species fish on the button. You can pick up the 2024 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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### RECORD OF MEMBERSHIP

2024

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## SECTION OF LAKE ONTARIO DESIGNATED AS A MARINE SANCTUARY

By Steve Howe | Rochester Democrat and Chronicle Jun 16, 2024

Lake Ontario has received a new designation and with it added protections and emphasis on its historic and cultural resources.

The Lake Ontario National Marine Sanctuary was announced June 5 during the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation's Capitol Hill Ocean Week. It's the 16th such designation overall and the third in the Great Lakes.

The protected area, which encompasses 1,722 square miles of eastern Lake Ontario, will border Wayne, Cayuga, Oswego, and Jefferson counties. The sanctuary encompasses 41 known shipwrecks and one aircraft, though historical records indicate an additional 19 shipwrecks, three aircraft, and several underwater archaeological sites could be found there, too. It will be co-managed by NOAA and New York State. The Pennsylvania waters of Lake Erie is now under consideration for the same designation. Maybe we're next.



## ERIE NAMED BEST FISHING TOWN IN PA

The following story by Drew Miller was posted on July 10, 2024

(WJET/WFXP) – One of the leading sites for booking fishing trips across the country recently named Erie as the best spot for fishing in Pennsylvania, with three other surrounding towns also making the top 10.

A study recently done by *FishingBooker* sought to find the best place to take a fishing trip in each state using six criteria from their internal data, with each worth a maximum of 10 points. The criteria used included the number of available fishing charters, average review score, average recommended score, number of guides with the Angler's Choice Award, number of bookings, and minimum price of a fishing trip. Erie finished with a score of 50 out of 60, tying with New Orleans, of all places, with only 22 cities receiving a higher score. In addition to Erie, Erie County, Fairview, West Springfield, and Lake City were included in the results.

These facts are not new, too. In the early 1920's Erie was designated as the "Freshwater Fishing Capital of the World" because of the great commercial fishing industry that was present at that time.

On January 25, 2012, the State House Of Representatives passed a resolution naming "Erie County, the Freshwater Fishing Capital of Pennsylvania" The resolution was introduced by Rep John Hornamen and was unanimously approved by the State Legislature.

The "Freshwater Fishing Capital of Pennsylvania" designation is extremely important to us. It not only recognizes the great fishery of Erie County but it calls attention to the great economic potential that the sportfishing industry offers. It also recognizes the huge efforts made by clubs like ours, the PA Fish and Boat Commission and other state agencies who have worked hard to improve our fishery. We were so proud we even put that on the back of our T shirts.



# PLEASE DON'T LITTER.

# Volunteer Picnic 2024



# VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION PICNIC

Our SONS Volunteer Appreciation picnic was held on Monday August 5th, 2024 at Shade's Beach. This picnic is our way of thanking the over 100 volunteers for volunteering over a total of 1000 times at 51 separate activities that we have organized and sponsored since July of 2023. If you consider that each volunteer donates about four hours' time at each event, that's 4000 hours total which according to standards is worth \$25.00/hr. calculates equivalent to \$100,000 worth of volunteer effort. All of these efforts by all of our volunteers for make club a success that it is.

There were severe weather concerns that day but thankfully there was only a short period of a slight drizzle. We lucked out again. Only 110 of our invited guests attended and each was given a new SONS of Lake Erie T-shirt.

Team Lubak under the direction of SONS director Kevin Lubak followed the tradition started by his father. Ron Lubak who acted as the caterers again this year, their planning and efforts again made for plenty of good food.

Thanks to all of our SONS directors and officers that spent hours planning, preparing and executing a great event. Thanks to Tom Pruzenski for taking the photos at the picnic.

## SONS VOLUNTEER TOP GUNS

Every year there is a core group of SONS volunteers that consistently continue to help out and keep things going. This year there were about 100 active volunteers. As there is in every group, there are a few individuals that go above and beyond the rest. This year we would like to recognize Rich Brine, Mary Runser and Chuck Miller for their hard work, organizational skills and dedication. Rich



*L to R Top Gun Volunteers Mary Runser, Rich Brine and Chuck Miller pose with SONS Pres Jerry Skrypzak and picnic program co-chairman Director Tom Nichols.*

Brine has spent the last two years as our activities chairman and planned over 40 kids fishing outings, Mary Runser, for her help with and planning the logistics of our various activities and finally Chuck Miller for his leadership planning and organizing our veteran's events and our Emmaus Fish Fry. They were presented with SONS of Lake Erie jacket in recognition of their efforts. We would like to also recognize Jack Bock and Joe Springer, who each spent nearly 400 hours each in their capacity as part of our hatchery crew.

Jack is our hatchery manager and Joe is the jack of all trades that keeps the hatchery running in addition to their time they spend working at our many activities. Also we would like to recognize Larry Lipinski who has spent countless hours refurbishing hundreds of donated fishing rods and reels which were distributed free of charge to different agencies as well as always being at our other activities.

There was another segment of 39 of our volunteers that were recognized for their participation many of them who spent over 100 hours volunteering. . They were all given a SONS fleece vest in appreciation.

A special vote of thanks goes out to our officers and directors as well as their wives for the countless hours behind the scenes doing club business.

## EWPPA RESTORES HARBOR PATROLS

by assigning security officers to patrol the harbor aboard their pilot boat this summer.



## THE NORTH EAST MARINA AUTHORITY

has completed the purchase of the NE Marina from the PFBC and have re-installed all of the boat docks and boats are in the slips and the operation is up and running. The Authority is planning to make upgrades and improvements to the facility in the future.

## EPSFA SUMMER SLAM WINNERS

The annual Erie Sports Fishing tournament took place this year on July 26, 27 and 28th. Nice weather and good lake conditions resulted in good catches. We help out at these tournaments at the weigh ins and usually the participant contribute their catches to us and we use the fish for our fish fries we do at the Emmaus Soup kitchen and our annual public outreach event.



### PRO DIVISION 1ST PLACE TEAM VISION QUEST

*Captain Pete Alex and Team Vision Quest took back-to-back titles with the victory after a 2 day score of 404.60.*



### AM DIVISION 1st PLACE TEAM FLASHY SPORTFISHING

*George Kuhns and Team Flashy Sportfishing took the title after bringing in 12 fish weighing 89.75 pounds.*

## SUDDEN WATER TEMPERATURE CHANGE CAUSES FISH KILL

Strong cool north winds caused the Lake to "turn over". Lake turnover is the process by which a body of water renews itself. It occurs when the warmer, lighter water at the surface of the lake cools from the cool winds and mixes with the colder, denser water at the bottom. This process is known as convection, and it happens in all lakes on a regular basis. The change causes fish kills among certain species that cannot quickly adapt to the temperature change. Dead fish were found at Beach 11 on Presque Isle State park, Avonia Beach in Fairview Township, and Shade's Beach. Shade's Beach had hundreds of dead fish, mostly sheepshead, washing up causing big clean up effort.



## FISH KILLS CAUSED BY TEMPERATURE CHANGE ARE NOT NEW HERE

The Erie County Lighting Co. was established on East Front Street in the 1920's. This power plant drew its water from the East Canal basin on Erie's for the production of steam to power its steam turbines. The exhausted steam was discharged into the west canal basin. This warm water attracted gizzard shad (aka mooneyes) that congregated in Presque Isle Bay in the winter. Lack of oxygen and sudden temperatures resulted in tons of dead fish. The above 1953 photo shows hundreds of thousands or about 800 tons of dead mooneyes. This event occurred almost annually while the plant was in operation. It was in operation there until the 1980's.



# Fish Stories!

## YOU'RE NEVER TOO OLD

to catch fish, as shown in this photo of 97-year-old Winifred Krupski from Saegertown, PA. She was given a gift of a fishing charter on board the charter boat, the "Waterbok" by Captains Tom Mascharka and Steve Skrypzak on August 1st. She was accompanied by her three daughters, who treated for her to the trip. She has had a senior fishing license since 1992, is a SONS member, and fishes frequently. They all limited out.



## STUDY LEADS TO NEW INTERESTS

Ivy Laffan gets a thumbs up from her fishing buddy Kody Klein as she proudly holds up this nice perch she caught recently. Ivy is an Environmental Science major at Penn State Behrend and her summer lab work includes a study of fish in Presque Isle Bay. Science can be fun, as Ivy found out, and lead to new hobbies and interests, too.



*Note: Ivy is the daughter of Cynthia Baum Laffan, the graphic artist at Printing Concepts who has been doing the layout work on our newsletter for over 25 years.*

## MORE BRAGGING RIGHTS

Thirteen year old JoAnna Bennet of Warren, PA shows off this great walleye she reeled in recently. She is a SONS member and the granddaughter of Barb and Joe Jarusiewicz.



**Keep on Fishing!**



## IT'S WATER SPOUT SEASON

Cold Northerly winds flowing across the warm waters of Lake Erie can and have produced waterspouts over the lake. There have been news reports and advisories posted as well as some photos like this one by Debra Gilmore Photography on WJET/FOX TV/YourErie. It's too bad this is not printed in color. It is spectacular. They are beautiful but dangerous. Stay Clear!



## THE PERCH ARE OUT THERE

according to a recent Facebook post by PFBC Senior biologist, Mark Haffley, showing some nice perch that were caught during a recent survey in the PA waters of Lake Erie by commission biologists.

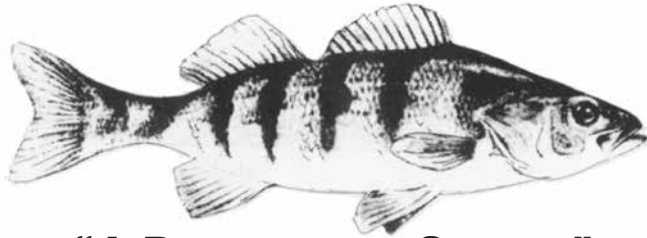


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VOLUME 21 • ISSUE 8  
 AUGUST 2024



**"A REPLENISHING SPECIES"**

## WOULD YOU LIKE TO GET YOUR SONS NEWS LETTER BY EMAIL?

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**ENJOY WHAT'S LEFT  
 OF THE SUMMER!**

## ALLIGATORS AMONG US!

At the beginning of August, cyber space news outlets were ablaze when a story surfaced after Stina and Jacob Roach posted a video on Facebook of an alligator Stina took on August 4th as it was seen in the water off of the East Avenue boat launch.



The photo above is a screen grab showing what appears to be a 3-5-foot long alligator. They reported their sighting to the Erie Police who contacted the Erie Western Port Authority. According to Julie Slomski, EWPPA's executive director, the

area was posted with warning notices about the alligator sighting and trappers were hired to locate and capture it.

Project Algerine posted this interesting tidbit on Facebook:

### "Alligators in Erie!"

Back in 1887, O.T. Harrison constructed an alligator exhibit on the grounds of the Massassauga Point Hotel.

Reportedly, the collection consisted of 40 'gators. According to the June 1887 edition of the *Erie Morning Dispatch*, during feeding time on a Saturday morning, one of the medium-sized alligators managed to escape and fled into Presque Isle Bay.

The reporter noted, "He offers a fine opportunity for any little boy or girl with chubby legs" The newspaper report concluded with a chilling scenario, suggesting that enough alligators may have escaped into Presque Isle Bay to paralyze a Sunday school picnic. See more from Project Algerine on YouTube. <https://youtu.be/w4BMrqzLqWA#Erie> #Millcreek #Pennsylvania #HISTORY #eriepa #ErieCounty #trending #video.

