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

THE Bucket

VOLUME 22 • ISSUE 1
JANUARY 2025

S.O.N.S. PHONE NUMBER 814-453-2270 (ALSO FAX NUMBER)
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FISHING REPORT: IT'S ICE FISHING TIME!

It has been a couple of years since the weather conditions have been cold enough to offer the opportunity for ice fishing on Presque Isle Bay. Following a week of temperatures below 32 degrees, on December 8 ice began forming on Horseshoe Pond. SONS Director was riding on Presque Isle State park when he spotted this ice hut set up on the pond around noon on January 8, 2025 (see picture on top left below). The ice was 2 inches thick at that time and that was the only ice fisherman he saw. The picture on the right was taken at Misery Bay on January 10, 2025, the ice was reported to be 2-4 inches thick. I counted at least 50 fishermen only 2 days later. By Sunday word got out that the ice was 3-4 thick in most areas, and over a 100 fishermen were on Misery Bay (See middle picture) with about 25 in Horseshoe Pond, 10 in the Marina and 10 at the head of the bay. Parking around Horseshoe Pond and Misery Bay was at a premium. I saw a lot of children and ladies out, too. It was a very family type atmosphere which was supported by some of the father and son pairs on and around the ice. The fishermen I talked to said they did well catching some nice blue gills and crappies. Forecasts today promise at least another week of cold weather. That should help keep it going. People were sure glad to see it happen.



Father & son exiting the ice



Justin Burnett enjoys ice fishing for the first time with Rick Zamiroski



Nice Crappies posted by the French Creek Tackle Co. on Facebook



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!

MAIL TO: S.O.N.S., PO BOX 3605, ERIE, PA 16508

SONS RECORD OF MEMBERSHIP 2025

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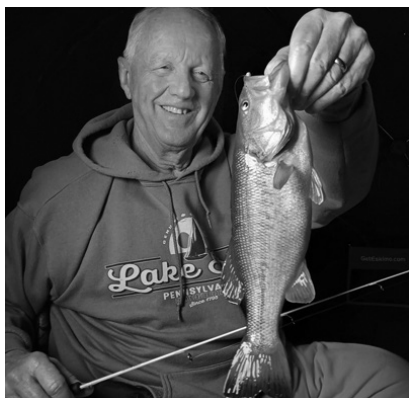
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Renew New \$5.00 ADULT \$4.00 SENIOR CITIZEN (over 65) \$4.00 JUNIOR (under 16)

NOTICE If you have not yet renewed your membership for 2025 this will be the last issue of our Newsletter, the "Bucket", you will receive. You can rejoin at our January 27, 2025 meeting, at the upcoming RV & Sport Show, or Boat and Fishing Expo at the Erie Convention Center (SEE UPCOMING EVENT SCHEDULE FOR THE DATES)

Fish Pictures!



Top & Middle, Sisters Jovie And Jancy Scott went to Misery Bay for ice fishing with their Dad, Jeremy Scott. Bottom, SONS Director Jack Klapthor tagged along. As you can see a mixed bag of fish wre caught.

DECEMBER SONS MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

PFBC Executive Director Tim Schaeffer attended our December General Membership meeting and brought some good news with him. He said that after some hearings, comments and deliberation the PFBC has decided to rescind the 2X2 inch skin on fish filets by those using fish cleaning stations. He also took a variety of questions from individuals among the over 100 people in attendance. We really appreciate his attendance and look forward to continuing our dialogue with the Commission. Also in attendance were seven members of the Governor's Youth council accompanied by Derek Eberly, Director of the Governor's Advisory Council for Hunting, Fishing, and Conservation. Also in attendance were other staff members and some of youth's parents. The Youth Council members gave a brief presentation about the goals and activities of the organization. It was great to have these young men and women in attendance. We learned that the Youth Council was formed in 1995 by executive order to engage younger generations in the conservation and preservation of Pennsylvania's natural resources and the enhancement of the Commonwealth's hunting and fishing heritage. All of the councilmembers were given a free SONS hat along with complimentary SONS membership. The council members came to town in order to help with the steelhead spawning at Trout Run unfortunately heavy rains resulted in high, fast dangerous waters flowing out of the stream so the collection process was cancelled for Dec.17 as planned.

Our December meeting is also a Christmas party of sorts. Pizza and beverages were served. Each of the members in attendance were given a free pair of forceps on a lanyard for removing fish hooks in order to reduce injury to the fish. Our volunteers use them regularly at our fishing events.



Top: Over 100 members were in attendance

Right: PFBC Exec Tim Schaeffer addresses meeting attendees

Left: 7 members of the Governor's Youth Council and their moderator pose for a group photo.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

January 30-February 2
Erie Convention Center
Erie Auto Show

February 14-16
Erie Convention Center
RV & Outdoor
Adventures Show

February 1, 11am- 2pm
Presque Isle State Park E.
WW Pond Winter Fun Day

February 22, 9am-1pm
Presque Isle State Park,
E. WW Pond Scouting in
the Woods

February 28- March 2
Erie Convention Center
Second Annual Boat and
Fishing Show

March 30 to February 2,
1-5pm Erie Shrine Club
Ice Out Party

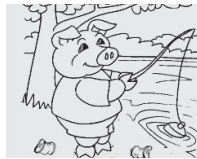
**We will have sign up
sheets for volunteers to
help at these events at
our January 27 General
Membership meeting.**



FRUIT BASKET DELIVERY TEAM POSE TOGETHER BEFORE DISTRIBUTING THE BASKETS

(Photo by PA Steelhead Assoc.)

On Saturday December 14, 2024, shown in photo above, members of the PA Steelhead Association, the Gem City Outdoorsmens Club, SONS of Lake Erie, NWPA Trout Unlimited, and 3-C-U, personally delivered 90 holiday fruit baskets to landowners along important Steelhead streams who graciously keep their property open for Steelhead fishing.



PLEASE DON'T LITTER.

HATS OFF TO TIM TOMLIN

and the Presque Isle Anglers group for organizing, collecting and distributing fishing gear in the Tackle for "Tots program" This is the 4th year for the program known as the Annual Sam Tomlin Memorial Tackle for Tots Christmas Tackle Drive. Credit also goes to all who donated and took time out to help in any way including the Presque Isle Bay Anglers. Donations were sent directly to Tim or dropped off at East End Angler. Special thanks to those who contributed including the SONS of Lake Erie, Erie Pennsylvania Sport Fishing Association- EPSFA, East End Angler and especially to Logan & Jennifer Slade for an incredible effort to apply for and acquire a grant through Thrivent Financial for a major pile of Diawa spinning combos! Amazing!!! The donations were distributed to our friends at Crime Victim Center of Erie County once again. Below is a photo of the fishing was collected or donated.

CABIN FEVER?

Come and see us at our table at the
**Erie Bayfront Convention Center during the
Erie RV and Outdoors Expo on February 14 - 16**
and the
Boat and Fishing Expo February 28 - March 2

THANK YOU DONORS

We have been receiving a lot of donations lately especially during our current membership drive. A lot of our members have included more money than necessary when sending in payments for their membership fees. We have also received some very significant donations. These donations came from Mark Ragen. Mrs. Marti Pastore, the National Club of Erie, Fidelity Charitable Assoc., Gertrude Barber Center Employees Service Fund, American Legion Post 742, East Side Moose Club, Ft. Loef Post 120, John Krol Post 6773, North East Moose Club, Lawrence Park Athletic Club, Corry Moose Lodge, Sacred Heart Ushers Club, VFW Post 2006, Pulaski Club, VFW Post 740 and the Erie Community Foundation. We are so grateful for all of these donations. A good number of these are from area social who chose to distribute some of their small games of chance profits. The donations from the veterans clubs are set aside to finance fishing tris for veterans only. We sponsor trips for veterans through the Erie VA Hospital, PA Soldiers and Sailors home, the Veterans Out Reach Center plus requests from individual vets.



FACEBOOK'S FAKE NEWS

Social media is providing the means for individuals to communicate, share ideas, and an opportunity to learn. Social media also provides a platform for people to blow off steam about matters that concern them and share their feelings. This is a good thing. However, sometimes this venting contains false information, which was the case right after Thanksgiving on Facebook. An individual was bellyaching on his post that he wanted to go fishing on the South Pier but the parking lot was closed. If you remember, on that day the city was in a state of emergency and digging out of a 4-foot snowfall. Checking with Port Authority staff I learned that plowing the lot was low on their priority list for areas needed to get open. They also reiterated that the South Pier was never closed to fishing; however, the parking lot was closed during this summer to discourage gangs from congregating and raising hell as they did in 2023. Parking after dark was available for fishermen inside the Lampe Marina fence. With the passing of summer the lot is now open. Other face book members jumped into the post with an exchange of false information amongst those who answered his post. The comments by others included unbelievable rants lacking facts and understanding including that the SONS of Lake Erie don't do (Expletive) or stick up for (Expletive). Another writer said that he was going to start a petition to stop the loss of fishing area. The rants went on and on. I would like to point out to these individuals, that prior to the acquisition of properties by the Erie Western PA Port Authority most of the land was undeveloped, owned by private entities and closed to public access.

When the Authority acquired the property, City Council rewrote city zoning ordinances creating a Waterfront Zone.

In this zone it was mandated that all areas within the zone provide a twelve foot wide sidewalk along the water's edge open to the public for fishing, hiking, biking and just plain enjoyment. As a result of this ordinance thousands of feet of public access was open. The Port Authority has since spent millions of dollars improving these areas. Just to point out a few of these improvements EWPPA built a fishing pier on the north end of Liberty pier and also repaired the west wall of the pier, construction of fishing piers near Chestnut St and the East Canal Basin rebuilding dock walls in and around the Public Dock, construction of a fishing pier and repairs to the Holland St. Dock, repairs to the Parade St. dock. All of these improvements opened up previously closed areas for fishing opportunities. Funds for all of this work were acquired through grants from the PFBC, CZM, DCNR and the SONS of Lake Erie along with EWPPA funds. Other improvement to our fishery include 3 free public accessible boat launch ramps and more recently the construction of the Lampe Marina fish cleaning station. The funds were provided by the PFBC and the SONS with the Authority providing the land and assuming the maintenance and operating responsibilities. Currently, an over 3 million dollar dock replacement project is underway at Lampe Marina. Finally the EWPPA owns our hatchery building and has supported that project since 1985.

The SONS of Lake Erie has been involved with all of these projects in the roles of advocates and stake holders for 44 years now. I find that these recent rants on Facebook were irresponsible and ill informed. I would like to invite these individuals to join with us and we will be glad to explain our position and goals for sustaining our fishery. Negative dialogue accomplishes nothing.

LADIES DAY

Our club has been strong advocates of getting our youngsters outside and enjoying hunting and fishing. We are proud to say that we have been successful in that endeavor. Not only are our children and grandchildren out fishing but many of

them have become skilled hunters. Many of them are girls, including the three young women we are featuring today. Included are photos of them exhibiting some great success they have achieved while enjoying the sport of hunting.



Featured above, the young ladies are (left) Jovie Scott, daughter of Jeremy Scott, who is one of the SONS strongest supporters. He frequently presents programs at our meetings. Jovie bagged a nice 6 point buck. She frequently comes to our meetings along with her family. Middle and left are sisters Rebecca Skrypzak and Lauren Skrypzak. Rebecca bagged a 350 pound black bear and Lauren got a beautiful 15 point buck. Rebecca and Lauren are the daughters of Steve and Linda Skrypzak.



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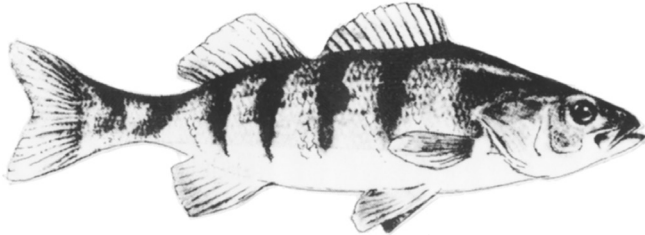
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"The Bucket" published monthly
by the S.O.N.S. of Lake Erie

**VOLUME 22 • ISSUE 1
JANUARY 2025**

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

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 540 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, JANUARY 27, 2025 7:00 PM

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PROGRAM: Expert Angler John Scherrer will tell us how to take a "Do-It-Yourself Rocky Mountain Fishing Adventure for Less Than \$1,000"

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WE MADE A BOO BOO

We included a book of benefit tickets in the membership package we sent out. The tickets say that we will hold the benefit drawing on January 20th. That is wrong. Our meeting will be on January 27th and that is when we will hold the drawing.

THE LAMPE MARINA DOCK REPLACEMENT

is coming along nicely, shown right. As this is being written the main dock as well as docks C, D and E have been installed and dock B is being assembled. This is all being done while ice is forming in the marina. You can watch the progress on our web cam at <https://www.fishusa.com/lampe-webcam/>



STEELHEAD WERE TAKEN

for spawning on January 7th out of the mouth of Trout Run at Avonia Beach on Lake Erie in Fairview Township by PFBC personnel and a host of volunteers, shown left. 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.