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

THE Bucket

VOLUME 23 • ISSUE 7
JULY 2026

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

FISHING REPORT:

The parking lots are full at the boat launches and marinas. Chatter on Facebook and personal reports are mostly positive. License plates from around the country are roaming our county roads and city streets daily. Charter captains are coming back with their limit of fish early. All of this gives us the evidence that we are experiencing a phenomenal fishing season, especially in the case of the walleye. Grab your gear and join in the fun.

CANADIAN SAILORS MAKE THEIR ANNUAL VISIT

May Flies (Canadian Sailor bugs as us old timers called them) hatched in Lake Erie and came inland as they have done for years. Their appearance is a welcome event because the insect is a major food source for our fishery. They were nearly absent from our section of Lake Erie for quite a while, high pollution levels in the lake were believed to be the cause. Their presence in the Lake is a good sign that the water quality has improved. There are some who blame the demise of the blue pike to the decline in the May fly hatch.



Tom Pruzenski submitted this picture of May Flies on a he observed on a building along E. Lake Rd. during the hatch.

BOATING MISHAPS KEEP FIRST RESPONDERS BUSY

Summer and good fishing brings with it more boaters out on Lake Erie and with that comes more chances for mishaps. This was evident this year from June 28th to July 9th. There were five incidents that required response by various Erie County rescue units. **Here's a brief rundown of the happenings:**

June 28 – Afternoon – A distress call was made for a vessel taking on water off of Walnut Creek. Fairview and Lake Shore Fire Company and a boat from USCG Erie responded. Passengers were taken aboard rescue boats and the USCG crew began pumping out the boat while taking it back to the boat launch at Walnut Creek.

June 30 – Approx 7:20 AM – Boats were dispatched from the Lake City Fire Co., USCG Erie, Springfield Volunteer Fire Dept, Fairview-Lake Shore FD as well as West County Paramedics and the Erie FD dive team in response to a capsized vessel with five on board in the water located in the lake about 7 miles out off of Erie Bluffs State Park.

After a period of time the boat was located with one person hanging on to the overturned vessel. Apparently 3 of the survivors had been picked up by another boat and the fifth was trapped under the boat.

Rescue divers recovered the individual from under the boat and he was taken by the USCG boat back to Walnut Creek where lifesaving efforts were initiated. He was pronounced dead at the hospital.

July 2 – Fairview – Lake Shore FD, Lake City Fire Co. and the USCG were dispatched to a reported a boat on fire off of Walnut Creek. Responders found that the fire was out and assisted bringing the boat back into the Walnut Creek Access Area

July 3 – Morning – Another vessel was reported taking on water off Walnut Creek. Units from Fairview Lake Shore, West Lake Millcreek and the USCG arrived on scene USCG crew boarded the boat and began dewatering while the vessel was escorted back to Walnut Creek.

July 9 – BREAKING NEWS – *The following news has surfaced as this newsletter goes to print. Multiple land, air, and water-based assets continue an extensive search for a 19-foot vessel and its occupant that last made contact at approximately 8:30 PM last night at the East Ave Boat Launch. The vessel is now considered overdue. The boat was located aground at Long Point Canada with no one on board. Boats and helicopters from both the US and Canada will continue working around the clock in an effort to locate the missing boater. We pray that they find him.*

We are so fortunate to have teams of such dedicated individuals serving our community. We owe them a huge thank you and all of our support.

LESSON #1

WEAR A LIFE JACKET WHEN OUT ON THE WATER!



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!

MAIL TO: S.O.N.S., 3411 Peach St Box 233 Erie, PA 16508



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2026

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REMINDER: PRESQUE ISLE FISH AND FARM

opened its 3rd Annual King of the Isle Walleye Fishing Derby

July 1, 2026 – July 31, 2026

\$20 Entry per person for Main Derby,
\$10 Entry for Youth Division (Pays 5
Places)

There's Women and Youth Awards
Weekly, Big Fish Awards and Random
Weekly Cash Awards and Gift Cards
(\$2500). Fish must be weighed during
normal business hours at:

Presque Isle Fish and Farm

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NECM 11950 E. Lake Rd. North East, PA

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SPECIAL VISITOR

This DeHaviland Beaver float plane
landed in Presque Isle Bay on July 3rd
fueled up and spent the night in the
Marina. It was traveling from Idaho to
Maine.



EPSFA TO AGAIN HOST THE SUMMER SLAM TOURNAMENT

The Erie, PA Sport Fishing Association
"Summer Slam" is a two day
competition held in July each year from
the Port of Erie, PA. This trolling event
for all anglers, amateur to professional
to compete in one division designed to
test your skills in Walleye and Silver
fish in our beautiful Lake Erie waters.
Partial proceeds go to help the EPSFA
enhance the local fishery for generations
to come. The tournament will be held
on **Saturday July 25th, 2026** and
Sunday, July 26th, 2026

Registration Deadline: July 24th,
2026 at 11:59pm More Info: [https://
epsfa.com/summer-slam](https://epsfa.com/summer-slam)

NORTH EAST MARINA TO SPONSOR A TOURNAMENT

(News Release)

Sunday August 2nd, 2026

starting at 6AM with a weigh-in at 12
noon. Great Lakes Special Events is
proud to announce the

1st Annual Walleye and Wailing Guitars tournament!

Jump on the boat and bring in some
winning walleye then come down to
weigh in with after party of awards,
music, food trucks, skydiving, bagpipes
and more. This is an event you don't
want to miss so bring the whole family,
listen to some wailing guitars, watch the
walleye hit the stage, eat some great
local food and see the great things the
North East Marina has to offer! There
will be a kid's tournament for those 15
& under who will be able to fish off the
break wall around the Marina Basin.
SONS members will help with the kids
part of the tournament. For more details
go to: [https://greatlakesspecialevents.
com/walleyes-and-wailing](https://greatlakesspecialevents.com/walleyes-and-wailing)

UPCOMING EVENTS:

We have a full schedule of fishing
events booked for the Summer.
We will need your help as a volunteer.

**Note: YOU CAN SIGN UP
VIA EMAIL AT sonslakeri@aol.com**

Wed. July 22 10-12 1012 W. Bayfront
Pkwy.(Perry's Landing) Residence at
Presque Isle Assisted Living
Vol. needed

Sat July 25th 9-12 East Waterworks
Pond PISP Discover Presque Isle
Volunteers needed

***Wed July 29th** Bayview park West 2nd
and Poplar Our West Bayfront Group
Kid's casting games Vol. needed

Fri. July 31st 1-3 East Waterworks
Pond Pleasant Ridge Manor seniors
Vol. needed

***Sun. Aug. 2nd** 10-12 the North
East Marina Kids fishing tournament
volunteers needed.

Mon. Aug. 3rd 5-? Shade's Beach
Volunteers Appreciation picnic

***Wed. Aug. 5th** 10-12 East Waterworks
pond Camp Sherwin YMCA (50 Kids)
Vol. needed

***Sat. Aug. 8th** 10-12 East Canal
Basin on south wall near the Put Put
golf course. Erie County Library kids
program Vol. needed. Ample parking is
available in the lot on the Holland St pier
with a walkway from there on the
north side of the library to the area
we will be fishing.

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

*** added after last meeting**

A SNEAK PEEK AT THE PERCA II

A recent posting by PFBC's Lake Erie Unit biologist, Mark Hafley, on Facebook June 6th showed us a few photos of the Perca II, PFBC's Lake Erie Unit new research vessel as it is nearing completion. It is being built at a boat yard in Superior, Wisconsin. The boat is 55 ft long and has a beam of 15'6". The price tag is \$3.25 million. This vessel will replace the original vessel, the Perca, which was built in the 1950's by Passch Marine in Erie. The anticipated delivery date is the end of September this year.



WALLEYE BASH TOURNAMENT ROUND 1 UPDATES:

The First of two Poor Richard's and East End Angler took place on June 27th with a Big Fish tournament on June 26th. Sixty-six teams signed up to participate in the tournament. The weigh ins were held on June 26 & 27 at 2:00 PM. Team Weird Beard won the first prize on Big Fish Friday with a 7.64 lbs walleye. Team Shane Doughty weighed in six walleye weighing a total of 37.96 lbs winning first place and a check for \$4,640.

The second tournament will be held on **August 15th** with a big fish contest on **August 14th**. Many of the participants donated their fish to SONS of Lake Erie which were cleaned and prepared for our upcoming annual fish fry events.

For more details and entry forms go to: <https://www.erievalleybash.com/>



Team Shane Doughty Fishing

THANK YOU SIX PACK HOUSE OF BEER AND STRAUB'S BREWERY

On June 17th 2026 the Six Pack House of Beer 847 Pittsburgh Ave, hosted a fund raiser to benefit the SONS of Lake Erie. Straub Brewery offered to donate \$2.00 for every pint of beer raised at the event to the SONS. There was music and good food.



Shown above are Branden Bertelo, SONS Officers and Directors Jerry Skrypzak, Rich Brine, Don Tombaugh, Chuck Miller, John Krupinski, Tom Nichols, Chuck Miller, Jack Klapthor Alice De George Mary Runser and Larry Lipinski accepting a generous checks with proceeds from the event from Six Pack of Beer owners, Alice DeGeorge and Straub Brewer/ Penn Beer Rep. Branden Bertelo.

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION PICNIC TO BE HELD AUGUST 3rd

The volunteer appreciation picnic will be held at Shade's Beach on Monday August 3rd, 2026 starting at 5 pm.

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.

This is a list of over 120 SONS of Lake Erie members who tirelessly and generously donated their time and resources working towards furthering our organization's primary mission to "the restoration and protection of the Lake Erie fishery". These individuals participated an aggregate time of over 14,000 volunteer hours working on community events, 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.

GUEST LIST:

VOLUNTEERS

ANDERSON, WENDY
BALL, JACK
BIERBAUER, RAY
BOCK, JACK
BRINE, RICH
BROWN, BILL
BROWN, BILL JR
BROWN, DAN
BROWN, SANDY
CAMP, BERT
CAPELA, SUE
CASS, RICH
CAUVEL, KEITH
CHASE, MARSHAL
CHASE, SUE
CHRISTENSEN, JIM
COLLINS, DON
COLLINS, TIM
CORVAGLIA, RALPH
COSTELLO, MARY
CUNNINGHAM, WAYNE
DAWSON, ED
DEDAD, TONY
FELEGE, MIKE
FRIEND, RALPH
GRABINSKI, CASEY
HALT, RAY
HARTMAN, JACK
JARUSCZEWICZ, BARB
JARUSCZEWICZ, JOE
KABASINBSKI, MIKE
KARLE, DAVE
KEITH, MARY KAY
KIGHTLINGER, HERB
KIGHTLINGER, MILDRED
KISSELL, ED
KLAPTHOR, JACK
KLOCHAK, JOHN
KOVACH, JOHN

KRAHE, MARK
KRUPINSKI, JOHN
LIPINSKI, LARRY
LUBAK, ALLIE
LUBAK, ALYSSA
LUBAK, AVA
LUBAK, DOUG
LUBAK, KEVIN
LUBAK, KEVIN II
LUBAK, LINDA
LUBAK, LISA
LUND, LARRY
MAC DONALD, SCOTT
MAKOWSKI, RICK
MC GUIRE, DON
MIKESKA, DAVE
MILLER, ADAM
MILLER, AIDEN
MILLER, ANDREW
MILLER, BARRY
MILLER, CHUCK
MILLE, DAVE
MILLER, MATT
MILLER, SANDY
MINNS, KEN
MORROW, RON
MRAZ, GREG
MRAZ, LORI
MULIGAN, JOHN
MUSE, RICH
NICHOLS, TOM
PERRY, MEL
PRUZENSKI, TOM
RICHARDSON, WILL
RULA, MIKE
RULA, TERESA
RUNSER, MARY
RUSSELL, JOHN
SCHMITZ, DON
SIGNORINO, MARK

This was only accomplished with the help of those listed below. If you find your name on the list below, you are invited to attend our volunteers' picnic which will be held on Monday, August 3rd 2026 at 5:00 at Shade's Beach located at the intersection of Route 5 and Bartlett Rd. in Harborcreek Township. Come and join in on the fun. Please call or text 814-882-7296 or email sonslakeri@aol.com and leave your name if you cannot attend. Please do so by July 30th . If your name does not appear below and you have volunteered 3 times or more, call or text phone at 814-814-882-7296 and leave your name and phone number.

ATTENTION SONS PAST OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

We have included your names on our picnic guest list. It would be an honor to have you join us on August 3rd after all every one of you worked hard to bring our club this far and we will be forever grateful. I hope I didn't leave any one of you off the list.

SKRZYPCZAK, DAN
SKRYPZAK, JERRY
SKRZYPCZAK, JOHN
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SKRZYPCZAK, TOM
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SPRINGER, JOE
SPRINGER, MARY
SWANSON, GREG
TOMBAUGH, DON
TOMLIN, TIM
WALKER, ROY
YATES, KRISTEN
YATES, MIKE
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ZAWADZKI, BOB
ZUKOWSKI, CHUCK

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CHANDLEY, DON
CHRISTENSEN, BOB
HEUBEL, GARY
JENKINS, PAUL
KELLEY, DICK
KUZMA, FRANK
LASKY, FRANK
STEWART, BILL
VOLLENTINE, GERRY

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CAMPENELLA, ANTHONY
CAMPENELLA, BRITTANY
FELTENBERGER, JOSH
HOYT, JOHN
LUBAK, AUDREY
KOSZEGI, KYLE
MASCHARKA, ED
MASCHARKA, TOM
OLSZEWSKI, PAUL
PASTORE, DAN
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TAYLOR, NICK
WEST, MATT





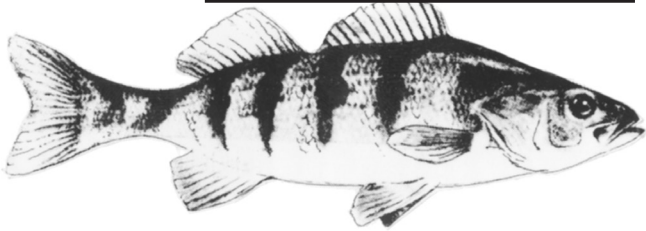
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**"The Bucket" published monthly
by the S.O.N.S. of Lake Erie**

**VOLUME 23 • ISSUE 7
JULY 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 930 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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NO MEETINGS UNTIL SEPTEMBER!!!



**HAVE FUN,
GO FISHING,
BE SAFE.**

THE FIRST SONS SPONSORED VETERANS' FISHING TRIP

was held on Monday June 29th, 2026 aboard the Edward John head boat. There were 28 veterans aboard. There participants successfully caught a variety of fish including 25 walleye as well as sheepshead and perch. All equipment and bait was furnished as well as beverages and a lunch. The above photo shows a few of the participants and their catches. More photos were provided by event organizer director Chuck Miller and may be seen at our website at sonsoflakeerie.com. Two more trips are scheduled this summer including, a lady vets only on July 13th and an all-male trip at 2:00 PM on July 24 and it is already booked up. Notices announcing the veterans fishing trips are made through the Vets Centers and the VA hospital. We are also considering hiring the JoAnn M handicapped accessible fishing charter boat for another trip. More information to follow in future issues of *the Bucket*.

VETERANS FISHING TRIP JUNE 29, 2026

