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JUNE 2026

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

FISHING REPORT:

Walleye and perch fishing have taken off this spring. Anglers in the bay are finding fish in its shallows and on their beds. More bass were found in the waters of Lake Erie at depths of 12-18 ft. around structure. Most anglers who are fishing for walleye have been successful off the point in 42-50 depths. More walleye were caught off the beaches at night using stick baits. A trip to Face Book sites photos offer examples of angler success. This should be an incredible fishing summer.

F&F RAFFLE WINNER DONATES BACK HIS PRIZE

The 8th Prize winner of our 2026 Fin and Fur Raffle, Tom Masi returned the \$250 gift certificate to Poor Richard's Bait and Tackle shop on condition that it be used for a kid's fishing program. Our treasurer John Krupinski made contact with Millcreek Police Ptlm. Chris Larsen who heads up the department's PAL youth program. The gift certificate, which was sponsored by Mickey McMahan, will be used to purchase fishing gear to be used as part of the program.



MPD Ptlm Chris Larsen the director of MPD's Police Athletic League came to our May meeting to pick up the gift certificate from SONS Treas. John Krupinski.



On May 20, PFBC Exec. Dir. Tim Schaeffer announced the Commission's participation in Safe Boating Week at Lampe Marina.

PFBC CELEBRATES SAFE BOATING WEEK (NEWS RELEASE)

HARRISBURG, PA (May 14) – The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) is proud to join with the National Safe Boating Council and other boating safety advocates across the country to celebrate National Safe Boating Week from May 16-22, 2026!

"Excitement is beginning to build statewide for the unofficial start of the summer boating season, which typically occurs over the Memorial Day holiday weekend," said Mark Sweppenhiser, Director of the PFBC Bureau of Boating. "With so many options for boating in Pennsylvania, from paddling, waterskiing, fishing, or just relaxing on a pontoon boat, National Safe Boating Week is a reminder to begin every boating adventure with a few safety steps. By always putting safety first, you can focus on having fun on the water."

Boaters are encouraged to follow a checklist of basic safety guidelines before and during each boating adventure, including:

- Always wear a life jacket**
- Never boat under the influence** of alcohol or drugs
- Have a float plan** to let someone know when and where you will be boating
- Check the weather forecast** for storms and high-water conditions
- Take a Boating Safety Education Course**
- Have proper registrations or launch permits** for your boat

As a reminder, the legal limit for operating any watercraft in Pennsylvania is .08% blood alcohol concentration, and penalties for boating under the influence are similar to those for driving a motor vehicle while impaired. PFBC Waterways Conservation Officers will be on patrol throughout the boating season looking for impaired boaters.

For more information on safe boating, to take a Boating Safety Education Course, and to purchase launch permits, boat registration renewals, and fishing licenses, visit Fishandboat.com.]

On a sad note there were ten boating fatalities in Pennsylvania in 2025. Be safe out there!

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



RECORD OF MEMBERSHIP

2026

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 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone _____ Date _____

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

THE BIG BASS SEASON DREW ANGLERS FROM NEAR AND FAR AND THE DOLLARS THAT CAME WITH THEM

The "Big Bass" Season was open on Lake Erie and Presque Isle Bay and began on April 11 and ran through June 12, 2026. Anglers could keep one fish of either bass species and the fish had to be at least 20" long. During that time a fleet of bass boats could be seen on Presque Isle Bay and Lake Waters. The fog and rain that occurred through that period offered no deterrence to them. Checking out the parking lots, one could see cars and trailers from Ohio, West Virginia, Delaware, Kentucky, Virginia and of course Pennsylvania. Similar lineups of vehicles appear throughout Erie County's boat ramps during the year depending on what's in season.

To me this out of state participation is evidence that our local fishery is really a magnet which spreads its draw bringing in a big portion of our tourism business from around the country and money it generates. This angler money spreads out throughout out the city and county in the estimated value of a \$111,000,000 according to recent studies.

It's too bad that our civic leaders have failed to recognize this. The Erie Western PA Port Authority has provided first class boat launch and docking facilities, but city council in the early 1980's in their effort encourage development along our waterfront offered tax incentives to hotels to encourage building here, but at the same time raised the taxes for the other areas along the bay that drove the water related businesses away. The hotels took the spaces that had originally had business that offered boat repair, equipment and sales. They are all gone, leaving a hole in the infrastructure of our fishery and boating. Also gone too are bait shops and fishing equipment stores. A bait shop had been present in our Public Dock area since it was built in the 1800's along with eleven fish houses. Smith's bait stand was pushed out of its location to provide a parking garage for an adjacent hotel. A new space was provided for the shop by the Port Authority, but along with it came higher taxes because the Waterfront Ordinance dictates that all land even though it was owned by the Authority could be taxed because it was leased to a private business. The same situation include the privately run marinas and other water related interests. This makes it hard to attract these small seasonable enterprises to the area while the big hotels benefit from no taxes and receive subsidies in the millions of dollars. There needs to be changes to our tax code that should offer relief to businesses that are necessary to our fishing and boating resources.

There is one last chance available to fix this. The former McAllister Marine property has remained empty for some time now. I am suggesting that the Port Authority who owns this land build a small strip plaza there that contain spaces for businesses to lease that support our fishing and boating needs as well as the needs of tourists who frequent the area.

The small town of Dunkirk, NY has taken an area along their waterfront and done just that. They built a strip plaza that house a variety of stores on their waterfront that draw 1000's of tourists during the season.

The Erie Western PA Port Authority

is inviting the public to take a free ride on the Water taxi every Friday this summer from June 12th to September 4th.

You must pre register for tickets at: <http://www.presqueislewatertaxi.com>

At Our May General Membership Meeting

Captain George Kuhns of Flashy Fishing Charters, was our guest speaker. He gave us a rundown on how to set up our boats in order to produce the best efficiency and success at fishing. He offered suggestions on the best out his favorite gear.



L. Capt. George Kuhns speaking at our May General Membership Meeting. Photo posted on Face Book that proves his setup works.

PRO FISHERMAN DAVE LEFEBRE RETIRES

Dave Lefebre came home \$200,000 richer after topping the field with 31-3 on seven scorable bass and also making the biggest single catch of the day, a 9-3 largemouth on May 21 at the Kubota



Heavy Hitters Championship at Orange Lake near Ocala, Fla. Dave is an Erie resident whose career has been built around fishing. He produces a weekly TV show on WICU TV called Erie Extreme. Erie Times news carried a story that Dave has retired and he and his wife Anne are venturing into a new cafe called 814 Grounds at 4270 E. Lake Rd.

FISH USA HOGS & DOGS

event was sponsored by Fish USA and the Berkely Fishing Tackle Co. on Friday June 5th. There was a pig roast with free food and beverages, door prizes and a hot dog eating contest. Anglers had an opportunity to score some great Berkely fishing gear on sale at a great price.

On Thursday July 3rd Fish USA will host a tackle swap from 2-4 on July 3rd 2026 at their Pro Shop at 6960 West Ridge Rd. Fairview, PA. There will be 30 tables available on a first come first served basis. Free hot dogs and beverages will be served. In case of severe weather the event could be cancelled.

Below are few photos taken at FishUSA during the Hogs & Dogs event.

The left photo shows Nick Taylor explaining the hot dog eating contest to the contestants. Each participant was given 15 hotdogs and buns. They were given 5 minutes to consume as many as they could. Matt West (Center Pic) ate 7 dogs in that time and won the contest. The right photo shows event guests enjoying free barbecued pork, hot dogs and salads under a huge tent that day.

Fish USA has great events.



UPCOMING EVENTS:

We have a full schedule of fishing events booked for the Summer. We will need your help as a volunteer. If you volunteer for over 3 events, you will be invited to attend our Volunteer Appreciation Picnic on August 3rd. Our SONS volunteers were on hand to cook and serve hotdogs to the attendees.

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

Thurs. June 25th 10-noon East Water Works pond Downtown YMCA
Vol. needed

Tues. June 30th 10-12:30 East Waterworks Pond Waterford YMCA
Vol. needed

Thur., July 2 10-12 Fishing pier Dobbins Landing area East canal basin family fishing in celebration of the 250th of the USA

Fri. July 3rd 2-4 FishUSA 6960 West Ridge Rd. Fairview, PA Tackle Swap

Wed. July 8th 11-12 Millcreek Mall Kids casting and fishing education class Vol. needed

Thurs. July 9th 9-12 East Waterworks pond Jefferson Elementary School Vol. Needed

Mon. July 13th 11-1 East Water Works pond HALAL event no hot dogs or bacon for bait

Sat. July 18th TBD Possibly Fish USA to clean "Fish for Fishin" for A wish more info coming.

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

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 Pot golf course. Erie County Library kids program Vol. needed. Ample parking is available in the lot on the Holland St pier with a walkway on the north side of the library

*** 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

*** Wed. Sept. 2nd** 11-1:30 Bay Harbor East Marine SONS Outreach Fish Fry
Vol. needed

*** added after last meeting**

Send us your Fish Pictures!

SONS VET SUPPORT CONTINUES

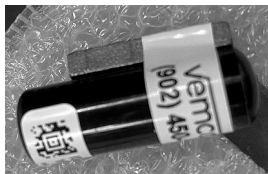
Since our beginning the SONS have endeavored to provide support for our local veteran's facilities and organizations like the Erie Vet Center, VA Hospital and the Soldiers and Sailors Home. We have financially supported many events organized at these facilities as well as planning and providing fishing opportunities for our veterans. We receive thousands of dollars each year from local vets clubs like the VFW and American Legion. This money is set aside and only used to promote veterans activities. There are ongoing plans to organize some fishing trips for our vets this year tentatively for June 29 for male veterans and July 13 for lady veterans. We will be working with our local veteran's support services on the details.

Here our Veterans coordinator Chuck Miller poses with a Soldiers and Sailors Home staff member as he presents some fishing equipment as a donation for an auction at the Home.



A PERCH TELEMETRY STUDY IS UNDERWAY

Just a reminder please be aware that there are numerous fish in Lake Erie that have been implanted with a small transmitter that tracks them throughout the Lake. Most recently thirty large perch were implanted with the devices and returned into Presque Isle Bay in hopes to track their movements. If you notice a scar on a belly of a perch you catch, be a sport and return it to the water so it can still be tracked. If you harvest a fish be on the lookout for a transmitter and call the number on a sticker which has been placed on the device.



Telemetry Transmitter Call phone number on cylinder if you catch a yellow perch with it.

IN MEMORIUM

With great sadness we note the passing of a long time SONS supporter and volunteer, on June 2, 2026. This talented man was friendly and generous to all. He will be sadly missed. Good fishing, Paul!



SUMMER TOURNAMENTS

PRESQUE ISLE FISH AND FARM

is proud to present:

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July 1, 2026 – July 31, 2026

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

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East End Angler

4702 E. Lake Rd. Erie, PA 16511 814-898-3474

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NECM 11950 E. Lake Rd. North East, PA 814-725-8244

POOR RICHARD'S AND EAST END ANGLER TO AGAIN HOST WALLEYE BASH

The tournaments will take place on **June 27th** with **Big Fish on June 26th** and **August 15th** with a **Big Fish contest on August 14th**.

For more details and entry forms go to: <https://www.eriwalleyebash.com/> The Walleye Bash Tournaments have been hosted by Poor Ricard's and East End Angler annually for several years. They draw a lot of interest each year.

EPSFA TO AGAIN HOST THE SUMMER SLAM TOURNAMENT

The Erie, PA Sport Fishing Association "Summer Slam" is a two 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>



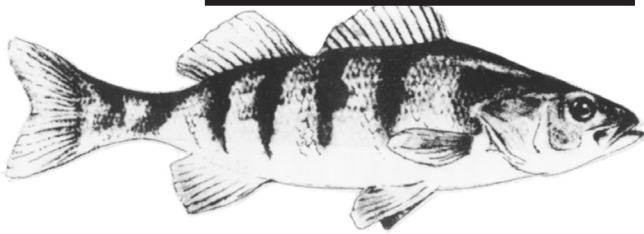
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"The Bucket" published monthly
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VOLUME 23 • ISSUE 6
JUNE 2026



"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 928 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,
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SONS CONTINUE TO SUPPORT WATER SAFETY

Since the SONS of Lake Erie was organized in 1981 our goal is to support fishing and the fishery of Lake Erie. The fishery includes safety of boaters and fishermen. Over the years we have met our goals in a variety of ways. We have provided life rings throughout Presque Isle State Park, cold weather gear for the responders working there, winches for park vehicles to remove downed trees that block the roadways, handicapped ramps at the North and South piers. On the other side of the bay we donated scuba equipment, training expenses and a truck for the EPD dive team. Blue lights for the vehicles of the Erie County Sheriffs dive team, radar equipment for the PFBC patrol boats and much much more. Recently we were asked to sponsor life rings and their cabinets for the Shade's Beach boat launch area.

SONS Pres. Jerry Skrypzak and Director Chuck Miller pose with Harborcreek Township Supervisor Steve Oler as he demonstrates the features of the life rings and their cabinets we sponsored at Shade's Beach.



SWEETEN THE CATCH

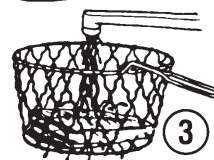
We used to print this recipe back in the 80s. Quite possibly got it from *Field And Stream Magazine*. Great way of removing gaminess and oily taste from fish (trout, salmon, etc.)



① Mix 3 tablespoons of table salt and 2 teaspoons of baking soda into 1 gallon of cold water.



② Submerge fish in solution, weigh down with a heavy plate, and refrigerate a minimum of 6 hours.



③ Rinse with cold tap water, drip dry on paper towels, and cook your favorite recipe.