

# Fur, Fins and Feathers



March 2020

The Clubhouse is off Old Oliphant Road on Northacres road and off County Road 13 in Wiarton.  
Due to COVID-19 all activities are cancelled until further notice.  
For inquiries e-mail [bpsportsmen@gmail.com](mailto:bpsportsmen@gmail.com) or mail to P.O. Box 548, Wiarton, Ontario N0H 2T0

## CONSERVATION GROUP URGES “catch and release spawning rainbow trout”



A community group that's stocked sports fish since the sixties in Grey-Bruce has announced an appeal to spring rainbow trout anglers. The Bruce Peninsula Sportsmen's Association (BPSA) is urging you to “release any large females and males during the spring spawning run.”

This message is aimed at anglers along the shores of Colpoy's Bay which is part of south west Georgian Bay. New signs at creeks on the bay remind anglers that spawning rainbow trout represent our future fish. This volunteer based club stocks more than 100-thousand rainbow trout annually to Colpoy's Creek and Gleason Brook, trying to beef up our recreational fishery.



The club says “It is imperative to allow adult fish to spawn, thus increasing natural reproduction. Yearling stocked fish have the adipose fin clipped to identify them as stocked fish.” BPSA Fish Committee Chair Ray Marklevitz reports “ Our last fish population survey completed at Colpoys streams showed that 63% of spawning fish were fin clipped. So our many years of stocking efforts are paying off”.



Anglers are reluctant to return spawners as they often use rainbow trout eggs as bait. Those I talked to at the Colpoy's Dock said they appreciate the work of BPSA. Several anglers said they will “try to remember to release spawners because we understand the importance of natural trout reproduction.”



To continue monitoring our rainbow trout program, BPSA is asking anglers to record their catch and add details on creel census forms found at both creeks. You are asked to return these completed forms to BPSA at the end of the year.

Survey author Jerry Beaver has offered to answer questions you may have at 519-534-5725.



“Until further notice the BPSA clubhouse is closed. The only club activity that’s continuing is daily fish feeding. “ As BPSA Past President Bruce Beacock has said

“I hope everyone is well and staying safe during this COVID-19 crisis.

All club activities are on hold. Our clubhouse and our gun range remain closed to all activities! We will be regularly checking the clubhouse.

We cancelled our March monthly meeting and postponed our Annual General Meeting until all is safe to meet again. Our fish do not care if there is a coronavirus they want to be fed. You can help our hatchery by volunteering to feed the fish. Please contact Al Sutter at 519-375-0774. You must be a BPSA member to feed our fish.

Our club activities are on hold, but many of our members are working behind the scenes to ensure that our club continues to prosper and we are ready when the crisis ends. A big thank you goes out to these members.

*Stay safe; keep healthy so we all can get together again soon!*

*Bruce Beacock*

*Past President - Bruce Peninsula Sportsmen's Association”*

Please check the BPSA Facebook page and our site for updates.

Issued by Paterson Media for the BRUCE PENINSULA SPORTSMEN'S ASSOCIATION-now celebrating 57 years of conservation.

PHOTOS: new sign, anglers on Colpoy's Dock near new sign, BPSA sign re spawning channel, fin clipping example, rainbow eggs on hook photo credits; PATERSON MEDIA, Littans Fishing Lines, Captain Matt Thomas

# BPSA Awards 2020

Before we all went into “self-isolation” due to the PANDEMIC, fishing and hunting awards were handed out in Grey-Bruce.

On March 17, the province declared a state of emergency, banning all public gatherings of more than 50 people (later reduced to 5). Before the declaration, the awards presentation was part of the spring 2020 pot luck awards dinner at the clubhouse of the 300-member Bruce Peninsula Sportsmen’s Association (BPSA). This is a chance to honour members for excellence in outdoors pursuits such as fish and hunting.



- In the spotlight on the 2020 BPSA Awards Night was:
- Mike Lutman with the LARGEST TURKEY in the senior’s category at 22.7lbs
  - James Thompson had the LARGEST FISH in the junior category with an 11.8 pound rainbow trout.
  - In the seniors LARGEST FISH category was Stan McNeil with a 21.9 pound Salmon.

The recipients were handed plaques in recognition of their “excellent performances” in their fields of outdoors recreation during 2019. Club members are reminded to take photos and record their fishing and hunting harvests to enter them in our 2020 awards of recognition.



BPSA, now celebrating 57 years of conservation, was established to “preserve and protect fish and wildlife.” Our club is best known for fish stocking having planted more than 4-million trout and salmon for the recreational fishery. Every year we stock more than 100-thousand rainbow and brown trout. We operate the longest running volunteer community fish hatchery in Ontario. We are one of 40 members of the Ontario Community Hatchery Program (CHP). Part of the cost of our fish raising and stocking program is covered by the CHP.

BPSA also operates youth and adult archery, youth and adult firearms training and target shooting. We also have a handgun club, tree planting, stream rehabilitation and invasive species awareness programs.

*Due to the significant uncertainty we face with the COVID-19 PANDEMIC, most BPSA programs are on hold. Our clubhouse is closed. However daily at our hatchery west of Wiarton, our volunteers are practicing safe distancing, while feeding our rainbow and brown trout which will be stocked later this year.*

*If you think you would enjoy taking part in some of our activities at BPSA please check our web site and Facebook pages for more information on what we are all about. <http://bpsportsmen.com/>*

*We are a volunteer based community group and welcome new members with new ideas who are willing to share their enthusiasm for the outdoors. Stay tuned for a date for the resumption of regular activities at one of the leading conservation clubs in southwestern Ontario.*

*by PATERSON MEDIA for BPSA*

# “WE ARE BETTER THAN THIS” – creek mouth used as garbage dump

A Grey-Bruce community group that has stocked sports fish since the 1960's is asking recreational anglers to clean up their act.

The call came after members of the Bruce Peninsula Sportsmen's Association (BPSA) observed large concentrations of coffee cups, beer cans, fishing line and old chairs at the mouth of a creek where the club stocks rainbow trout.

“This place looks like a dump. These people should be ashamed;” commented BPSA President Kevin Harders when he visited the mouth of Gleason Brook where it enters Georgian Bay.

Gleason Brook originates at Gleason Lake in Georgian Bluffs Township. It flows for 5 miles (8 kilometers), through the Gleason Wetland into Oxenden and Colpoys Bay which is part of Georgian Bay. Gleason is popular among anglers during the spring rainbow trout spawn and the fall salmon spawn.

While there is a sanctuary zone where anglers are forbidden to fish, there are sections at the creek mouth where fishing is legal.

In spring the Gleason Brook mouth is popular with recreational anglers. But in 2020 they have been very untidy.



Ray Marklevitz, the club's Fish Committee Chair said “This is horrendous. Why would sportsmen who worship the outdoors treat it so badly? Shame on you so called ‘Sport’ Fishermen.”





BPSA advises the public: “You are welcome to try to catch some of the fish we have stocked. But anglers please take with you what you brought to this site. There is no reason for one of our beautiful Grey-Bruce natural sites to be turned into a dump.”

We stock more than 100,000 rainbow and brown trout a year to benefit the sports fishery. Since the sixties BPSA has planted more than 4-million trout and salmon raised at its Warton hatchery. Our club boasts the longest running volunteer run community hatchery in Ontario.

We are part of the 38 member Ontario Community Hatchery Program (CHP). The program covers half the costs associated with our hatchery.

During the current PANDEMIC most BPSA member and guest activities are cancelled. Our clubhouse is closed until further notice. However every day club volunteers are feeding fish, doing water quality checks and hatchery maintenance. As one Ontario Natural Resources Minister told us when visiting our hatchery “at BPSA it’s all about the fish.”

If you are interested in checking out more about BPSA please link to our site  
<http://bpsportsmen.com/>

Issued by PATERSON MEDIA for the Bruce Peninsula Sportsmen’s Association  
photos- Kevin Harders, Paterson Media

