

Fur, Fins and Feathers



June 2019

The Clubhouse is off Old Oliphant Road on Northacres road and off County Road 13 in Wiarton.
Next meeting, June 27th, 2019 at 7:30 p.m. Your participation is welcome and anticipated. For inquiries e-mail bpsportsmen@gmail.com or mail to P.O. Box 548, Wiarton, Ontario N0H 2T0

Conservation Group Attracts New Volunteers



It isn't unusual for large groups to show up at events staged by the conservation group the Bruce Peninsula Sportsmen's Association (BPSA). So far this year we have had two projects that attracted an encouragingly large number of volunteers. First we had our two sessions of fin clipping at our fish hatchery west of Wiarton. The first session was in the afternoon, the second, in the evening. These clipping sessions attracted a record sixty-five volunteers. They were clipping the adipose fin of yearling rainbow trout raised at

the BPSA hatchery west of Wiarton. The adipose fin is a soft, fleshy fin found on the back behind the dorsal fin and just forward of the caudal fin. Fin clipping helps identify that the fish was stocked.

The fin clipping volunteers came from as far away as Detroit.

Members of the Lake Huron Fishing Club and the Barrow Bay & District Sport Fishing Association showed up to help. Another dozen guests who are not members of this club but "just wanted to help with this great project" took part in this community endeavor.



Then on May 18, 2019 we had seventy members and guests show up to help with an early morning spring fish stocking session at Gleason Brook. Ten thousand rainbow trout were set free. Again we attracted more than a dozen non-members who “just wanted to help.”



Murray Garniss accepts bucket of fish from youth volunteer.

They “passed the bucket” filled with yearling rainbow trout. The trout were raised by our hatchery volunteers and now was their time to be released into the wild and be “imprinted” to return to this creek in the future to spawn.



BPSA President Bruce Beacock says he is encouraged that non-members have heard about our 280-member club and are joining us to see what we are all about. In his words “we have been a community conservation club for a long time



Gord Smith pours yearling rainbow trout into funnel leading to creek

and it’s great that folks are checking us out.” He also said he was thrilled to see the smiles on people’s faces during our stocking and fin clipping activities “especially the kids at the fish stocking. It is a great family outing where the kids learn about conservation.”



BPSA Fish Committee Chair Ray Marklevitz says “the solid turnout shows we are appreciated ...all the hard work we do in raising these fish is appreciated and that is very rewarding.”



BPSA stocks 130-thousand rainbow and brown trout a year. Since the sixties we have stocked more than 4-million trout in south west Georgian Bay to support the sports fishery. We belong to the 40-hatchery Ontario Community Hatchery Program. Our volunteers put in hundreds of hours a year caring for our fish. MNRF studies suggest each fish stocked is worth 30-dollars to the community in which it is stocked. But we are more than raising fish.

We feature youth and adult firearms safety training, youth and adult archery, tree planting, and a “boot scrubber” program that teaches the public about the threat of invasive plant species. Major annual events at BPSA include our fund-raising Beef and Pork Barbecue slated this year for July 13 from 4-7pm and our Community Living Fishing Derby September 8.

Submitted by Stu Paterson



Hatchery manager Al Sutter looks on with daughter Lauren as Mike Smith transfers yearling rainbow trout prior to stocking in Gleason Brook

BPSA 2019 EVENTS

- February 18th Family Day 11 am -2 pm.
- March 23rd Potluck Supper at 5 pm.
- March 28th Elections of Officers and Directors club meeting 7:30 pm
- May 11th Tree Planting Activity 9:30 am
- May 18th Fish Stocking Gleason Brook 9:00 am
- May 25th Kids fishing day at the club 9-11 am
- June 29 & 30th Archery Tournament (registered with Archery Canada)
- July 13th Beef and Pork BBQ 4 -7 pm
- Aug Set up Fish Tent at Sydenham Sportsman event Owen Sound 8 am to noon
- Sept 8th Community Living fishing at the club 2:00 to 5:00 pm

Kids Brave Heavy Rain for **Fishing Derby**

It has been said that bad weather can mean good fishing. Well that was the case on May 25th at the Bruce Peninsula Sportsmen's Association (BPSA) Hatchery Pond. Our annual KIDS FISHING DERBY attracted 65 young participants. Add in parents and grandparents and we had 150 people gathered around our pond for this annual BPSA event.



Chris Thompson and son James



Victor Thomas and grandson Cam

For most of the derby it poured. The catching was fast and furious when it rained. Action slowed down when the rain stopped.

We added 200 rainbow trout to the trout already in the pond and they were hungry for the kid's worm offerings. To the delight of the youngsters more than fifty fish were caught. One young angler landed four fish. Many of the smaller fish were "catch and release."



BPSA member Gerry Beaver with Hayden and Hunter Maisonneuve and 4 pound rainbow trout

All participants went home with a prize thanks to generous supporters of BPSA. The top fish caught were by Blake McCallum, 4.6 lbs., James Thompson, 4.2 lbs, Hayden Maisonneuve, 4 lbs, Gabriel Valley, 3.8 lbs, Zackery Wood, 3.8 lbs and Chase Leask, 3.8 lbs.



Nice 3.8 pound bow Zackery Wood



BPSA KIDS FISHING coordinator Mike Smith was thrilled with how our KIDS DERBY played out. Mike said “thanks to all the volunteers who helped and made this event the success it was ... it would have never happened without you all. Also, a big thank you to all our sponsors for the event and a special thank you to Kevin Harders and Chad Williamson for help getting prize donations.

During the awards ceremony BPSA President Bruce Beacock thanked our community for its support and noted “you just have to see the kid’s smiles and you realize this was a huge success. We seem to have made many great memories for everyone who took part.”

Individual and corporate sponsors supporting BPSA KIDS FISHING and other 2019 club projects include:

- Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters
- Coca Cola Bottling
- MPM Property Maintenance
- Fretz’s Value Mart
- Lures N Lines
- Pinkertons Auto Supply
- Warton Marina
- Kenny Sam Lures
- Penny Cutting
- Giant Tiger
- DSG Outerwear
- Rankin River Department Store
- Burrows and Son Construction
- Warton Volunteer Fire Department
- J&S Tackle
- Elizabeth Muelbacher
- Paterson Media
- Jamie Cook
- Baywest Toyota
- Charlie Robertson
- Gary Fisher
- Chad Williamson



Baylor Shipley with BPSA member Gord Smith



Sabrina, The Henna Hippie, face painting.



The next major event on the BPSA schedule is our annual Beef and Pork Barbecue. It is scheduled for July 13, 2019 at our clubhouse west of Wiarnton. This barbecue is our conservation club's largest fund raiser of the year. It helps support all our projects including fish stocking, stream rehab, firearms safety training, archery, tree planting and invasive species awareness programs. The 280-member Bruce Peninsula Sportsmen's Association was established in 1962 to "enhance and protect fish and wildlife" in Grey-Bruce region. Club meetings take place on the last Thursday night of each month from September to June.

Submitted by Stu Paterson