

Fur, Fins and Feathers

May 2022



The Clubhouse is off Old Oliphant Road on Northacres road and off County Road 13 in Wiarton.
Next meeting, May 26th, 2022 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

The Snow Owl in their glory



These magnificent photos were taken by my nephew Jeff Hutchinson of Woolwich township. I was so impressed by the photos I asked Jeff to send me a few for our newsletter. So many great photos to choose from. If any member or family member has some interesting nature photos please email us.

Kat McCulloch

"Being a very devoted steelhead fisherman for over 4 decades as I travel to many different rivers in the fall and early spring I would occasionally run into a Snow Owl. This has opened up my opportunities to combine fishing and Owling all in the same day.

One can see other migratory birds. The Rough Legged Hawk, Short Eared Owls as well Northern Harriers. Large numbers of Snow Buntings too.

The Owls start to slowly return in my areas around the end of November into early December and usually fill in their territories by early January. They seem to start off very territorial, establishing their own hunting areas. These birds are said to have a healthy diet, 7- 12 mice, voles, even rats per day. They will take birds, muskrats or a rabbit as well. Once they have settled and I have found steady patterns in their daily routines, I can then search for them and try to get the pictures I do enjoy taking. Distinguishing male from female only becomes easier after 4-5 years of age. Adult males are the ones with the completely neat white look

rounded head and black bill. Along with this unmistakable appearance are the yellow eyes. The female on the other hand are not completely white and never become, they hold onto their bars and specks of color. The tops of their heads wings, bodies are all spotted brown. Their face and





This is my first Owl of the season. Seen her on December the first, 2020 first sighting was Dec the 5th. The first shows what you may have to spot as they blend in real well with their surroundings.

chest as well behind their heads are white. The females are noticeably larger than the males.

Snowy Owls are the largest North American owls, and they're among the largest owls in the world. They are 20"-28" in length, with a wing span of 54"-66", and weigh 3.25-6.5 lbs. Males are typically smaller than females. Despite their name, most Snowy Owls are not pure snowy white. They range from all white to black and white, with a pattern of dark, prominent bars—except on the face, which is always white. Females typically have more dark markings than males.



This male always spent most of his time out in the field. I was extremely happy one evening just before sundown to find him, finally perched on a pole. Beautiful boy.



This is the same female shown above on a different day. I sat with her in the field for over and hour and a half. Watched her preen, watched her walk around do a jump 360. Then finally settle in. Very relaxed both of us. When they spend time cleaning themselves up, they take on some pretty funny shapes.



This was another male, usually ok being approached for a shot or two. One shot with some cloud, the next two a sunny late day find. It was the flight shot that I noticed the band on his left leg.



So getting back to these Owls and their habitat, in my area I find them in farm land, open fields and barn yards. Sitting on tops of Silos or near by fence posts and poles. They are not always easy to spot, they will sit along fence lines, open fields, rock piles and trees to rest and digest food. These Owls are diurnal, meaning they will hunt for food into the evening as well throughout the day if opportunity comes along. I take great care in knowing when and how to approach these birds for a photo. I do not bother them while eating or resting, although I have taken pictures of both from a comfortable distance as to not disturb the Owl. They are an amazing bird and as with many birds travel great distances, to and from their nesting grounds. I could go on forever, I find myself leaving home for my Owl patch sometimes twice a day, windy days can be tough. Look for them low on the ground, low winds I find the best! Look for them to be out hunting early morning, and into the late afternoon to dusk."

Jeff Hutchinson



I took my mom out one morning. We spotted this guy, I think one of my best shots, shows the markings and some good detail in the color. Hard to determine the gender of this bird. Very light in the chest and head color starting to lessen. Not a big bird either, as the males are smaller.



Jeff at the Saugeen with a steelhead



Easter Egg Hunt, BPSA style

It looked like the Easter Bunny came and brought eggs on Easter weekend as well this year for The Bruce Peninsula Sportsmen's Association. We had a very successful eggs collection this year.

The collection process started Saturday of the Easter weekend and continued on to Sunday with great success.

Alan Sutter Hatchery Manager says "We collected just over 140,000. There would be about 125,000 left in the trays. They look good. "





We would like to thank everyone that contributed to the successful collection this year and appreciate all the volunteers that put forth efforts during the Easter weekend festivities. Once again Big thank you to Grant McKilpine from the Lake Huron Fishing Club for the assistance in getting the BPSA there at the key moments when needed.

Volunteer list:

Alan Sutter, Hatchery Manager, Mike Smith, Jaden Smith, Gord Smith, Murray Garniss, Stan McNeil, Ray Marklevitz, Kevin Harders, Dean Lobban, Dwayne Lobban, and a special thanks to Kat For coming down to take the fantastic photos.



BPSA Handgun Meeting

On April 20, 2022, the BPSA Handgun Club held their first General Meeting since COVID showed its ugly face. There was lots to discuss including changes and improvements to the main clubhouse and range, our new liability insurance with the N.F.A. (National Firearms Association) and its benefits, and the new streamlined prospective Member orientation program.

Also discussed was the suggestion of increasing our annual stipend to the parent club by 50% and a significant Handgun Club contribution towards refinishing the main clubhouse floor. These suggestions will be presented to the Parent Club for consideration and ratification.

Mike Lutman agreed to work with Krista Quesnel to complete our 2021 financial audit. Jane Thibideau was recognized for her contributions and temporarily filling the Treasurer's position on the Parent Club Board on top of her other duties.



It was great to visit with H.G. Club friends we haven't seen for quite a while and we all look forward to a healthy and uninterrupted 2022 season.

*Al Hunter
President BPSA Handgun Club,*

Safety Railing Installed

On April 20th we installed the new safety railing around our concrete tank in the Hatchery. The railing is easily removable when we are moving fish into the tank. The railing also includes a handrail to make it safer to use the stairs getting in and out of the tank. Thank you to Bruce Beacock for all his hard work fabricating and painting the railing and to the crew we had out to install it.

by Al Sutter Hatchery Manger/Director



Kids Fishing Day

May 29th 9-12pm
12 years of age & under



- **Must pre-register. Only 50 family apprx 100-150 people**
- **All names must be on registraion, 2-parents and children 12 and under only**
- **Fish caught with tags will win a rod and reel combo from Lures N Lines**
- **Top girl and top boy wins prize**
- **Snacks will be provided**

email us at
bpsportsmen@gmail.com



BPSA is dedicated to the preservation and enhancement of fish and wildlife through conservation efforts of its volunteer members. BPSA is renowned and respected for its conservation work in Grey-Bruce through its 60 years.

Fin Clipping Rainbow Trout

On April 27th volunteer members of the Bruce Peninsula Sportsmen's Association gathered at the club's fish hatchery on North Acres Rd.

They were there for the annual fin clipping of the yearling rainbow trout.

The fin clipping was done in two shifts, an afternoon shift attended by 12 volunteers and an evening shift with 16 volunteers, the work is tedious and the water cold on the fingers but that didn't put a damper on the enthusiasm. Fin clipping is a requirement of the NDMNRF and is used for identification purposes, to determine if a fish is wild, or hatchery stocked, it in no way harms the fish's ability to swim or survive. The fin being removed is called the adipose fin, which is the small tab just in front of the tail.



Al Sutter Hatchery Manager explaining the fin clipping process while Ray Marklevitz looks on.



The proper tools for fin clipping.



Deb Gibson having fun showing what not to do...



Volunteers processed approximately 40000 rainbow trout, which will be stocked in Colpoys Bay at a later date. The Bruce Peninsula Sportsmen's Association has been raising fish since 1962 and is the longest operating volunteer run fish hatchery in Ontario.

*by Mike Smith
Assistant Hatchery Manager*



Kat McCulloch Web and Media Director, clipping away in the cold water.



Matt Bacon, Warton Echo reporter giving fin clipping a try



Kevin Harders FAC Chairman, FMZ Representative & Past BPSA President



Special thanks to all that came out to help fin clipping. We can't do what we do without our volunteers.



Derby tickets • \$25 for Single
 • \$60 for a family.

Everyone that buys a ticket will be put into the draw prizes on Sunday May 15th. You do not have to fish to win!

Proceeds goes towards BPSA hatchery. Derby tickets can be purchased at Home Hardware Wiarton, Lures N Lines, Watson's Tackle, Scott's Home Hardware in Lions Head. Or by e-transfers luresnlinesderby@gmail.com

Here are just a few of the prizes that can be won.

Some of the Derby Draw Prizes

- Traeger smoker/Jackson Construction • 12' Colman Canoe/Sydenham Sportsman's • One of two Yeti coolers/Home hardware • One of three Scotty Manual downrigger/Bruce Peninsula Stone • Two Chilly Moose Coolers, Aqua Lilly Pad/Tigwell Motorsports • Natural gas propane outdoor Fire Place/ Matches Heating and Cooling. • Piranha Max fish finder/Spry Lake campground? • One of 10 Lunker Hunt Sublime fishing Rods/Wallace Tree Services • Triple Threat Lure packages • Silver Fox lure packages • Bite My Herring lure packages • And much much more....

