

# Fur, Fins and Feathers



April 2023

The Clubhouse is off Old Oliphant Road on Northacres road and off County Road 13 in Wiarton.  
Next meeting, April 27th, 2023 at 7:30 p.m. Your participation is welcome and anticipated. For inquiries e-mail [bpsportsmen@gmail.com](mailto:bpsportsmen@gmail.com) or mail to P.O. Box 548, Wiarton, Ontario N0H 2T0

## Ladies Shooting Program ends with a bang



March 5th/23 ended with a venison stew, salads and many other goodies. This year saw over 40 ladies sign up for rifle and handgun safety and range practice. This years crop was a good one, maybe the best? Our Sunday nights were jovial and the shooting excellent! Safe gun handling by these Oakley girls was outstanding especially when one considers that 50% had never held a gun and came bravely to learn.

I must thank the volunteers, Pres. Al Hunter, Patricia Krieg, Carl Nuttall, Debra Gibson for without their help this would not happen.

The ladies were very generous with their donations of goodies and no one went home wanting more. Thank you all!

Due to the large numbers as well as some we were forced to turn away, it may behoove us to reconsider our program for more inclusion/shooting!

*Frank Hutter, Range Safety Chairman*









# Fin Clipping - An Annual Tradition

It took less than six hours. Two teams of volunteers gathered at the Bruce Peninsula Sportsmen's Association (BPSA) Hatchery to take care of an annual ritual. It involves clipping the adipose fin, the last fin before the tail fin, of rainbow trout preparing them for release.

This year's afternoon and evening sessions involved 50 enthusiastic club members young and old.

Kevin Harders the BPSA Fish Committee Chair says "clipping does not affect the fish and is for identification purposes." All fish raised in an Ontario hatchery for over 12 months must be clipped. Clipping allows researchers and future anglers to identify if a fish began life in a hatchery or spent its initial years in the wild.

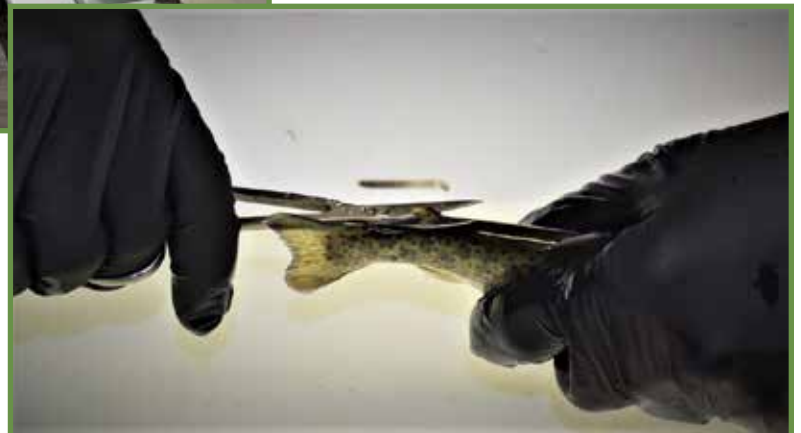
These rainbow trout, approximately 25 thousand of them, all raised at the BPSA facility. Clipped yearling trout then flow back into their tanks for a few weeks with stocking expected in early April. Another 25-thousand fish brown trout, are expected to be stocked in July.

All of the work done raising and stocking fish is done by volunteers.

Not long ago a provincial official paid tribute to our BPSA volunteers.

In 2020 Ontario's Natural Resources and Forestry Minister described our club as: "a Community Hatchery Program supported group with 51 hatchery volunteers who donated over 1,500 hours a year raising and stocking 74,645 Rainbow Trout fingerlings, 23,078 Rainbow Trout yearlings and 27,270 Brown Trout fingerlings in 2019."

It is estimated each fish stocked is worth 30-dollars to the community where it is stocked. Since the sixties BPSA has stocked more than 4-million fish in Grey-Bruce waters. The 280 member BPSA was established in the sixties to "preserve and enhance fish and wildlife." BPSA has the longest running volunteer-run fish hatchery in Ontario. Other BPSA activities include youth, adult and women's





firearms training, youth and adult archery, an invasive species awareness program as well as our open houses and the annual BPSA Kids Fishing Derby. Check the BPSA site for dates of upcoming club events

If you are curious about our conservation group and our aim of preserving and enhancing fish and wildlife, please check our website at: <https://bpsportsmen.com/newsletters-wp/> Our regular club meetings are held on the last Thursday night of the month at the BPSA clubhouse on North Acres Road west of Warton.

*by Stu Paterson*





# Measuring Success

On Wednesday March 22nd six members of the BPSA were actively grading fish during the power outage.

This was possible by OFAH and CHP as we ran the with the 2200 watt generator that was donated 2 years ago to the Hatchery.

The dedication of our members to set up generators switch over lights and run air pumps was a warm welcome in the name of conservation.

Since all the 25,000 fish have been fin clipped for identification purposes it was nice to continue grading the fish in the anticipation of soon-to-be stocking date.

With our new grader that was purchased in 2022 to it is very efficient to grade the fish as we accomplished 25,000 fish graded in just under 2 hours.

Special thank you goes out to James Thompson as we feel he was the strongest individual lifting pails of water almost his body weight.

James went home with wet coat, wet pants and wet boots, but he carried a great big smile and enjoyed participating with his father Chris in the fish grading process.

*by Kevin Harders*



# Hatchey Visitors

On Friday March 24th the BPSA Hatchery had visitors from the community living program in Owens sound. Hatchery Manager Alan Suter, Assistant Hatchery Manager Mike Smith, Fish Committee Chairman Kevin Harders and Dean Lobban were present to conduct the tour.

Many smiles were had by all as the gentleman were very excited to see the operations of the Hatchery.

We explained our operation of the hatchery and the history of the club. We spoke on how our stocking plan works in cooperation with the MNRF and how many fish we raise each and every year.

Janet from from the Owen Sound community living brought along Nate, Robert, Ken, and Ryan and they were extremely happy to see the Brown Trout and Rainbow Trout programs that we operate.

*by Kevin Harders*



## Handgun Range Upgrades

On Sat., March 25, a five Member team led by Range Manager Kelly Lang repaired and upgraded our target trolley system by replacing the heavy wood carriage that carries the targets downrange and back. The cable system was also tightened up and runs quieter with less apparent shock when targets are returned to the shooting ports. The motor that powers the targets downrange and return system was replaced by Kelly and an electrician several weeks ago. Thanks to Kelly Lang, Tony Brindovec, Art Landry, Charlie Robertson and Al Hunter.

*by Al Hunter*

## BPSA 2023 EVENTS

- Youth Firearms Program Jan-Feb
- Ladies Firearms Program Jan-Feb
- Fin Clipping March 13th
- AGM March 30th
- Kids Fishing Day - May 28th
- Community Living Fishing September
- Christmas Social & Early Bird Draw December



# Kids Fishing Day

May 28th 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](mailto: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.