

Fur, Fins and Feathers

May 2023



The Clubhouse is off Old Oliphant Road on Northacres road and off County Road 13 in Wiarton.
Next meeting, May 25th, 2023 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

Another Fish Stocking Record for BPSA



Oxenden, Ontario:

It was spring rainbow trout stocking time at Gleason Brook. Involved were more than 7-thousand yearling rainbow trout raised at the Bruce Peninsula Sportsmen's Association (BPSA) hatchery on North Acres Road west of Wiarton. And..... a new batch of enthusiastic volunteers.

This time a record fifty-five volunteers of all ages took part in the annual stocking session on Saturday April 15, 2023. In the past we had a maximum forty fish stockers in the bucket brigade. This year twenty of the fifty-five participants were new BPSA members experiencing the event for the first time.

So, what's involved?

The tanker trailer arrives at the site beside the creek just off Grey Road 1. The rainbow trout are netted into pails each one containing about 20 fish. Then the volunteers in a human chain, pass the buckets down a deep path to the falls. There the pails containing the fish are emptied into a spout and 30-foot pipe down to below the falls where the hatchery raised trout are introduced to the wild for you to catch two years from now.



Gord Smith dumping the rainbow in Gleason Brook.



Half of the cost of operating the BPSA Fish Hatchery is provided by the Ontario Community Hatchery Program (CHP) which is funded by the Province and delivered by the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters. CHP supports 38 qualifying hatcheries across Ontario. The work performed by the club is done by members who volunteer their time putting in hundreds of hours a year raising fish for our sports fishery

BPSA Hatchery Manager Al Sutter says "We are helping maintain sustainable recreational and sports fishing...it was very encouraging to see so many out to help on Saturday and we are thrilled see many new members join our cause."



BPSA members are proud of the work they do.
"A lot of people come to this area to fish," said Sutter.

Since BPSA began fish stocking in the sixties we have planted over 4-million rainbow and brown trout and salmon in Georgian Bay. BPSA boasts the longest operating volunteer run community fish stocking hatchery in Ontario.



Mike Smith BPSAS assistant hatchery manager (left) Jerry Beaver BPSA Fish Committee transfer yearling rainbow trout to buckets for stocking.

BPSA EVENTS UPDATE:

Archery:the 2023 BPSA youth and adult archery program kicks off on Tuesday, May 23, 2023 with an open shoot from 6pm to 8pm; 8pm to dusk for adults only. Wiarton's outdoors store "The Great Ape Empire" is working with our archery co-ordinator to promote participation in our archery sessions.

KIDS FISHING DERBY AT THE BPSA POND:

This exciting event for youngsters 12 and under runs May 28 and is open to members and non-members. Pre-registration is a must. Specially tagged fish caught will win a rod/reel combo thanks to LuresNLines. The top girl and boy win prizes. Snacks will be provided. Funding for the fish being caught in this derby is by the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters Zone H. This event is FREE as it is presented as community service by BPSA. Bring your camera as this fun KIDS DERBY creates lasting memories. Register at: bpsportsmen@gmail.com



End of the bucket brigade line..from left – Murray Garniss, Gord Smith, Mike Smith

Monthly BPSA meetings are held on the last Thursday night of the month.

Upcoming: a Professional Wildlife Control Specialist, Bill Easton, will speak at our April 27th meeting on coyote biology, habits and distribution.

For more info on BPSA check Fur, Fins & Feathers – Bruce Peninsula Sportsmen Assoc. (bpsportsmen.com)

by Stu Paterson

Photos - Paterson Media – Kat McCulloch



Al Sutter, Hatchery Manager, Jerry Beaver and Ray Marklevitz transferring the yearlings into the buckets.



Wildlife Apple Tree Project

The Wildlife Apple Tree Project for this year has been successfully completed. Twenty five BPSA members have planted 89 trees purchased from Whiffletree Farms for \$1,134.73. Total proceeds from the sales to members was \$1,620.00 plus 8 trees planted on BPSA property by Wayne Musselman and crew.

Thanks to Al Sutter for allowing the use of the hatchery as the distribution depot and his help to distribute the trees. The purpose of this project is to provide feed for wildlife in the future. Deer, bears, racoons, rabbits, turkeys, and many birds feed on apples. I would highly recommend that this project be done annually as a long term wildlife conservation effort by the BPSA. BPSA doing it's part for Conservation.

*Ray Marklevitz.
Wildlife Apple Tree Project Chair.*



Former MP Larry Miller had his trees in the same day a pick-up.

BPSA Clipped **Brown Trout Caught!**

Some very exciting news this afternoon eclipse brown trout weighing 4.32 lb was entered in the Georgian triangle spring trout Derby this afternoon at Lures N Lines.

This is great news because this would be a 2-3 year-old fish from our first round of actually clipping brown trout in the History of the BPSA. Up until a few years ago prior to covid we never had the opportunity to clip our Brown Trout.

Seeing a return on clipped fish in our community is extremely exciting for our stocking efforts.

Fish entered by
Matt Bell of Wiarton
Caught off the town Dock
Brown Trout
4.32 lbs.

by Kevin Harders



Coyotes and Hybrids

At the April General Meeting, BPSA members were treated with a guest speaker, Mr Bill Easton, a former Professional Wildlife Manager and Control Specialist who spoke on Coyotes. Coyotes are just one species of the canine family. They are smaller than the wolf and may look similar to a German Shepard dog. Their life span is approximately 12 years. They prey on small animals, but they can take larger animals when they run in a pack.

He noted the colour differences in the facial fur gives clues to the actual age of the animal.

He explained that coyotes have one litter per year but the hybrids or coydogs have two litters per year.

Along with his presentation he had several fur pelts which showed the colour differences from red, grey, brown and black and he had a stuffed exhibit of one which was part timber wolf.

Bill concluded his talk with a question and answer period with much audience participation. It was a very informative evening.

by Jane Thibideau



Ian Sutter with hybrid coyote. Very dark in colour and very aggressive animal.

BPSA Trophy awards Annual Pot Luck Dinner

Member Don Elliott has been collecting entry forms from club members in 2022 and has made up trophies to be presented for the largest fish and game.

On Saturday, April 22nd, a beautiful sunny day, we assembled with 41 BPSA members with family and children in the club-house.

We all brought our food to share and we had a good assortment of food. Director Ray Marklevitz was chief fish chowder provider and he brought enough chowder to share with all that wished a bowl; it was excellent.



President Carl Jones thanked everyone for coming. We then enjoyed an excellent meal. By 7pm, Don Elliott announced that he and Pres. Carl would announce the trophy winners for 2022.

The trophy winners for 2022 were:

- Largest rainbow trout (12.28 lbs) – Murray Garniss
- Largest pike, junior category (7 lbs) – Chase Gunson
- Largest chinook salmon (15.14 lbs) – James Thompson, Jr
- Largest lake trout (11.34 lbs) – James Thompson, Jr.
- Largest pike, adult category (6 lbs) – Kat McCulloch
- Largest smallmouth bass, adult entry (5 lbs) – Kat McCulloch
- Largest wild turkey (25.21 lbs) – Frank Hutter (unable to attend).

Thanks to Don Elliott for his preparation for the night and having the trophies made up for presenting.

This was an excellent evening for a spring social event!!!

by Dennis Morton and Don Elliott



Largest rainbow trout (12.28 lbs) – Murray Garniss



Largest chinook salmon (15.14 lbs) and largest lake trout (11.34 lbs) – James Thompson, Jr



Largest pike, junior category (7 lbs) – Chase Gunson



Largest pike, adult category (6 lbs) and largest small-mouth bass, adult entry (5 lbs) – Kat McCulloch