

APRIL 2024

Next meeting May 30th. Address: 611 North Acres Road, Wiarton [bpsportsmen.com](http://bpsportsmen.com)

## "A Family Affair" - Spring Brown Trout Stocking



It was a family affair on the shores of Colpoys Bay. It was the stocking 800 brown trout raised at the Bruce Peninsula Sportsmen's Association Hatchery west of Wiarton.

Since the nineteen-sixties, his hatchery and its army of volunteers have raised and stocked more than 4-million fish. The aim of this effort is to enhance our sports fishery. A fishery that generates over 1.7 billion dollars a year for the Ontario economy.

On a recent Saturday morning moms, dads and kids gathered to sort the trout. The ages of participants ranged from two to eighty-two. They were there to get the job done, and they did.

The brown trout eggs were sourced from the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resource and Forestry Chatsworth Hatchery. The average weight of the trout, 87 grams.

The 15-month-old trout were loaded into the BPSA tanker trailer and it was off to Colpoys Bay for stocking. The water temperature was ideal and the volunteers got the job done in fifteen minutes. 20 thousand rainbow trout remain at the BPSA hatchery to be stocked at the end of June. 25-thousand hatchery-raised brown trout will be stocked by the end of July.

The 300 member BPSA was established in the sixties to “preserve and enhance fish and wildlife.” BPSA operates the longest running volunteer-run fish hatchery in Ontario.

We belong to the 40-member Ontario Community Hatchery Program (CHP) which is funded by the province and operated by the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters. Some costs involved with operating our fish stocking program are covered by the CHP.

BPSA is more than fish stocking. We have an active youth and adult archery program which kicks off the for year in May. BPSA boasts a busy handgun club, several firearms target shooting programs as well our youth and adult firearms training classes.

Our tree planting involves cooperation with the Bruce Trail Conservancy as well as apple tree planting in areas populated by deer. There’s also our invasive species awareness “boot scrubber” program.

*by St Paterson Media, MNRF*



*BPSA President Carl Jones does is part*





*BPSA volunteer fish stockers*



*BPSA veteran Ray Marklevitz sorting brown trout fry.*

# Wiaraton Sparks get the royal tour



On April 15/24, 13 members of the Wiaraton Girl Guide “Sparks” unit visited the Bruce Peninsula Sportsmen’s Association (BPSA). There was a high level of energy evident from the moment the Sparks girls with leaders and parents in tow arrived at the club. The girls had lots of questions regarding area wildlife and what the BPSA role was relating to conservation. Al Hunter gave the girls a brief description of what we hoped to achieve during the visit and what we planned to give them an opportunity to participate in. Each girl was given BPSA button.

The Sparks had a tour of the clubhouse and viewed (and petted) a mounted coyote and several fish mounts from area waters. We discussed firearm safety and the BPSA Youth Firearms Safety Program. A tour of our indoor range followed.

The Sparks then accompanied Brenda McLean, our Archery Coordinator and assistants Jill Curtis and Bill Slot to an outdoor range where everyone had an opportunity to shoot at bulls eye and 3-D targets. Lots of applause and cheers were heard when the girls arrows found their mark. One on one instruction was provided by Brenda and her crew.

The girls then moved on to the site where member Ray Marklevitz enlisted their help in planting an apple tree. The BPSA has a tree planting and sale program whereby trees sold are planted in an area frequented by deer as apples are one of their favourite foods.

The girls along with Leaders and Parents then toured the BPSA hatchery where they were able to view and touch fingerling Rainbow and Brown Trout and view eggs only days old and in doing so learned the life cycle of the trout from

eggs to the fifteen pounds + mounted trout they had earlier viewed in the clubhouse. Hatchery Manager Al Sutter and Kevin Harders fielded questions.

*The BPSA has the longest running Community Hatchery in the province of Ontario and annually stocks approximately 150,000 Rainbow Trout and 30,000 Brown Trout in area waters.*

When the “Sparks” left they were tired but happy with all they had learned and experienced. Groups like the “Sparks” are our future in Conservation.

*Al Hunter*

*Photos: Kat McCulloch*









# 2024 Rainbow Egg Collecting

It's 2024 Rainbow Trout egg collection time at Denny's Dam on the Saugeen river just outside of Southampton.

Our first trip down was Thursday April 11 in the afternoon. We collected just over 50,000 eggs. Then returned the next morning and collected another 40,000. The eggs are brought back to our hatchery to be fertilized and placed into our hatching trays.

Over the next couple days the dead eggs are removed and daily treatments are started to keep the remaining eggs healthy. Eggs will start to hatch around the end of may or start of June.

Thank you to our egg collection crew this year. Murray Garniss, Randy Lipskie, Ray Marklevitz, Tom McKee, Scott Seibert and Gord Smith. Thank you Kat McCulloch for making the trip down to take pictures of the whole process. Also Thank you to the Lake Huron Fishing Club and the Ontario Steelheaders. Their Hard work at Denny's Dam makes this process possible for us.

*by Al Sutter*









# BPSA Doing our part for Conservation



As part of the Conservation initiative Bruce Peninsula Sportsmen's Association started a Wild Life Apple Tree Project three years ago where we have offered members the opportunity to purchase fruit trees. These trees benefit all wildlife from bears to birds and on occasion the human as well.

This year alone we sold 158 to members and also planted four on the BPSA property with the help of the Wiarton "Spark's" pack. Thanks to all who helped get the trees picked up and prepare for selling. This has been a very successful project and with the support of the membership we hope to continue.

*Co-chairs Jane and Ray*

