



www.sturgeonfortomorrow.org

Sturgeon General

Dedicated to the Future of Our Sturgeon

Winter 2009

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1999—2009 Celebrating 10 Years of Success!

This year, SFT is celebrating 10 years of bringing together stakeholders who invest in lake sturgeon recovery efforts. Incorporated in 1999 by a group of committed individuals, SFT gives Michiganians a wonderful opportunity to contribute to an honorable cause that helps paint a bright future for the threatened lake sturgeon.

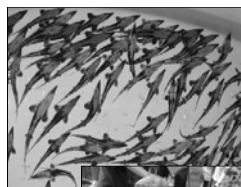


"Our 10-year anniversary means a lot to us for many reasons. For starters, being in business for 10 years says something in and of itself, but to provide enough challenges and opportunity for growth for members and stakeholders... says quite a bit about SFT",

said SFT president Brenda Archambo. Our members, funders, volunteers and coalition partners are the lifeblood of our success. Thank you for making this organization one of the best grassroots organizations in the country."

Here are some of our milestones...

- ◆ Sturgeon Advisory Council (SAC)
- ◆ Sturgeon Guarding Program (SGP)
 - Average 350 annual volunteers
 - 35,000 volunteer hours
- ◆ Streamside Rearing/Hatchery
 - Reared/released 27,000 fingerlings
- ◆ Habitat Conservation
- ◆ Integrated Research
 - Tagged 686 individual adults
 - NEW Mullett/Burt Assessments
- ◆ Tours/Field Trips
- ◆ Annual Banquet
- ◆ Annual Golf Scramble



Other Programs/Committees

- ◆ Finance/Fundraising
 - Raised over \$180,000 for programming
- ◆ Legislative - Judicial Committee
- ◆ Membership – Membership Meetings
- ◆ Public Relations & Education Committee

AWARDS

SFT is the humble recipient's of the following prestigious awards

Everyday Hero Award

American Red Cross

Special Conservation Award

Michigan United Conservation Clubs

Innovative Spirit Volunteer Service Award

Michigan Community Service Commission

"In celebrating 10 years of stewardship, we continue to be committed to providing our members, donors and collaborative partners with the best leadership, quality solutions and sustainable programming," said Archambo.

In service to our members and stakeholders and to stay connected with the many opportunities and activities, please visit www.sturgeonfortomorrow.org often. Here you will have 24/7/365 convenient access to information and dialog with organization leadership. Your input is important, encouraged and valued.

We are recruiting leaders who want to build on our past successes and who have the passion to implement programs necessary to save the sturgeon.

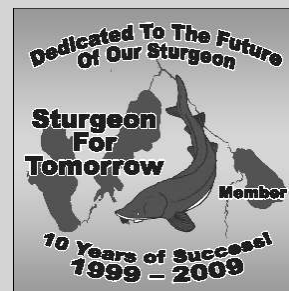
WITH YOUR HELP

WE WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE TOGETHER !

JANUARY IS MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL MONTH Celebrating 10 YEARS of success!

Your memberships and contributions support our conservation, research, hatchery, habitat and outreach programs. Please renew your membership today. Renewal envelope enclosed.

For your convenience you can renew your membership on-line at www.sturgeonfortomorrow.org. This is a secure on-line system with





From our President...

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Brenda Archambo
(231) 625-2776

Vice President

Bob Bonner
(989) 733-8781

Secretary

Kathy Bezotte
(989) 785-4231

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(231) 625-2776

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(231) 625-8148

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~

1604 N. Black River Rd
Cheboygan, MI 49721

sturgeonfortomorrow.org

COMMITTEES

Fund Development

Habitat

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Public Relations/ Education

Research/Hatchery

Sturgeon Advisory Council

Sturgeon Guarding Program

Greetings and Happy New Year!

Conservation is a way of life for millions of Americans who care about the natural heritage we're leaving behind for our children and grandchildren. The decisions we make today will affect them long after we're gone. We owe it to them to do everything we can to find better solutions that prevent or remove the threatened status of Michigan's lake sturgeon.

As we celebrate our 10 years of success, I say simply but sincerely – THANK YOU!

I want to share with you words spoken by Teddy Roosevelt at the Sorbonne in 1910 – they

encompass our movement:

"It is not the critic who counts, not the man who points out how the strong man stumbled, or where the doer of deeds could have done better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena; whose face is marred by the dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs and comes short again and again; who knows the great enthusiasms, the great devotions and spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best, knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who, at worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly; so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who know

neither victory or defeat."

As we venture forward with a new president and a new congress, remember our democracy is best reached when we speak up, vote and work for the greater good of our people, our wildlife, our economy and our outdoor heritage.

It has been an absolute privilege to serve this organization as your president.

The duty of privilege is absolute integrity... you can count on it!

Brenda



2008 Sturgeon Spawning Season Summary

By Christin Davis, Michigan State University

We had another successful field season netting and tagging lake sturgeon spawning in the Upper Black River. MSU researchers and volunteers tagged 226 adults this year, the second largest total in the past seven years. Of these 226 fish, 72 individuals (50 males and 22 females) were not previously captured in the river. However, several of these new individuals have been previously tagged by Department of Natural Resources biologists during summer lake surveys. Greater than half of the new males were small and had never been tagged. Few females were observed spawning (38) with almost 5 males present for each female.

A new record was set for the longest fish tagged to date at 6 feet 7 inches. Spawning began later

than previously observed. The first fish arriving on the 24th of April and a small group spawned at the end of April. However, a combination of high water levels and cool river temperatures resulted in the fish moving off the spawning grounds for a week or so. Once the water warmed again the fish spawned in large numbers. The last fish was tagged on June 5th. Almost half of the fish tagged were captured in the final two weeks, representing one of the largest spawning groups observed at the site.

Overall the field season was very successful despite the fact that plans were developed later than usual and fewer personnel participated. Without significant contributions from individuals from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, the Little Traverse Bay Band of Odawa Indians and all the volunteers, capture numbers would have been substantially lower.

Many thanks go out to all those who contributed in making this a successful and memorable year. Special thanks to those who participated in the Sturgeon for Tomorrow guarding program, we had a wonderful time with all of you on the banks of the Upper Black.



We have a New Logo and 10 Year Member Patch



SFT secretary Kathy Bezotte designed our new logo representing Black Lake, Burt Lake and Mullett lake.

And...

To acknowledge SFT members who sustain their membership for 10 years, you will receive this 10 year member patch with your 10th year renewal.

THANK YOU KATHY!





Board Member Leadership Recruitment

We are currently recruiting members who are able to meet 10 times/year (or as needed) to develop the best strategies and tactics to implement goals and objectives defined through strategic planning. Please consider this opportunity to utilize your strengths and help us vision for the future. We need your help in planning SFT programming in an effort to maximize resources and collaboratively move SFT toward a sustainable future. If you would like to review our Board Member Orientation Packet, or need more details, please contact any board member.

Area High School Graduates Presented SFT Scholarship

The SFT Fisheries, Wildlife or Natural Resources Scholarships were established to promote the mission of Sturgeon For Tomorrow, "to assist fisheries managers in the rehabilitation of lake sturgeon". Scholarships were designed to provide tangible encouragement and public recognition for academic achievement or community service to a student with a course of study in the field of Fisheries, Wildlife or Natural Resources conservation. The goal of these scholarships is to further the objectives of SFT by rewarding and promoting the education and development of future fisheries professionals.

In the Spring of 2008, SFT presented two, \$500.00 scholarships to area High School Graduates.



Blake Beebe and Charles Vickers from Inland Lakes High School were the successful recipients.



Congratulations and best of luck graduates!

2009 Black Lake Sturgeon Season—Details on SFT Website

The Black Lake Sturgeon Spearing Season opens February 7, 2009 and runs through February 15, 2009 or until the total harvest of five fish has been reached, whichever comes first.

Applicants for tags will be registered during business hours January 12-16, 2009. This pool of applicants will be used for the entire Black Lake sturgeon spearing season. The drawing for successful applicants will be held at Chateau North beginning at 7:00 pm on Saturday, January 17, 2009. Twenty-five tags will be issued on a daily basis to successful applicants, until maximum harvest level is reached.

Persons registering for the lottery drawing may call the Department of Natural Resources Gaylord Operations Center at 989-732-3541. All applicants 17 years of age and older must hold a valid Michigan fishing license.

2009 STURGEON SEASON INFO

January 12—16, 2009

Registration -Call: 989-732-3541

January 17

Lottery Drawing: Chateau North-7pm

February 7—15, 2009

Sturgeon Spearing Season

Registration Station

M-211 Onaway DNR Field Station

New Spearing Regulations

Nov 7: Department of Natural Resources Director Rebecca Humphries signed fisheries orders that extend the spearing season through the ice for pike and muskellunge in certain waters, extend the whitefish spearing season on the Great Lakes and connecting waters, allow all anglers to use three rods, and establish a two-gallon limit on smelt.

The spearing season for pike and muskie will now run from Dec. 1-March 15, instead of just January and February and the whitefish spearing season will now be open year-round.

The spearing regulations take immediate effect.

The Michigan Darkhouse Angling Association successfully advocated for the spearing regulation changes.
www.midarkhouse.org

Another new fishing regulation, which takes effect April 1, 2009, allows anglers to use three rods on all waters and in pursuit of all species, and a two-gallon limit on smelt.



Sturgeon For Tomorrow, Inc.
1604 N. Black River Road
Cheboygan, MI 49721

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New Logo



Dedicated to the Future of Our Sturgeon

2009 MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Board of Director's Meeting's are held every 3rd Thursday of the month (except December & January) beginning at 7:00 p.m. at the Black Lake Sportsman's Club.

All members and not-yet members are encouraged and welcome to attend.

- Jan Annual Membership Renewals
Register For Spearing Season Lottery
SFT Strategic Planning Session
- Feb Black Lake Sturgeon Season
Sturgeon Advisory Council
- Mar Sturgeon Guarding Program Coordination Meeting
- Apr Sturgeon Guarding Program Sign Up
- May Sturgeon Guarding Program
Tours and Field Trips
Netting-Tagging, Hatchery Rearing
- Jun Annual Membership Meeting
2nd Annual Golf Scramble
- Jul Celebrate our Independence—Happy 4th of July
- Aug Order Banquet Tickets, assist with organizing banquet
Hatchery Tours
- Sept 19: 11th Annual Banquet
Fingerling Reintroductions
- Oct-Nov-Dec: TBA



Log onto www.sturgeonfortomorrow.org for current activities and events



10th Annual Sturgeon For Tomorrow Banquet

The continuing success of **Sturgeon For Tomorrow** demonstrates that you,
Northern Michigan, care deeply about Michigan's lake sturgeon.

Please join us in thanking our sponsors, big spenders, artisan gallery donors,
contributors, and guests who have given generously to support our 10th Annual Banquet.

Our success is most certainly, your success. THANK YOU!

\$10,000 PROFIT

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW

***** 11th Annual SFT Banquet is Saturday, September 19, 2009. *****

SPONSORS

Rick Ackerberg/Kathy Bezotte
Archambo Electric, Inc.
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David Fuhrman/Mary Vincent
Jim Gahn Construction
Bob/Beth Garner
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Hammond Bay Area Anglers Assn
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Charlie/Trish Moyer
Jerry/Wendy Neff
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Tower-Kleber Limited Partnership
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Carla Skuse
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Joe Verduce

GUIDED MONTANA ELK HUNT

Donated in honor of James McCall

Colter Creek Outfitters

ARTISAN GALLERY

Brenda Archambo
John/Barb Archambo
Kathy Bezotte
Dr. Mary Ann Heidemann
Indian River Wood Shop
Arden McNeil

Jerry Neff
Dan Pavwoski
Tom Richards
Rusty Veihl
Jerry Wolinski
Todd Zeller



The Artisan and Print Gallery was spectacular! Many exclusive, one of a kind hand-made items were donated and auctioned. A photo catalog is available for viewing on www.sturgeonfortomorrow.org

Thank you artisans!



BANQUET CONTRIBUTORS

Rick Ackenberg/Kathy Bezotte	Managers of Dollar General	Modern Pharmacy
Senator Jason Allen	Drost's Chocolates	Mullett Lake Country Club
Gil/Brenda Archambo	Ehmann's Quick Lube	National City Bank
The Ark Bookstore	Ellenberger Lumber	Nails 2000
Ashley & Allison's Summer House	Bob/Beth Garner	New Creation Hair Design
Betsie Bay Marina	Glen's-Cheboygan	North Star Gardens
The Bow Hole-Pat & Gary's	Great Lakes Grille	Onaway Custom Embroidery
Big Bear Adventures	Great Northern Drug	Parrott's Outpost
Billie's Fashions	Great Turtle Toys	Peebles
Black Lake Sportsman's Club	Hair Design	Radio Shack
Black River Marina	Dewey Hebert	Schell Auto
Bob/Mary Bonner	Huron Distributors	Shanty Boy Gifts & Framing
Paul Breed	Indian River Golf Club	Stoney Links Golf Course
Brown Trout Restaurant	Johnson's Studio	Subway—Onaway
Brewbaker's of Onaway	Keith's Hunting & Fishing	The Summer Store
Car Quest - Onaway	Ken's Village Market	UAW Black Lake Golf Club
Chapters	Linde Furniture	UAW Family Education Center
Keith Charters	Logmark Bookstore	Viau's Clothing
Cheboygan Lumber Company	Lorenzo's Lounge	Doug/Elle Wilson
Cheboygan Used Books	Marshall's Fudge	Wilson's River Edge Restaurant
Chillermania!	Deb McCall	Janet Woiderski
Bill/Dona Crist	Kathy McCall	Jason/Stacy Woiderski
Curves-Cheboygan	Merles Lock & Trophy Shop	Jay/Mary Kay Woiderski
Cutting Edge Salon	Captain Kris Mills/Margery Mills	Wood Winds—Onaway
Dairy Queen-Cheboygan	Mackinaw Clothing	And anyone else regrettably omitted.

2008 Financial Contributors

When you give a gift Sturgeon For Tomorrow you are investing in conservation, beauty, history and sustainability of lake sturgeon programming. And your gift is tax deductible. Thank you, we appreciate your contributions!

Milus Allison	Darst and Peg Grund	Nicholas Posak
Chris Baker	James Hanchett, DDS	Joseph T. Rentz
Ross and Paula Bates / Chateau North	Mike and Karen Hannon	James Ribby
Phil Bellrose	Mary Ann Heidemann	Tom Rozich
Black River Marina	Fayne M. and Deborah Hodgman	Ralph T. Rucinski, DDS
Jake and Diana Bishop	Dan and Yvette Hudok	James Ruff
Phillip and Kendra Blum	Fred Hynick	Gail Scharffe, Jr.
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Keith J. Charters	Randy and Sue Lee	Bill Sturgeon
Gene/Jo Cooley	Kevin Lee	Bill Theisen
Todd and Diane Crawford	James Lenfestey	Michael Thomas
John and Pam Ebner	Alex Mackay	Dawn Thomas
Gordon Edmondson	Ronald J. Maka	William Thompson
Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op	George and Louise McNelly	Dan L. Thoms, Sr.
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Gray and Carol Fischer	Walter North	John Tomlinson
John and Linda Fonger	Nind Ubim Study Group	Barbara Tyger
Dennis Ganske	Dan O'Keefe	Terry M. Watts
Wallace and Elaine Gemignani	Floyd Ostrom	Frank Wheatlake
Robert C. Gielegem	Jeff Patt	Dan Whitford
Richard Goodall	Richard Plamondon	Kevin Winkle
John and Sue Goga	Charlotte/Howard Poole	Carl and Dorothy Woosley
Bruce Grant	William Posak	



Groundbreaking for Streamside Rearing Facility



A groundbreaking ceremony to begin construction of the streamside rearing facility was held July 2, 2008 at Kleber Dam, which is operated by Tower Kleber Limited Partnership. The dam is located at the Twin School Road crossing of the Black River, approximately

three miles northeast of Tower, in Cheboygan County.

"We're ecstatic about this new rearing facility," said Brenda Archambo, SFT president. "It will allow us to continue our efforts to restore the sturgeon population, as well as offer a great opportunity for public outreach and education."

Researchers from Michigan State University, DNR, and volunteers studying sturgeons' reproductive ecology, early life history, recruitment and past stream-side rearing have aided the process by which this facility has developed.

"When this facility begins operations next spring, it will enable the DNR and our partners to continue the rehabilitation and research efforts for the Black Lake sturgeon population," said DNR Fisheries Biologist Dave Borgeson. "With the high level of commitment we're seeing from all the partners, we believe the future will be much brighter for Black Lake sturgeon."

Successful operation of an experimental temporary streamside rearing station led to the establishment of this permanent facility, which has resulted in more than 27,000 juvenile lake sturgeon being stocked into the Cheboygan River watershed.



Time Capsule

We are planning a ribbon cutting ceremony in the spring of 2009 at which time we will put a time capsule in the hatchery. We will plan an event in 20 years to reveal it's contents.

If you would like to contribute a small artifact or picture to the capsule, please contact any board member. The contents of the capsule are only limited by your imagination!

A time capsule is a historic collection of goods and/or information, usually intended as a method of communication with people in the future. The time capsule is a fantastic opportunity for all generations to contribute and share memories and leave a legacy for future generations.

SFT Golf Scramble FUNdraiser—Great Weather, Great Fun

The inaugural Sturgeon For Tomorrow Golf Scramble FUNdraiser, held on Saturday, June 7, was a wonderful success for the lake sturgeon in Northern Michigan.

The 4-person scramble was held at the award winning Mullett Lake Golf Club with 56 golfers in attendance. The scramble net proceeds raised over \$1,500 to assist with lake sturgeon recovery programming.

The team winning first place was The Twin Laker's.

- ◆ Team members included Bill Thompson, Karl Kalis, Dave Hinkel and Darrin Madeley.
- ◆ The team coming in at Second place was The Hebert's: Joe Hebert, Ed Hebert, Dewey Hebert, and Kenny Hebert.
- ◆ Coming in third place was the Go-Nads consisting of: Phil Bellrose, Jerry Allen, Bill Conway, and Fred Stempky.

Prizes were also awarded to Great Lakes Taxidermy for coming in last place. The winner of the Men's Longest Drive on hole #4 went to Jim McGee.

Women's Longest Drive winner on hole #2 went to Janel Newman.

Men's Closest to the Pin on hole #8 was Ed Hebert, and Women's Closest to the Pin on hole #5 was Bev Rathbun.

There was unanimous support by all attending that we should continue to host this event annually.

Sturgeon For Tomorrow would like to thank those who supported the Golf Scramble by playing on a team and the area businesses for their generous support of sponsorships door prizes and silent action items. We would also like to commend event co-chairs Ellie Wilson and Jason Woiderski for coordinating this event.



2009 SFT Golf Scramble FUNdraiser
June 20, 2009
Mullett Lake Golf Club



Protecting Sturgeon Spawning Habitat

The erosion sites (sites B and C) on the Upper Black River affecting the sturgeon spawning habitat received TLC this spring. With the guidance of Patrick Ertel, Huron Pines, terracing was put on the slope and split rail fencing at the top of hill. This was done to control erosion from storm water run off as well as foot traffic.

We wish to thank the 60 volunteers including boy scouts and 4-H who worked diligently to stabilize the stream banks to prevent further erosion and sedimentation.



Mullett-Burt Assessments

Starting in 2009 and continuing through 2015, the Michigan DNR and Michigan State University with assistance of Sturgeon For Tomorrow will be conducting lake sturgeon assessments on Mullett and Burt Lake. Assessments will include:

- ◆ Survey habitat in Pigeon, Sturgeon, and lower Black rivers to identify likely spawning habitat.
- ◆ Sample lake sturgeon in Burt and Mullett lakes using large mesh gill nets.
- ◆ Sample spawning lake sturgeon in Pigeon, Sturgeon, Indian, and Black Rivers.
- ◆ Document evidence for natural recruitment in tributaries of Burt and Mullett Lakes.
- ◆ Genetically monitor recruitment from hatchery and wild adults.

Stay tuned for more details.

Sturgeon For Tomorrow accepts contributions as well as memorials, honorariums and special tributes. A special thank you to the following donors for their generous gifts. THANK YOU!

**In Memory of
CLIFFORD SHEPHARD**

Sondra Shephard

**In Memory of
ROSEMARY GOODENOW**

**Sunrise
Communications**

**In Memory of
JOSEPH M.GOODENOW**

**Sunrise
Communications**

**In Memory of
ROBERT HETTERSCHIEDT**

**Mr. and Mrs.
Robert Schell**

Sturgeon Guarding Program Welcomes New Coordinators & Returning Ambassadors

Mark and Ann Wilson Feldhauser retired September 1, 2008, following a combined 55 years of service to the State of Michigan's natural resources.

Mark worked with the Department of Environmental Quality, primarily in the Land and Water Management Program, which oversees wetlands and watershed protection.

Ann retired from the Department of Natural Resources after a career as a communications specialist, working with the Press Secretary and the Office of Communications. Both have worked closely in the area of science, policy development and public involvement.

Together, they can offer the Sturgeon for Tomorrow Program a wealth of oversight experience, a deep and dedicated love for Michigan's natural resources, and imbedded communications and organizational skills. They are excited to become involved in the effort to restore and protect the immensely valuable sturgeon species and have always admired the long-standing program that exists to accomplish that mission.

Mark and Ann married September 1, 2007 at their home in Skandia, 15 miles south of Marquette, and are dedicated to anything that is an element of the outdoors.

Needing no introduction, **Dick and Sylvia Sanford** of Cheboygan will again be taking up camp on the river. The Sanford's have volunteered well over 2,000 hours as Sturgeon Guards and have acted as base camp "Sturgeon Ambassadors" for several years.

Mark and Ann will be scheduling volunteers. They will also be at base camp (site B) as our "Sturgeon Ambassadors for the first half of the Sturgeon Guarding Program (SGP). Dick and Sylvia will be at base camp as our "Sturgeon Ambassadors for the second half of the SGP.

The 2009 SGP is tentatively scheduled to start April 26 and run through May 30. You may register on-line at www.sturgeonfortomorrow.org—click on guarding program.

We SALUTE Mark and Ann and Dick and Sylvia for their leadership and volunteer stewardship! Please be sure to stop by base camp and say hello.

"With every deed you are sowing a seed, though the harvest you may not see."
-- Ella Wheeler Wilcox