

Volume

14

Issue

1

Sturgeon General



Black Lake Sturgeon Shivaree 1963



Winter 2013 issue

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Black Lake Sturgeon Shivaree Feb 1-2, 2013

SPONSORS AND VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Back by popular demand, the Black Lake Sturgeon Shivaree will take place Friday, February 1st and Saturday, February 2nd, 2013.

The Shivaree will be in the entertainment tent on Black Lake in front of the former Black Lake Hotel and will coincide with Black Lake Sturgeon Season which opens this first Saturday of February annually.

WE NEED YOUR HELP! Please contact Brenda at 231-625-2776 if you can help sponsor the Shivaree and to volunteer.

www.sturgeonfortomorrow/shivaree

EVENTS

- Native American Sturgeon Drum Ceremony by candle light
- Bands Friday and Saturday: 8pm – 12am
- Saturday afternoon music: Mike Ridley and Evan Archambo
- Entertainment Tent—Bar: Mechanical Bull
- North Star Figure Skating Club: Laser Light Skating Exhibition
- Raffles, Kids Games, Natureology with Maureen Stine
- Fishing Contest: Sturgeon, Muskie, Pike, Walleye and Perch
- Poker Run (Cheboygan, Indian River and Onaway)
- *Events subject to change*

Black Lake Sturgeon Season 2013

The 2013 lake sturgeon season on Black Lake will begin Saturday, Feb. 2. All anglers must register to participate. Anglers need to only register once for the entire season. An early registration will be held at the DNR Onaway Field Station from 2 to 8 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 1. This station is located approximately five miles north of Onaway on Route 211. Anglers can pick up their identification flags at this time. Anglers unable to participate in the Friday registration may register at either the entrance booth to Onaway State Park or at a registration trailer at Zollner Road. Morning registration begins at 7 a.m. each day of the season. The 2013 total harvest limit for the state of Michigan is six sturgeon. However, to reduce the chance of exceeding the harvest limit, officials will close the season if one of two scenarios occurs: 1) Once the sixth fish is harvested, or 2) If five fish have been harvested at the end of any fishing day. Anglers 17 years of age or older must possess a valid all-species fishing license. In addition, all anglers must possess a lake sturgeon tag, available

for free from all license vendors. Anglers must have both of these prior to registering for the Black Lake sturgeon season. Fishing hours are 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. each day of the season. The season will either end at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 6, or when one of the above scenarios is met, at which point anglers will be notified that they must immediately stop fishing for lake sturgeon. Anglers will be issued a disposable flag at registration that must be displayed at the entrance of the angler's shanty each day. Anglers that harvest a lake sturgeon must tag the fish immediately and contact an on-ice DNR employee and register the fish at the Zollner Road registration site. Registration may include an examination of internal organs and removal of a piece of fin tissue for DNA analysis and aging. **Rehabilitation of lake sturgeon in the Cheboygan River watershed is a cooperative effort involving the DNR, the Black Lake Chapter of Sturgeon for Tomorrow, Michigan State University and Tower-Kleber Limited Partnership.**

For details call 989-732-3541 or visit www.michigan.gov/fishing

From the President

Lake sturgeon are the only sturgeon species endemic to the Great Lakes basin and are the largest freshwater fish indigenous to the system. Sturgeon are indeed a living fossil and a relic of the past. And, as the elder statesman of Michigan's fish species, they deserve priority conservation measures and our utmost respect.

Sturgeon For Tomorrow (SFT) members, contributors, volunteers and our partners have made great strides toward lake sturgeon recovery since we incorporated as a 501c3 non-profit organization in 1999. As we celebrate our success of the past, we must also work strategically and take our organization to the next level.

In the fall of 2012 SFT applied for and received a grant from the River Network. The grant consists of 40-80 hours of free individualized capacity-building assistance and consultation. We have been consulting with experts at Freshwater Future.

The purpose of River Network's Impact: Building Results-Based Organizations is an intensive, 18-month program designed to

help organizations increase their on-the-ground impact through the development and implementation of performance management systems and other organizational best practices. Performance management refers to the systems and processes that an organization uses to measure its progress and improve its performance toward reaching its desired outcomes.

While the primary focus of this program is to assist organizations to design and implement Performance Management systems, training or consulting also targets other organizational best practices such as leadership development, fundraising planning, fiscal management, etc.

To put it simply, *how well are we doing? How do we know if our work is making a difference? How can you improve?* SFT is benefiting from developing a shared understanding among the Board and volunteers about the changes we are trying to create, developing a clearer picture of how our programs help achieve these goals, and collecting information that informs and guides our work.

The Impact: Building Results-Based Organi-

zations program is supported by the Corporation for National & Community Service, the C.S. Mott Foundation, the Keith Campbell Foundation, the Park Foundation, the Agua Fund and the Rauch Foundation.

Photo Caption: *In April of 2012 I was honored to be asked to testify before the US Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works on mercury pollutions impacts to public health and the environment. I strongly urged Congress to support EPA's mercury and air toxics standard insuring our outdoor legacy for future generations and to help ensure that the legacy we leave our children is a clean and healthy planet.*

Please join us in our concerted efforts to restore the iconic lake sturgeon.

With gratitude,
Brenda Archambo



2012 Field Season Summary

**Nathan T. Barton, Research Technologist,
Michigan State University**

The 2012 Black Lake research season began in mid-April when Michigan State University (MSU) and Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) researchers spotted a four foot lake sturgeon ascending the Upper Black River upstream of the Sturgeon for Tomorrow Site C guarding area. Although individuals were spotted in the river during the mid and later periods of April, and gametes were collected from a small group of fish in mid-April, the majority of spawning did not commence until early May due to a marked decrease in river temperature. Due to this prolonged beginning of the spawning season and a similar decline in temperatures causing a delayed end of the sampling season, 2012 proved to be one of the longest adult surveys conducted on the upper Black River.

A total of 248 lake sturgeon were captured throughout the spawning season which ran from early May to early June. Gametes were collected from spawning lake sturgeon (10 female, 24 male) and were transported to the Streamside rearing facility for fertilization and rearing.

Researchers also captured wild larval lake sturgeon as they dispersed downstream. Previous research has found that these wild larvae represent the best stock source genetically, so these larvae are captured and brought back to the Streamside Rearing Facility in an effort to enhance survival of this unique stock source.

This year, larval sampling began on May 9th and ran until June 23rd. Throughout the spawning and larval drift period the river water



Left to right: Heather Posluszny, Syndell Parks, John Bauman, Nathan Barton, Jimmy Garavaglia, Annie VanSickle, Jim Holser, Kari Dammerman, and Katy Jay. Not pictured: Phil Ganz.

levels regularly fluctuated, but provided ample opportunity to sample drifting larvae. Researchers **captured nearly 11,000 dispersing larvae** during evening larval drift surveys.

During early August, MSU, MDNR, and tribal researchers conducted assessments in the Black River in an attempt to monitor natural recruitment of young-of-the-year lake sturgeon. This year, four young-of-the-year lake sturgeon were captured during these assessments, compared to zero that were captured last year.

This year between August 31st and September 8th, a total of **3,261 juveniles were marked and released into the Black River**. Additionally, **1,663 individuals were marked and released into both Burt and Mullett Lakes** on September 7th.

We would like to thank all of you for your assistance on the river and your support during the off-season.

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Sturgeon For Tomorrow
Black Lake Chapter
1604 N. Black River Road
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231-625-2776



www.sturgeonfortomorrow.org



May 17, 2012
Michigan Department of Natural Resources,
Natural Resources Commission
visits sturgeon spawning sites and hatchery

Photo left to right: John Matonich, Rex E. Schlaybaugh, Jr., Annoesjka Steinman, Timothy L. Nichols (Chair), John M. Madigan, J. R. Richardson, and Franklin C. Wheatlake. As of Dec 2012, J. R. Richardson is the new Chairman.

Sturgeon For Tomorrow presents the Black Lake Sturgeon Shivaree February 1-2, 2013

www.sturgeonfortomorrow.org/shivaree * 231-625-2776

Activities for this event will be on Black Lake in front of the former Black Lake Hotel. In the event of poor ice conditions, events will be at the Black Lake UAW Education Center.



Friday, Feb 1

Starting at 12pm
Register for Events
Register for Sturgeon Fishing Gathering Place - Bar Open
6pm: Native American Drum: Sturgeon Ceremony by candle light
8pm-12am Band entertainment

Saturday, Feb 2: Joe Brewbaker, Emcee

8am-2pm: Sturgeon Spearing Season Opener
Food, Bar, TV-Video
8am-5pm: Fishing Contest: Sturgeon, Muskie, Pike, Walleye and Perch
12pm-5pm: Poker Run (Onaway, Cheboygan, Indian River)
12pm-5pm: Kids Games, Natureology
12pm-5pm: Mechanical Bull (?)
12pm-6pm: Mike Ridley and Evan Archambo
6pm-7pm: Announce Event Winners SFT Raffle
7pm-8pm: North Star Figure
8pm-12am : The Blitz

***** Calendar of Events *****
Subject to change

**Sponsors
Needed**



Proceeds to fund lake sturgeon hatchery, research, habitat conservation, and outreach programs.

January in Membership Renewal Month



Please join us in our efforts to secure a brighter future for the majestic lake Sturgeon.

Your membership and contribution is VITAL to implement the many important programs provided through SFT.

Meaningful work is ongoing through the Sturgeon Guarding Program, Guided Tours, Outreach and Education, Collaborative Research and Hatchery Operations, Habitat Improvements and monitoring, Advocacy as well as supporting the development of a NEW Interpretive-Stewardship Program.

A membership/contribution envelope is enclosed.

Or

**JOIN OR RENEW
ON-LINE**

www.sturgeonfortomorrow.org/membership-registration.php



Dedicated to the future of our sturgeon



Additional Lake Sturgeon Research

Environmental variation influences adult spawning behavior and larval development

Kari Dammerman, Ph.D Candidate

Department of Zoology and Ecology, Evolutionary Biology & Behavior, Michigan State University



During my second field season, I was continuing several research projects that are essential components of my dissertation research. I'm very interested in how environmental variation influences adult spawning

behavior and larval development.

For the adult component of my research, I'm really interested in female mating behavior particularly their decisions on the timing and locating of spawning and how these decisions influence the phenotypic traits of their larvae during early life-history stages. In order to do this, the crew has been individually-marking all adults and tracking the movement of individuals throughout the stream during the entire season. We've found that females are behavioral plastic in their mating decisions; however, we need to continue our marking strategy next year to determine what factors are contributing to this observed plasticity. For the larval development component of my research, I'm really interested in how the microhabitat variation within the stream as well as dam-mediated environmental conditions influence larval phenotypic traits during early life stages.

During the 2012 season, I quantified the variation within rearing habitats and measured individual larvae for several weeks post-hatch to determine how rearing habitats affect traits not only at hatch, but at subsequent stages. I also manipulated thermal regimes to mimic a dam-mediated setting and am currently analyzing this data to determine how individuals from different families vary phenotypically in response to their rearing environments. As a whole, these research projects could not have been successful without the help and dedication of such an enthusiastic crew and volunteers. I'm grateful for the support I've received from my advisor (Dr. Kim Scribner at Michigan State University), Nathan, John, all of our technicians (Annie, Jimmy, Heather, Syndell, and Phil), and for the daily support from Sturgeon For Tomorrow volunteers at the river.

Alternative Brine Shrimp Harvest Techniques

James Garavaglia One of the problems with the rearing of



sturgeon in a hatchery setting is determining a suitable diet that is easy to produce and the fish readily accept. Historically, brine shrimp have been hatched and used as food until the sturgeon become large

enough to eat bloodworms. The hatching process is quite complex, and requires special equipment and several man hours per day. This year we looked at some possible alternatives to traditional brine shrimp harvest, in the hopes of saving time, money, and providing a food source that is healthier for the sturgeon. An experiment was conducted comparing the growth rates of fish that were fed traditionally harvested brine shrimp, a professionally decapsulated brine shrimp, or brine shrimp that had been decapsulated at our facility via a bleaching process. Decapsulation is a process in which the outer layer, called the chorion, is dissolved off of the brine shrimp cyst. This benefits the sturgeon because the chorion is indigestible to them, and can impact in their stomachs, causing starvation and death if accidentally ingested. The professionally decapsulated brine is decapsulated using a chemical process that also heats the brine shrimp up, causing them to die. The brine shrimp eggs therefore require no hatching, and are simply rehydrated in a bowl of water and fed out as cysts. This method saves time and the cost of hatching equipment. Non-hatched brine shrimp are also theoretically more nutritionally beneficial because they retain the calories that the shrimp would normally use as an energy source for hatching. The price of the professionally decapsulated brine is a quarter the cost of the brine that was currently being bought to hatch out, so a significant amount of money could be saved if this food is shown to be a viable substitute. The brine that was decapsulated by technicians at the hatchery went through a process using bleach to decapsulated the cysts, and were viable and hatched out before feeding. We hope to use the information from this experiment to guide further experiments and possibly change the feeding protocol for the hatchery so that we may better use our funds and maximize the number of sturgeon we are able to raise.

Photo Gallery



Guided Sturgeon Viewing Tours



Sturgeon Guarding Program
Michigan Volunteer Defense Force



Sturgeon Release
Upper Black River



Media Visit
Jenny Olsen, Michigan Out of Doors TV
Curtis Goldsborough
Sunrise Communications

Sturgeon Video Documentary

Sturgeon For Tomorrow, Onaway High School Environmental Science Class and Michigan Sea Grant are collaborating to publish our own **Black Lake Sturgeon video documentary**.

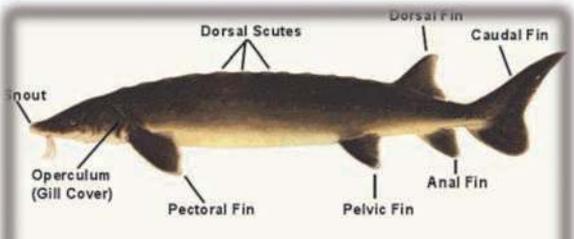
Students from the Onaway High School Environmental Science class will be interviewing sturgeon anglers, decoy carvers, spear makers, Tribes, researchers, managers and others. If you have a story to tell, we need to hear from you!

Onaway, the Sturgeon Capitol of Michigan will be featured throughout the documentary, yet the majestic lake sturgeon and the people of the sturgeon will be featured throughout. Including how the iconic lake sturgeon has become deeply entrenched in our culture. The film will also highlight what is being done to create a sustainable future for the sturgeon and stewardship programming.

Contact Brenda Archambo at 231-625-2776.

This project is funded by the Great Lakes Stewardship initiative (GLSI).

Follow Us on
FaceBook



Making
MEMORIES
that last.



Sturgeon Release
Mullett Lake



Outdoor Show booth

Exhibit

Dedicated to the future of our sturgeon

SFT Scholarships

ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS
NOW

March 31 Deadline

The SFT Fisheries, Wildlife or Natural Resources Scholarships are designed to provide tangible encouragement and public recognition for academic achievement or community service for students 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.

Download application

[http://
www.sturgeonfortomorrow.org/
scholarships.php](http://www.sturgeonfortomorrow.org/scholarships.php)

SFT also sponsors a youth leader at the MUCC Youth Camp.



MUCC's Youth Camp introduces kids to the joys of the outdoors each summer. These week-long, overnight camps are designed to give kids an outdoors experience that will propel them into a lifetime of outdoors and conservation principles.

Download Application

[http://
www.sturgeonfortomorrow.org/
pdf/sturgeon-for-tomorrow-
scholarship.pdf](http://www.sturgeonfortomorrow.org/pdf/sturgeon-for-tomorrow-scholarship.pdf)

Learn more about MUCC's Youth Camp at: [http://
www.muccyouthcamp.org/](http://www.muccyouthcamp.org/)

Thank you FRIENDS!!

Sturgeon For Tomorrow accepts contributions, memorials and honorariums for special occasions, including birthdays, anniversaries, and special tributes.

Please join us in thanking the following donors for their generous gifts. You are helping to make and measurable difference in lake sturgeon recovery.

*Thank
you*

MEMORIALS

In Memory of Ulis Janney
Mary Janney

In Memory of Bob Tomlinson
John Tomlinson

In memory of family Birthdays
Harry L. Karr 06/26/07
Michael A. Nodine 06/28/61
Roger B. Karr 06/30/43
Karen Karr Hershey

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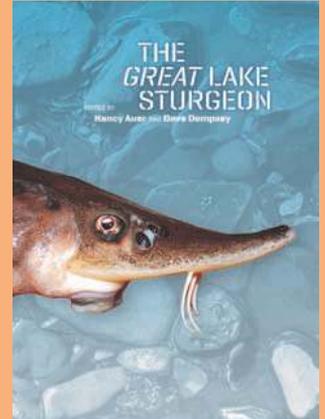
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Coming Soon!

Nancy Auer and Dave Dempsey have a new book, *The Great Lake Sturgeon*, which is to be released by Michigan State University Press (June 2013) and will be available for sale through their website at www.msupress.org and through fine bookstores.



There is a chapter titled, "Sturgeon For Tomorrow" and was written by Brenda Archambo.

The first book of its kind to explore this magnificent creature, this collected volume captures many aspects of the remarkable Great Lakes sturgeon, from the mythical to the critically real. Lake sturgeon are sacred to some, impressive to many, and endangered in the Great Lakes. A fish whose ancestry reaches back millions of years and that can live over a century and grow to six feet or more, the Great Lakes lake sturgeon was once considered useless, then overfished nearly to extinction. Blending history, biology, folklore, environmental science, and policy, this accessible book seeks to reach a broad audience and tell the story of the Great Lakes lake sturgeon in a manner as diverse as its subject.

14th Annual Sturgeon For Tomorrow Banquet on September 8 was a huge success!

Thank you Bob Garner for serving as our emcee!
Thank you Nathan Barton for being our features speaker!
Thank you to all who attended!

15th Annual Banquet, Saturday, September 14, 2013



Please join us in thanking the following Sponsors, Big Spenders and contributors who have given generously to lake sturgeon recovery programs.

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BC Pizza—Indian River
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Beth's Flower's

Betsie Bay Marine—Capt. Kris Mills
Big Bear Adventures
Big Boy—Cheboygan
Billie's Women's Fashion
Black Lake Sportsman's Club
Black Mountain Lodge
Black, White & More
Blaskowski Feed and Seed
The Boathouse
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Bow Hole/Pat & Gary's
Box Fit
Breakers Bar
Brown Trout
Burns and Eustice Insurance
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New Creation Hair Salon
North Star Gardens
Onaway Custom Embroidery
Parrott's Outpost
Pictured Rocks Tours
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Rivertown Spa-Richendollars
Save-A-Lot
Ship Store and More
Sign and Banner Factory
Splash & Dash Car Wash
Stony Links Golf Course
Straits Area Glass
Straits Area Printing
Gary Stranal
Swede's Engraving
Tom's Family Market
Tysen's Gifts
UAW Black Lake Golf Club
UAW Family Education Center
Viau's Clothing
Vivio's
Walgreen's
Walstrom Marine
Wilson's Rivers Edge Restaurant
Jason/Stacy Woiderski
Jay/Mary Kay Woiderski
Woodwinds Restaurant
Zany Kitchen
And anyone else regrettably omitted





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Dedicated to the future of our sturgeon.

Sturgeon General Volume 14 Issue 1 WINTER 2013

Upcoming Events



February

- 1-2: Black Lake Sturgeon Shivaree
- 2-6 Black Lake Sturgeon Season Opens
Sturgeon Advisory Council Meeting

March

- 31 SFT Scholarships application deadline

April

- Register for Sturgeon Guarding Program

May

- Sturgeon Guarding Program—All month
- Guided Sturgeon Viewing Tours
- Research: Netting, tagging and larval sampling
- Hatchery up and running

Aug

- Sturgeon Hatchery Tours Date TBD
- Sturgeon Releases: Date TBD

Sept

- 14: 15th Annual SFT Banquet, Cheboygan



Please visit our partners

stclairsturgeon.org & kzoosturgeon.org

Sturgeon Guarding Program Needs help!

Sturgeon for Tomorrow is seeking volunteers to join in its effort to help protect sturgeon from poaching (May 2013).

"It's a unique and rewarding experience to witness the spectacular sight of these majestic fish, which can live up to 100 years and weigh over 200 pounds, swimming up into the Black River and to take part in safeguarding one of Michigan's most valuable natural resources," said Ann Feldhauser volunteer coordinator.

When spawning begins, sturgeon guards are assigned in shifts to sites along the river. Many shift opportunities are available. Individuals or groups interested in volunteering should contact Ann Feldhauser at 906-201-2484 or register online at www.sturgeonfortomorrow.org/guarding-program.php