



Volume

15

Issue

1

Sturgeon General

Winter 2014 issue



Jan 31 - Feb 1, 2014

2014 Sturgeon Season/Shivaree P.1
 President Letter/2014 Membership P.2
 2013 Sturgeon Research Summary P.3
 Memorials: In Loving Memory P.4
 Thank you for your Contributions! P.5
 Program Activity Briefs P.6
 15th Annual Banquet—Thank you! P.7
 Calendar of Events P.8



The Black Lake Sturgeon Shivaree will take place Friday, January 31 and Saturday, February 1, 2014. 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.

EVENTS

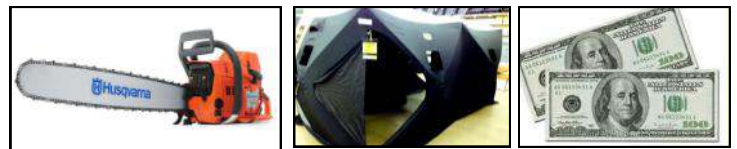
- Black Lake Sturgeon Season
- Entertainment-Beverage Tent Friday and Saturday: 11am – 10pm
- Local musical entertainment Friday and Saturday
- Fishing Contest: Sturgeon, Muskie, Pike, Walleye and Perch
- Poker Run
- Native American Drum Ceremony by candle light
- Kids Games and Activities
- Ice Rescue and Hovercraft Demonstration

Fun—Fun—Fun for the whole family!!!

SHIVAREE RAFFLE

- 1st Prize: Husqvarna 395XP Custom Ice Chain Saw
- 2nd Prize: Portable Insulated FRABILL Headquarters, 12x7x6
- 3rd Prize: \$200

Tickets: \$10 each or 3 for \$20



Raffle Lic#: R24793

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

Black Lake Sturgeon Season 2014

The 2014 lake sturgeon season on Black Lake will begin Saturday, Feb. 1. 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, Jan 31. 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 only at a registration trailer at Zollner Road. Morning registration begins at 7 a.m. each day of the season. The 2014 total harvest limit for the state of Michigan is five sturgeon. 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. 5, or when one of these scenarios is met, 1) Once the fifth fish has been harvested, or 2) Once four fish have been harvested at the end of any fishing day, 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.**

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Dedicated to the future of our sturgeon

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1604 N. Black River Road
Cheboygan, MI 49721
231-625-2776



www.sturgeonfortomorrow.org

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From the President

Thank you for a remarkable **SIXTEEN YEARS** in making SFT one of the best conservation organizations on the planet! It is with sincere pleasure that I have had the awesome opportunity to serve this organization with people of such dedication, passion and commitment!! It is through robust collaborations among and between diverse constituent groups that have sustained the momentum vital to lake sturgeon rehabilitation and recovery. **WE have created a MOVEMENT! Hat's off to the People of the Sturgeon – You Rock!!**

Highlights from 2013

Resurrecting the **Black Lake Sturgeon Shivaree** is a heavy lift!!! But what a true conservation success story! Sportsmen and women rose up to assist in lake sturgeon recovery while at the same time saving their sport. The Shivaree began in 1961 and throughout the years was on and off again. We made the strategic decision to revive this cultural event to celebrate the sturgeon and our wintertime outdoor heritage. The Shivaree has become our signature event and thank all collaborators! We are thrilled and grateful for all sponsors and volunteers! Proceeds will fund recovery programming.

Our loyal friend and mega-sportsman **Bob Garner was inducted into the Michigan Conservation Hall of Fame** in May 2013. Garner was recognized for all of his work in the landscape of conservation. As a legislative aide who was instrumental in the formation of the Natural Resources Trust Fund, longtime host of "Michigan Out of Doors TV," Natural Re-

sources commissioner and a member of the Natural Resources Trust Fund Board, Garner's contributions to conservation are matched only by his positive personality. **Well deserved Bob—SALUTE!!**

In October of 2013 I was honored to be presented with a **Recognition Award from the Michigan Alliance for Environmental and Outdoor Education (MAEOE)**. The award was in recognition for significant contributions to outreach and education in lake sturgeon recovery. **I have dedicated this award to you - the People of the Sturgeon** who made this possible through sustained stewardship, servant leadership and commitment to SFT initiatives.

Hatchery Tours and Sturgeon Stocking – page 6
Sturgeon in the Classroom was launched in eight classrooms in the fall 2013 as a pilot program where students are raising lake sturgeon from Black Lake in their classrooms. Sturgeon in the Classroom is an educational fish tank set up in classrooms to engage students in raising their sturgeon to learn more about stewardship, Great Lakes fisheries and threatened species. Yearlings will be released back into Black Lake in Spring 2014. This pilot program is a partnership with the Michigan DNR and statewide schools.

Make 2014 your best year yet!

I stand ready to work with you all toward continued progress in the years ahead.

With gratitude,
Brenda Archambo



MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Join/Renew Now

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.

WE NEED YOUR EMAIL ADDRESSES

**JOIN OR RENEW
ON-LINE**

www.sturgeonfortomorrow.org/membership-registration.php



Summary of August 2013 Juvenile Lake Sturgeon Survey of Black Lake

From August 12-29 DNR Fisheries Division and collaborators surveyed juvenile lake sturgeon in Black Lake. The purpose of the survey was to evaluate the lake sturgeon stocking that has been underway since 2001 and to determine what level of natural recruitment may be taking place. There were 283 individual lake sturgeon captured during the survey and most of the fish were juveniles. There were 5 recaptures. The smallest fish captured was 22" and the largest fish was 71". Fin ray samples and fin tissue were collected from the fish to allow for age determination and genetic analysis. Data analysis is continuing and a more comprehensive report of the survey results will be available soon.

Great Lakes Stewardship Initiative

On August 7, 2013 SFT president Brenda Archanbo talked about Sturgeon For Tomorrow's programs with twenty teachers from throughout Michigan. It was a beautiful, summer day on the Upper Black River. Brenda also discussed the river habitat restoration projects with educators as part of the Lake Huron Stewardship Place-Based Education workshop.

Sturgeon in the Classroom

Sturgeon For Tomorrow has been collaborating with the Michigan DNR for the past five years in a concerted effort to offer Sturgeon in the Classroom. This exciting program places live fish in the classroom coupled with class appropriate curriculum. Eight classrooms from across the state are participating in the 2013-2014 school year. Woo-Hoo!!

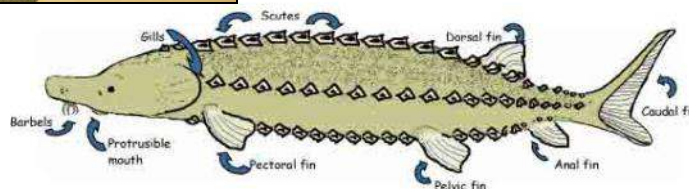
Photo below: Mr. Ben Braymer, Quincy Elementary School (Zeeland, MI) sporting their sturgeon t-shirts and 4th Grade Experience.



Photo: : 5th Grade Ella White Elementary School, Alpena



Photo: Cheboygan Middle School
Brenda Archanbo and Ann Douglas



Making
MEMORIES
that last.

Sturgeon Guarding Program Needs YOU!

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

"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



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

Thank you to the following families who have contributed in honor of their loved ones.

MEMORIALS

In Memory of Leroy Archambeau

Dorothy Archambeau
Paul Archambeau
John and Barb Archambo
Red Campeau
Alice Chaloner and Shirley Skellenger
Jimmy and Evelyn Connors
Marvin Goldstein
Lee and Sandra Hanson
William Kasberg/ Brady Family
Bob and Paul Maczka

In Memory of Elmer and Mary Engel

John E. Engle

In Memory of Ullis Janney

Mary Janney

In Memory of Lee Patt

Jeffery R. Patt

In Memory of Earl Robinson

Tom and Aurelia Tenerovicz

In Memory of Clifford Shephard

Sondra Shephard

In Memory of Robert Shoemaker

Deb Brondsema
Jeff and Erica Fossmo
Jen Gemski
Jeff and Renee Haveman
Lyndsey Shoemaker
Steve, Beth and Jake Worden

In Memory of Bob Tomlinson

John Tomlinson

In Memory of Kathleen Wolinski

Gerald Wolinski

In Memory of Family Birthdays

Harry L. Karr
Michael A. Nodine
Roger B. Karr

HONORARIUM

In Honor of Robert Shoemaker

Pizza King and Pub

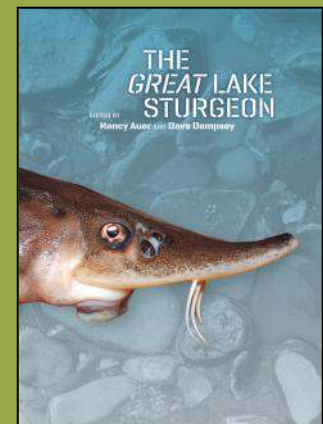
BOOK RELEASE: *The Great Lake Sturgeon* was published in June 2013.

One of the chapters is titled, "Sturgeon For Tomorrow" and was written by our president and founder Brenda Archambo. Brenda describes Sturgeon For Tomorrow's journey with the lake sturgeon with emphasis on the people of the sturgeon.

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.

Get yours today: \$25 + s/h

Order yours today by calling 231-625-2776 or email Brenda at brenda@sturgeonfortomorrow.org



Please join us in thanking the following donors for their generous gifts.
Your contributions are making a measurable difference in lake sturgeon recovery.

CONTRIBUTIONS

Daniel J. Adams
 Milus Allison
 Richard Allen
 Christine Baker
 Ann Baughman
 Dana and Howard Brophy
 Wm. Scott Brown
 Willis E. Brown and Photina Ree
 Cannon Cottage
 Dick Capek - Darkhouse Spearing Supply
 James and Kimberly Chiavaras
 Pete and Judi Chimner
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SFT Scholarships

ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS NOW

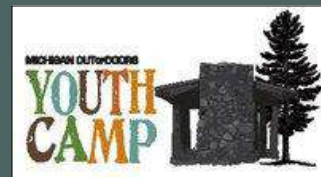
March 31 Deadline

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>



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>

Learn more about MUCC's Youth Camp at: <http://www.muccyouthcamp.org/>



Photo Left: Bob Garner with his lovely wife Beth. Bob was inducted into the Michigan Conservation Hall of Fame May 2013.

2013 Lake Sturgeon Research and Stocking Summary



Netting and Tagging in the spring spawning Run

A total of 270 adult lake sturgeon were netted and tagged during spawning

	Recaptures	New	Total
Males	187	21	208
Females	46	16	62
Total	233	37	270



Larval Drift

922 larvae were collected and transferred to the sturgeon hatchery for rearing

18,500 lake sturgeon fry stocked on July 1, 2013

"Survival of the eggs and fry exceeded expectations this year," said Dave Borgeson, Northern Lake Huron Management Unit Supervisor for the DNR's Fisheries Division. "Because the Black River location is a small streamside facility, it is not able to accommodate the large number of fry we had on hand. Young fish were stocked in appropriate locations that help us achieve our management goals of rehabilitating lake sturgeon populations in these waters."

Pigeon River: 7,000: Maple River: 4,000: Sturgeon River: 4,000: Otsego Lake: 3,585

Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians (LTBB) Fish Hatchery: 3,750

Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians Celebrate Fish Hatchery Ribbon Cutting on August 1



The Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians (LTBB) opened its first state of the art fish hatchery in an unveiling ceremony which it has been planning and fundraising for since 1998. The \$2.5 million facility is on an 80-acre property north of Pellston on Drier Road and will house office and lab space, as well as two large ponds capable of raising up to 40,000 fingerlings each. Select species such as walleye, lake herring, whitefish and sturgeon will be studied on the property by the Odawa Natural Resources Department. Congratulations!

Sturgeon Hatchery Tours/Releases August 30, 2013

- 3,250 stocked in the Upper Black River
- 100 to be retained over-winter at Wolf Lake for future telemetry study
- 300 to be retained at streamside hatchery for a couple weeks for a tag retention study, then released in Burt/Mullett lakes in September.
- 60 to be retained at streamside hatchery for a couple weeks for an olfactory study involving Canadian researchers, then released in Burt/Mullett lakes in September
- Burt and Mullett Lakes: 490 fall fingerlings stocked into each lake



LTBB Released 202 sturgeon Fingerlings into Burt Lake on September 3, 2013

Other MSU Research Conducted

Evaluation of hatchery Stand Operating Procedures
 Adult Spawning Behavior Studies
 Larval Growth and Development
 Feeding Experiments





15th Annual Sturgeon For Tomorrow Banquet was a huge success!

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

SPONSORS

Rick Ackenberg/Kathy Bezotte
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Jim Schwartz
Rusty Veihl
Todd Zeller, Great Lakes
Taxidermy

CENTERPIECES

In Memory of Dock, Gail
and James McCall
The McCall Sisters (Deb McCall, Kathy McCall & Brenda
McCall-Archambo)

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Rick Ackenberg/Kathy Bezotte
Alice's Restaurant
Alpena Shipwreck Tours
Art/Patty Archambo
Gil/Brenda Archambo
Nathan Barton
Bay Mills Resort and Casino
BC Pizza—Indian River
Betsie Bay Marine—Capt. Kris Mills
Big Bear Adventures
Big Boy—Cheboygan
Bittersweet Fine Gifts
Billie's Women's Fashion
Black Lake Sportsman's Club
Black, White & More
Blaskowski Feed and Seed
Body & Soul Day Spa and Salon
Box Fit
Breaker's Bar
Camping World-Houghton Lake
CarQuest
Cheboygan Golf and Country Club
Christopher's Restaurant
Bill/Sharon Church
The Coop
Ellenberger Lumber
Bob/Beth Garner
Glen's Market
Gerry Gray
Great Lakes Ecosystems
Holiday Station - Cheboygan
Huron Distributors
Indian River Golf Club
Inn Between
Ken's Village Market
Linde Furniture
Lorenzo's Lounge
Kathy McCall
McDonalds—Rozek Enterprises
Mackinaw Clothing



Manzana's Deli
Marshal's Fudge
Mickey's Mini Mart
Tony Naylor
New Creation Hair Salon
North Star Gardens
Northern Michigan Dive Center
Onaway Custom Embroidery
Parrott's Outpost
Pat and Gary's
Plaunt Transportation
Pollard's Quick Lube
Kevin/Dee Prediger
PureFit and Wellness
Rivertown Spa
Save-A-Lot
Schell's Auto Center
Shanty Boy
Gary Shepherd
Sign and Banner Factory
Splash & Dash Car Wash
Stony Links Golf Course
Straits Area Printing
Gary Stranely
Tom's Family Market
UAW Family Education Center
UAW Black Lake Golf Club
Vivio's
Walstrom Marine
Wilson's Rivers Edge Restaurant
Jason/Stacy Woiderski
Jay/Mary Kay Woiderski
Zany Kitchen

And any one else regrettably omitted



**Mark your calendars! 16th Annual Banquet
Saturday, September 13, 2014**

Please visit our partners: stclairsturgeon.org & kzoosturgeon.org

Dedicated to the future of our sturgeon



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Sturgeon General Volume 15 Issue 1 WINTER 2014

Upcoming Events

January-February

- 31-1: Black Lake Sturgeon Shivarree
- 1-6 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

- 13: 16th Annual SFT Banquet, Cheboygan



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Remembering Robert Shoemaker



On May 5, 2013 Certified Scuba Diver Robert Shoemaker of Rockford, Michigan (above) and dive partner Patrick Huver spent the day on the Upper Black River capturing spawning sturgeon on video. Robert was also part of the Grand Rapids White Water Project and dreamed of one day when the natural rapids would be restored along the Grand River so the sturgeon could once again migrate up the Grand to their natal spawning grounds. He was passionate about sturgeon. Robert lost his life on August 10th doing what he truly loved for a purpose he supported with his heart and soul while examining the dam structure at the 6th Street Bridge on the Grand River . Rest in peace Robert. We will continue