



Boy Scout Spring Camporee

Winter 2016 issue

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Engaging Youth in Natural Resource Conservation and Stewardship

Nearly 250 Boy Scouts ages 11-17 and troop leaders from throughout Michigan participated in the Sturgeon Guarding Program May 14-16, 2015 as part of their annual "Spring Camporee". The Camporee convened on the Upper Black River near the lake sturgeon spawning grounds. Scout Troops arrived and set up their campsites on Friday, May 14. At 8:00pm everyone attended a "Cracker Barrel" orientation where they received information packets for the weekend.

We would like to thank and acknowledge the following people for leading each of the programs:

Sturgeon Biology

Lead: Gary Stranally, Sturgeon For Tomorrow Board of Directors
 Assistant: Kathy McCall, Sturgeon For Tomorrow Member/Volunteer

Habitat Conservation

Lead: Gary Shepherd, Sturgeon For Tomorrow Member/Volunteer
 Assistant: Deborah McCall, Sturgeon For Tomorrow Member/Volunteer

Campfire Cooking Demonstration

Boy Scout Troop Leaders

Sturgeon Hatchery Tours

Lead: Dave Borgeson, Michigan Department of Natural Resources
 Lead: Dr. Kim Scribner, Michigan State University
 Assistant: Jay Woiderski, Sturgeon For Tomorrow Member/Volunteer

Aquatic Macroinvertebrate Sampling

Lead: Matt Claucherty, AmeriCorps Member, Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council
 Assistant: Susan Madden, Sturgeon For Tomorrow Member/Volunteer, Retired Biology Teacher



Geocaching

Lead: Jm Chimner, Sturgeon For Tomorrow Member/Volunteer and Geocasher

Wayne and Carol Aurand, Corey Wells from the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians and Brenda Archanbo worked together and designed an awesome and collectable patch representing the weekend experience.



Wayne Aurand and Mike Remus from Troop 2 in Pellston, Northern Trails District collaborated with Sturgeon For Tomorrow (SFT) president Brenda Archanbo for months to coordinate outdoor and conservation education programming and activities for the scouts.

On Saturday, May 15 Troops learned about Camp Cooking through Demonstrations, Sturgeon Biology, Habitat Conservation, Aquatic Macro-invertebrate sampling and identification, Geocaching and participated in Sturgeon Hatchery Tours.



Boy Scout Troop 2 also donated \$1,500 to SFT for future investments in lake sturgeon recovery programming. THANK YOU!!

On Sunday, May 16 Troops picked up camp for their return home.



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Sturgeon For Tomorrow
Black Lake Chapter
1604 N. Black River Road
Cheboygan, MI 49721
231-625-2776



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Membership Renewals

For the first time since Sturgeon For Tomorrow incorporated in 1999, we have had to increase our membership dues. Over those 17 years that we have tried to spend your dues and contributions wisely.

- We have provided funds for the operation of the sturgeon hatchery at Kleber Dam.
- We have purchased equipment for use at the hatchery that has increased the efficiency and effectiveness of the hatchery.
- We have revived the Black Lake Sturgeon Shivaree.
- We have taken on the task of managing the Sturgeon In the Classroom program which operates statewide.
- Sturgeon For Tomorrow has continued the Sturgeon Guarding Program on the Upper Black River.
- We have also developed and printed informational brochures that are distributed across the state and across the United States and Canada when we send them out to our members.

As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization we take our responsibilities for the wise use of your dues and contributions very seriously and we hope that you will continue to support our efforts on your behalf and on behalf of the majestic Lake Sturgeon.

A chart showing the different membership levels and benefits associated with each level is included below. When you renew your membership, please consider renewing at the Partner, Leader or Sustainer level and be assured that we will take your support as a sign that you appreciate our efforts.

We truly value your membership and support and we hope that you will show your support by renewing your membership today!

Kathy B ezotte

Secretary/ Treasurer

Annual Membership Renewal

The membership card and annual membership sticker will be sent to family renewals at all levels. A subscription to our Sturgeon General newsletter will be provided to each member.

A renewal at the Partner level of \$50 to \$99 will also receive recognition in the Sturgeon General newsletter and on our website and social media.

A renewal at the Leader level of \$100 to \$499 will receive membership card and sticker, a subscription to the newsletter, recognition in the newsletter and a solid pewter Sturgeon For Tomorrow key fob.

A renewal at the Sustainer level \$500 and above will receive all of the above plus a Guided Sturgeon Viewing Tour.

	Member \$25	Partner \$50 to \$99	Leader \$100 to \$499	Sustainer \$500 +
Card and Sticker	✓	✓	✓	✓
Subscription	✓	✓	✓	✓
Recognition		✓	✓	✓
Key Fob			✓	✓
Guided Sturgeon Viewing Tour				✓

**JOIN OR RENEW
ON-LINE**

www.sturgeonfortomorrow.org/membership-registration.php





Sturgeon For Tomorrow will be hosting the Black Lake Sturgeon Shivaree February 5-6, 2016.

Proceeds from the Shivaree will fund lake sturgeon hatchery, research, habitat conservation, and outreach programs.



Activities for Shivaree will again be in the entertainment tent on Black Lake in front of the former Black Lake Hotel. The Shivaree will coincide with the opening of the Black Lake Sturgeon season which opens on Saturday, February 6.

Calendar of Events – Subject to change.

FRIDAY, February 5

Entertainment tent opens at 3pm

Register for Ice Fishing Contest and Poker Run (tent)

2pm-7pm: Register for Sturgeon Fishing:
211 DNR Field Station

3pm-6pm: Mike Ridley Music and entertainment

6pm-10pm: Billy Jewell and His Bad Habits (21+)

SATURDAY, February 6

8am-2pm: Sturgeon Season Opening Day

Entertainment-Beverage Tent: Food, Open Bar,

6am-7:15pm: Fishing Contest

9am-7pm: Poker Run

11am-2pm: Entertainment Tent Music: Charlie Raeger

11am-4pm: Kids Games & Prizes with Nautreology

50/ 50 Raffles, Bonfire

2pm-6pm: Entertainment: Johnnie Walker, Dj 2xTrubL

6pm-10pm: Entertainment Tent: The Blitz (21+)

8pm: Announce Ice Fishing Contest Winners

8:30pm: Announce Poker Run Winners

9pm: Shivaree Raffle Drawing



The Black Lake Sportsman's Club will once again sponsor an ice fishing contest from Saturday, Feb 6 from 6am to 7:15pm.

ENTRY FEE to register \$10.00 per angler.

Anglers may register anytime at Parrott's Outpost or

Twin Lakes Grocery

Anglers may register at DNR 211 Field Office in Onaway on Friday, February 5 from 2pm-7pm or at the Shivaree tent Feb 5 until 7pm.

REGISTRATION closes Saturday, Feb 6 at 8am.

The fishing contest is Saturday, Feb 6 from 6am to 7:15pm.

All fish must be legally harvested from Black Lake.

All fish must be registered at the Shivaree tent before 7:15pm on Saturday, Feb 6

Complete contest rules are available at registration.



Sturgeon For Tomorrow is sponsoring a Poker Run on Saturday, February 6

ENTRY FEE to register is \$20.00 for 5 cards, FIVE CARD STUD

All contestants must be over legal 18 years and over.

REGISTRATION closes Saturday, Feb 6 at 11am

The POKER RUN contest is Saturday, Feb 6 from 9am to 7pm

All cards (in envelopes) must be registered at the Shivaree tent by 7pm on Saturday, Feb 6.

THIS IS NOT A RACE. Your time between stops does not matter. Enjoy the ride and drive safe!

Complete contest rules are available at registration.

Shivaree RAFFLE

Raffle tickets available in the main tent.

Please Like us on facebook.com/SturgeonForTomorrowBlackLakeChapter and click on Shivaree

Organizers are also seeking Sponsors and volunteers to make the Shivaree a success. Sponsors and Volunteers can register online at www.sturgeonfortomorrow.org/shivaree or by calling 231-625-2776.

Please JOIN US as we celebrate the Black Lake Sturgeon Shivaree!!

The Black Lake Shivaree was first introduced in 1961. Every February the Shivaree on Black Lake celebrated the iconic lake sturgeon and brought together thousands of visitors and residents to beautiful northern Michigan.

In addition to sturgeon season, the event included snowmobile races, outdoor queen contests with formal gowns and formal dinners for the contestants at the Black Lake Hotel, a giant snow stage, complete with a big block of snow that was watered down nightly for weeks to make a frozen staircase. This was a fantastic community event and an economic boom for the region. It drew people from throughout Michigan and the Midwest, filled motel rooms, restaurants, bars and shops in the region and was a significant cultural experience.



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2015 Lake Sturgeon Research and Stocking Summary

By John Bauman, Research Technologist
Michigan State University



The 2015 Black Lake research season began April 30th when Michigan State University (MSU) and Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) researchers captured six Lake Sturgeon ascending the Upper Black River. This was a later start compared to previous years, yet the adult sampling period continued into June with the last sighting of a sturgeon in the river being recorded on June 8th.

A total of 248 adult Lake Sturgeon were captured throughout the spawning season, which includes 46 newly captured fish. The one-day record of fish captured this year was 35 individuals. The largest fish captured this year was a **6 foot 3 inch female that weighed 133 pounds**. In total there have been 1,037 unique individual Lake Sturgeon captured in the Upper Black River since 2001. Gametes were collected from spawning Lake Sturgeon and were transported to the Stream Side Rearing Facility for fertilization and rearing.

In addition to raising eggs in the hatchery, wild larval Lake Sturgeon were captured as they drifted downstream. Previous studies conducted by MSU and MDNR researchers found that these wild larvae represent the best stock source genetically, so all captured larvae are brought back to the Streamside Facility in an effort to enhance survival. This year, larval drift sampling began on May 19th and ran until there were two consecutive unsuccessful capture nights, which this year was on July 5th.



2015 MSU research team: From left to right; Jonathan Hegna, John Bauman, Dillon Ross, Jenna Ruzich, Ryan Walquist, and Shaley Valentine. Not pictured: Adam Chastan, Justin Waraniak, and Garrett Johnson.

As a result of night sampling, researchers **captured 1,723 wild dispersing larvae**.

This year, Lake Sturgeon raised at the Streamside Facility and utilized for stocking were all of wild origin. In addition, to enhance future management efforts, all **529 Lake Sturgeon released into the Black River** were implanted with passive integrated transponder tags. All **500 Lake Sturgeon released into Mullett Lake** and **53 released into the Sturgeon River** were implanted with coded wire tags.

At the end of the hatchery season Lake Sturgeon reached an average length over 7 inches prior to release which is larger than previous year's release size. Larger growth can be attributed to improved feeding strategies developed through research activities conducted at the Black River Streamside Facility.

Ongoing research involved identifying sources of early mortality in larvae, particularly those preyed upon by fish predators (such as Rock Bass). In addition to identifying sources of larval mortality in the wild, researchers continue to focus on identifying more efficient food types for hatchery-raised Lake Sturgeon as well as continue to investigate the downstream passage of juvenile Lake Sturgeon through hydroelectric facilities.

LTBB Burt Lake Survey and Release

The Little Traverse Bay Band of Odawa Indians (LTBB) has stocked fall fingerling sturgeon in Burt Lake since 2013. **The goal of the survey is to gather data on the survival, growth rates and other information for these stocked fish.**

The Burt Lake sturgeon assessment was conducted September 14 through October 5 and targeted both juvenile and adult sturgeon. The fish were checked for tags which showed if the sturgeon were wild (no tags)

or stocked. The tags provide a history of when the fish were stocked and when they might have been caught in previous surveys. The wild fish were also tagged so that they can be followed in new surveys or when they are possibly harvested in the future.

Sampling locations were randomly chosen throughout the entire lake. Three boats were used, including two tribal boats, and one DNR boat and crew. There were 63 unique sturgeon captured and 3 of these sturgeon were recaptured during this survey. In addition, 7 of the captured sturgeon

were tagged during the 2011 survey. Despite the smaller mesh size, the 2015 survey did not produce many small sturgeon and provided little evidence of strong natural or stocked juvenile recruitment.

Very preliminary population projections estimate the sturgeon population of Burt Lake to be between 644 and 1535 sturgeon. Expanded numbers should be interpreted with caution due to the low numbers captured during the survey.

2016 lake sturgeon season on Black Lake to begin Feb. 6 at 8:00 a.m.

The Department of Natural Resources has announced the 2016 lake sturgeon fishing season on Black Lake (Cheboygan County) will begin at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 6. All anglers must register to participate in the lake sturgeon season.

Registration & Regulations

- Season is February 6 through February 10. However, DNR officials will shut down the fishery immediately after the sixth lake sturgeon is harvested. The season will close at the end of any fishing day if only one fish remains to be harvested.
- Angler registration is 2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 5 at the Onaway DNR Field Office. Anglers will be issued identification flags during registration.
- For anglers unable to register on Friday, there will be a daily registration during the season at Zolner Road/Black Lake at 7:00 a.m.
- There is no minimum size limit on sturgeon.
- Anglers must possess a Michigan fishing license to fish sturgeon and must have it prior to registering at Black Lake.
- Anglers must also have a current sturgeon tag, which can be obtained at any license vendor.

Fishing

- Fishing hours for Black Lake sturgeon are from 8:00 a.m. through 2:00 p.m.
- Flags will NOT be given to anglers who do not possess a sturgeon tag.
- Flags should be hung at the entrance to each fishing shanty each day of fishing.

Harvesting

- Harvested sturgeon must be registered immediately at the DNR field trailer near the entrance of Zolner Road onto Black Lake. Successful anglers also should notify officials on the ice immediately after harvesting a lake sturgeon, but still must take the fish to the proper fish registration site.
- Sturgeon tag should be wrapped around the tail of the fish (if one is harvested).
- Registration of fish includes examination of internal fish parts, and a small piece of fin may be removed for DNA analysis.

Close of Season

- Anglers will be alerted by DNR personnel on the ice (anglers may get calls from trustworthy friends, anglers should hear canons/sirens) announcing the end of the lake sturgeon season.
- Throughout the day, DNR Law Enforcement will be randomly checking ice shanties and talking to anglers on the ice.

For more details, please call the Gaylord Customer Service Center at 989-732-3541 or visit www.michigan.gov/fishing.



Sturgeon For Tomorrow is awarded a Grant

The National Association for Interpretation (NAI) Region 4 recently announced its Interpretive Project Grant Award Winners and is pleased to report Sturgeon for Tomorrow, Black Lake Chapter is among the 2015 recipients.

The Interpretive Project Grants (IPG) program is designed to provide a source of funding for small projects by Association members within the Great Lakes region including Indiana, Michigan, Ohio and Ontario.

Sturgeon for Tomorrow's project – Great Lakes Ecological Stewardship: Lake Sturgeon in the Classroom – will assist Michigan teachers to implement interpretive programs in K-12 classrooms highlighting physiology, biology and life cycle of live lake sturgeon in the classroom, offer professional development workshops, and bring outreach education and live sturgeon fingerling at statewide events including Black Lake Sturgeon's Shivaree during ice-fishing season in Cheboygan County. According to grant applicant and Chapter President, Brenda Ar-chambo, "The first of its kind in the nation, this project promotes comprehensive environmental literacy fostering place based-stewardship initiatives designed to facilitate the first formal public program within the Great Lakes Basin which increases awareness and understanding of the fragile ecology of the Great Lakes with emphasis on the plight of the state-threatened Lake Sturgeon (*Acipenser fulvescens*), its cultural legacy and historical significance to the State of Michigan."

Sturgeon in the Classroom



In the fall of 2015 SFT signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Michigan DNR Fisheries Division to facilitate SITC. SFT has been coordinating this program since 2013 and by signing the MOU have officially accepted responsibility as a “cooperator” and for coordinating this statewide K-12 classroom program including individual classroom education plans.

This project aims to increase awareness, understanding and appreciation for Michigan’s state threatened lake sturgeon, and the ecology of the Great Lakes eco-region through hands on, place-based education, engagement, mobilization, stewardship and advocacy, to develop long-term sustainability of the Great Lakes Fisheries.

Eight classrooms selected to participate in SITC for 2015-2016 school year

- Cheboygan Middle School, Cheboygan
- Ela White Elementary, Alpena
- Holt High School, Holt
- Inland Lakes Schools, Indian River
- Olivet Middle School, Olivet
- Shumate Middle School, Gibraltar
- Quincy Elementary, Zeeland
- Waldon Middle School, Lake Orion



We are in the process of developing a standardized application and selection process for future year’s participants.

Black Lake Sturgeon Management Plan

Cooperative lake sturgeon management between the State and Tribes. The 2007 Inland Consent Decree lays the foundation for the Tribes and the State to work together on Lake Sturgeon management, especially identifying harvest levels. Efforts are going well beyond that agreement, with cooperation extending to collecting gametes for both the Tribal and the DNR sturgeon hatcheries in the Waterway. There is also cooperation with surveys targeting sturgeon by sharing techniques and information and often working together on the same survey. Currently, there is a joint effort writing the Black Lake Sturgeon Plan, which will serve as the template for future plans for the other lakes in the Waterway and sturgeon lakes throughout Michigan. The Tribes and State have jointly worked on a sturgeon plan, and all the goals and objectives have been agreed to and now a few details are being worked out.

Sturgeon Guards exchange vows after meeting on Sturgeon Guard



Ladies and gentleman, meet Mr. and Mrs. George Warner!

George Warner and Constance Dinner invest many hours on the river while participating in the Sturgeon Guarding Program. On November 5, 2015 George and Constance were married in Topinabee. Join us in wishing the two lovebirds many years of wedded bliss.



Mark your calendars!
18th Annual Banquet
Saturday September 10, 2016



Sturgeon For Tomorrow accepts contributions, memorials and honorariums for special occasions, including birthdays, anniversaries, and special tributes. Thank you to the following individuals and families who have contributed to lake sturgeon recovery in 2015.

Contributions

Milus Allison
Christine Baker
Don and Nan Blasy
Bob and Mary Bonner
Dave and Lorraine Borowicz
Boy Scout Troop 2-Pellston
Kathryn and Jim Bricker
Dana and Howard Brophy
Russ and Kathy Brown
Wm. Scott Brown
Richard Capek, Darkhouse Spearing Supply
Jack Carlson
Pete and Judi Chimner
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Dan and Yvette Hudok
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Indian River Lions Club
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Lee and Patricia Muchmore
Mullett Lake Area Preservation Society
Onaway Custom Embroidery
Doris M. Parker
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Karla and Mike Passalacqua
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James Ribby
Gerald and Patricia Rintamaki
Gary and Jane Roe
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Frank E. Weiss Elementary School
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Dan L. Thoms
Dustin Tiemeyer
Michael and Janice Tripp
Barbara Tyger
Timothy VanGelderden
Terry M. Watts
Frank Wheatlake
Ralph and Hazel Williams
Kevin and Jackie Winkle
Gerald Wolinski
Dr Philip and Patricia Woollcott

Memorials and Honorariums

In loving Memory of Ullis Janney
Mary Janney

In loving memory of Lee Patt
Jeffery R. Patt

In loving memory of James and Maureen Rentz
Joseph T. Rentz

In loving memory of Clifford Shephard
Sondra Shephard

In loving memory of Robert Shoemaker
Beth and Steve Worden
William and Beverly Worden

In loving memory of Don Snyder
Mary Janney

In loving memory of Bob Tomlinson
John Tomlinson

In loving memory of family Birthdays:
Harry L. Karr
Roger B. Karr
Michael D. Nodine
Karen L. Karr

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 231-625-2776
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Dedicated to the future of our sturgeon.

Sturgeon General Volume 17 Issue 1 WINTER 2016

Upcoming Events 2016



February

- 5-6: Black Lake Sturgeon Shivaree
- 6 Black Lake Sturgeon Season Opens
- 18 Sturgeon Advisory Council Meeting

Your Sturgeon For Tomorrow Board of Directors meets at the Black Lake Sportsman’s Club on the 4th Thursday of the month at 6:00 pm from March through October.

April Register for Sturgeon Guarding Program

- May**
- Sturgeon Guarding Program—All month
 - Guided Sturgeon Viewing Tours
 - Research: Netting, tagging and larval sampling
 - Sturgeon In The Classroom field trips and sturgeon releases

June-July Hatchery Rearing/ Research

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

Sept

- 10: 18th Annual SFT Banquet, Cheboygan

Oct-Nov Sturgeon in the Classroom deliveries

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