

Sturgeon General



The Year of the Sturgeon

There is a growing interest and investment among science, community, and education partners toward expanding Lake Sturgeon education efforts.

2018 is the year of the Sturgeon!

In collaboration with the northeast Michigan Great Lakes Stewardship Initiative, we will explore a variety of current and emerging Lake Sturgeon education opportunities designed for schools, educators, and youth in Michigan. The Sea Grant Center for Great Lakes Literacy fosters science-education connections through teacher workshops, including educational experiences focused on sturgeon. Sturgeon for Tomorrow has coordinated Sturgeon in the Classroom across Michigan for the past five years. The Michigan State University Department of Fisheries and Wildlife have a Great Lakes Sturgeon education website.

Sturgeon for Tomorrow is partnering with Michigan Sea Grant and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) National Marine Fisheries Service to explore opportunities to adapt the Atlantic Coast "SCUTES education program" to the Great Lakes. SCUTES is an acronym for "Students Collaborating to Undertake Tracking Efforts for Sturgeon."

Two funding partners also support efforts to connect youth, fisheries education and Great Lakes stewardship involvement, including the Great Lakes Fishery Trust-sponsored Great Lakes Stewardship Initiative and the Great Lakes NOAA BWET program. B-WET is the Bay Watershed Education and Training which provides competitive funding to support meaningful watershed educational experiences for K-12 audiences.

Sturgeon education efforts, partnerships, and new opportunities abound. Stay tuned...

Winter 2018 issue

The Year of the Sturgeon	P.1
Membership Renewals	P.2
Black Lake Sturgeon Shivaree	P.3
2017 Field Season Summary	P.4
Sturgeon Guard Coordinator	P.5
Testimonials and Memorials	P.6
2017 Contributions	P.7
Calendar of Events	P.8



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President

Brenda Archambo
231-625-2776

Vice President

Jason Woiderski
231-420-7853

Secretary/Treasurer

Kathy Bezotte
989-785-4231

Director

Gil Archambo
231-625-2776

Director

Charlie Maltby
231-627-3407

Volunteer Coordinators

Mark and Ann Feldhauser
906-346-9511

Sturgeon Ambassadors

Bill and Sharon Church
989-727-3402

Pete and Judi Chimner

231-625-2691

Doug and Treisha Larson

231-329-3536

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



Sturgeon General Newsletter
Printed by
Montmorency County Tribune



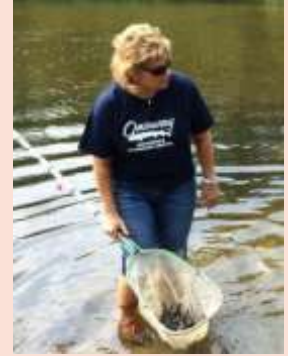
Greetings from Black lake!

It's a new year, and new beginnings. **We have deemed 2018 the 'Year of the Sturgeon'.**

This year we are collaborating with the northeast Michigan Great Lakes Stewardship Initiative to further develop education materials for Sturgeon in the Classroom. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) developed a SCUTES Program designed to educate youth about Atlantic sturgeon. Through a BWET grant we will be working to adapt these educational materials to Great Lakes sturgeon. So exciting!

We are gearing up for another productive year and you can help!

- Black Lake Sturgeon Shivaree is February 2-3, 2018
- Sturgeon Season opener is Feb 3rd.
- Sturgeon Advisory Council Feb 15 Tuscarora Township Hall in Indian River
- Great Lakes Lake Sturgeon Coordination Meeting in Port Huron Feb 21-22
- Sturgeon Guarding is from late April through early June.
- Earth Week Expo in Cheboygan April 14
- Sturgeon in the Classroom returns to the river throughout May
- Sturgeon Viewing and Hatchery Tours May 12
- Hatchery Tours and Releases on August 18 (tbt)
- 20th Annual Banquet September 8 at the K of C Hall in Cheboygan
- Throughout the month of October Sturgeon in the Classroom deliveries statewide.



For the past decade, Mark and Ann Feldhauser have served as volunteer coordinators for our Sturgeon Guarding Program. Mark and Ann are definitely an A-Team and have done a phenomenal job coordinating and leading the Sturgeon Guard Effort. For this we are forever grateful! **We are currently recruiting volunteer coordinators who can work with Mark and Ann this field season to learn the ropes.** Please see the article on page 5 for more information.

This is your open invitation to participate or lead in any of these cultural programs. We are counting on our supporters to assist us in sustaining these programs. Plus, we have a lot of fun!! Please contact me or any board member to learn how you can utilize your talents, skills and passion to work for the greater good of our lake sturgeon.

Thank you to our members, contributors, sponsors and supporters for your sustained investments in lake sturgeon rehabilitation and recovery. You are the lifeblood of our organization.

With sincere gratitude,

Brenda Archambo

Annual Membership Renewal

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

Your membership investment and contribution is the lifeblood of this organization and aids in the implementation of the many important programs initiated through Sturgeon For Tomorrow.

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 the highly successful Sturgeon in the Classroom.

Use the included green membership renewal envelope or you can renew online using PayPal at:

www.sturgeonfortomorrow.org/membership.php

If your address is printed on a green label on this newsletter, your membership is valid through December 2018.





Sturgeon For Tomorrow will be hosting the Black Lake Sturgeon Shivaree February 2-3, 2018.



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 3.

Sponsors and Volunteers are needed. You can register on-line for events, volunteer and sponsorships: www.sturgeonfortomorrow.org/shivaree or call: 231-625-2776.

Shivaree Collector Buttons \$5
All volunteers and sponsors receive **FREE Shivaree buttons**

Calendar of Events – Subject to change.

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

FRIDAY, February 2

Entertainment tent opens at 3pm

3-6pm: **Live tunes with Charlie Reager**

Register for Ice Fishing Contest and Poker Run (tent)

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

6-7pm: Cultural sturgeon Ceremony

7-11pm: (21+) **Live Music with Polar Bear Recon**

Get your Shivaree Raffle Tickets!

Raffle License # R45754

SATURDAY, February 3

8am-2pm: **Sturgeon Season Opens**

Entertainment-Tent open at 8am: Cabin Fever Social, Food, Beverages, Raffles, Bonfire—FUN!!

8am-6pm: Fishing Contest

11am-7pm: Poker Run

10:30am-4:30pm: Entertainment Tent:

Evan Archambo, soloist & DJ Rock'n the tunes...

11am-4pm: Youth Activities with [Nautureology](http://Nautureology.com).

Live Sturgeon Exhibit

1-5pm: **Horseshoe Tournament** on the ice

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

6pm: Announce Ice Fishing Contest Winners

7pm: Announce Poker Run Winners

8-9pm: **Shivaree Raffle Drawing**

2018 lake sturgeon season on Black Lake to begin Feb. 3 at 8:00 a.m.

The Department of Natural Resources has announced the 2018 lake sturgeon fishing season on Black Lake (Cheboygan County) will begin at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 3. All anglers must register to participate in the lake sturgeon season.

The 2018 total harvest limit for Black Lake is seven lake sturgeon. However, to reduce the chance of exceeding the harvest limit, officials will close the season when 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.**

Fishing hours are 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. each day of the season. The season will either end at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 7, or when one of the above scenarios is met, at which point anglers will be notified on the ice by DNR personnel that they must immediately stop fishing for lake sturgeon.

Anglers 17 years of age or older must possess a valid Michigan 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.

The 2018 angler registration process will be similar to what was enacted in the last few years. 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 7 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 2. This station is located approximately five miles north of Onaway on Route 211. Anglers can pick up their fishing identification flags at this time and learn more about season logistics and sturgeon populations from the DNR.

Anglers unable to participate in the Friday registration may register Saturday at the registration trailer at Zolner Road ending on Black Lake. Morning registration begins at 7 a.m. each day of the season. Anglers are highly encouraged to register on Friday, February 2.

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 Zolner Road trailer registration site on Black Lake. Registration may include an examination of internal organs and removal of a piece of fin tissue for DNA analysis and aging.

Registration logistics were developed in the last decade to allow greater participation by anglers while protecting the population of lake sturgeon in Black Lake from overharvest. In addition, DNR and MSU have been determining annual population estimates of adult fish from the spring spawning run with the assistance of Sturgeon for Tomorrow, which allows officials to set a safe harvest level in cooperation with tribal agencies.

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, various tribal agencies, and Tower-Kleber Limited Partnership.

For more details, anglers may call the Gaylord Customer Service Center at 989-732-3541 or visit www.michigan.gov/fishing. The Black Lake lake sturgeon management plan can be found at http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-153-10364_52259_65083---,00.html.

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources is committed to the conservation, protection, management, use and enjoyment of the state's natural and cultural resources for current and future generations. For more information, go to www.michigan.gov/dnr.

2017 Lake Sturgeon Research and Stocking Summary

By Doug Larson, Research Technologist, Michigan State University



The 2017 Black Lake research season began on April 21st when Michigan State University (MSU) and Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) researchers captured six adult Lake Sturgeon ascending the Upper Black River. This was an early start compared to previous years, though the early captures did not appear to reach spawning ripeness before a string of cold weather pushed them out of the river.

A total of 233 adult Lake Sturgeon were captured during the spawning season, of which 33 were captured for the first time (14.16%). Sturgeon for Tomorrow Member, Charlie Maltby, captured the first confirmed new-to-science fish who originated from the hatchery (pictured) on May 17th. The largest single day capture was on April 27th, where the crew sampled 41 fish. The largest fish captured this year was a 6-foot 4-inch female that weighed 151 pounds. Gametes were collected from spawning Lake Sturgeon and transported to the Streamside Rearing Facility for fertilization and rearing. In total 1,111 unique individual Lake Sturgeon have been captured in the Upper Black River since 2001.



First captured hatchery fish. Captured



Largest fish captured in 2017 by weight. 6'4"; 151 lbs

In addition to raising eggs in the hatchery, wild larval Lake Sturgeon were captured as they drifted downstream. Previous research conducted by MSU and MDNR found that wild larvae represent the highest quality genetic source stock, so MSU and MDNR make an effort to fulfill all stocking quotas with fish captured in the wild, where possible. This year, larval drift sampling began on May 17th and continued until the crew could no longer get into the river due to rain. We did a follow-up sampling on June 28th, finding that the larval drift period had ended. In total, researchers captured 19,135 wild dispersing larvae, the most captured in a single season.

In 2017, 549 Lake Sturgeon were released into the Black River. All fish that were stocked into the Black River were implanted with a passive integrated transponder tag, which will aid future management efforts. In addition, 549 Lake Sturgeon were released into Mullett Lake, all of which were implanted with a coded wire tag.

The Sturgeon released into Black River and Mullet Lake reached an average length of over 7 inches. Increased size at stock out can be attributed to an improved feeding strategy developed and published by John Bauman.

Research efforts in 2016 focused on factors contributing to reproductive success; particularly those that can be quantified by data collected from Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) antennas placed throughout the Upper Black River. In addition, researchers continue to investigate the downstream passage of juvenile Lake Sturgeon through hydroelectric facilities. The research crew also began a pilot investigation into the downstream collection of wild-captured juvenile lake sturgeon. Smaller projects included measuring the effect of aquatic macroinvertebrates on Lake Sturgeon eggs and free embryos; predation of lake sturgeon eggs and free embryos by Rainbow Darter (*Etheostoma caeruleum*, Storer, 1845); the selective properties of female lake sturgeon ovarian fluid; and the effect of biotic and abiotic factors on the quality of male Lake Sturgeon sperm.



Juvenile sturgeon captured during fall survey.

We are recruiting Sturgeon Guard Volunteer Coordinators. It's fun and rewarding! Please contact us soon.



For the past ten years, Mark and I have served the Sturgeon for Tomorrow program on the Black River as the Volunteer Coordinators. It has been a true pleasure to work with everyone associated with SFT, particularly our "Sturgeon General," Brenda Archambo, who along with husband, Gil, bring an unending, spirited enthusiasm and vision for the future of sturgeon, not only in the Black River and Black Lake system, but across the country. We will continue to enjoy time on the Black River each spring, experiencing the remarkable spawning run of the amazing, iconic sturgeon, but in the capacity of Volunteer Coordinators, it is time for us to step down and hand the role to another. We will stay close to the program and look forward to seeing our friends each year and witnessing the sturgeon spawning run on the Black River.

What does the volunteer coordinator do? Using a standard scheduling calendar and Excel data base, the coordinator schedules volunteers who call, email, or register via the SFT Website, and sign up to watch over the sturgeon during the spawning run. We provide basic information, including directions to the base camp, site assignments and camping information. Many groups enjoy the guarding experience each year and are veteran volunteers, so it is an easy task to schedule them, including Boy Scouts, school, church and military-related people. There are also many individuals and families who have been coming to the river each year, as well, and since they love the experience, will continue to volunteer as long as physically possible.

How much time does it entail? Often volunteers begin signing up for a guarding shift in the fall, but the vast majority of the activity occurs in late winter and early spring. So, the time commitment builds as the spawning season comes closer in late April, and early May. **The average per week during the peak period can be up to 5-10 hours. But often, much of it is spent having nice communications with potential volunteers, so, although it may sound like a lot, the workload is pretty minimal.** Although we have always spent a week or so camping along the river each spring to kick off the spring program, that is not required. Over the years, the SFT program has groomed what we term Ambassadors, people who come to the river each year for a scheduled period of time to oversee the other volunteers and provide on-site coordination. To date there are several individuals and couples who come to the river to camp for extended periods, even up to a month and are invaluable to the volunteer coordinators.

What tools do you need? The scheduling calendar and spreadsheet are already formatted for a home computer and are easy to use. Also, an email formatted directional map is simple to forward to volunteers. **Having reliable phone connections and email capability are essential.** All else involves becoming familiar with the SFT program, the guarding areas and having **good communication skills.** Brenda and SFT board members are always supportive and accessible if a question arises. Keep in mind that we live in the U.P., so it is not a real requirement that the future coordinator live in the immediate area of the river. We have been able to coordinate the program successfully from home or when we are travelling in the south each winter in our 5th wheel.

If you feel that a rewarding and exciting volunteer effort would be right for you, that you want to meet lots of interesting people who share a love for our valuable natural resources and the Michigan out-of-doors, then perhaps this is a role you would find perfectly suited. The Black River is an especially beautiful, peaceful place to be and knowing that you are helping to perpetuate the remarkable sturgeon species certainly adds to the value of the experience. **We call on anyone who wishes to serve this amazing effort to come forward and offer to help. We are ready and willing to train in the next volunteer coordinator this spring, so please give Brenda a call to discuss your involvement.**

It has been a real honor and privilege to support the Sturgeon for Tomorrow program on the Black River. We look forward to staying in contact with our sturgeon-loving friends and witnessing the mighty great lake sturgeon spawning run each spring. Thank you!

Ann Wilson Feldhauser has been retired from the Michigan DNR for ten years and lives in the Upper Peninsula, near Marquette, with her husband, Mark, who is also retired from the State of Michigan, Department of Environmental Quality.

Please contact Mark, Ann or Brenda soon!

Mark and Ann: (906) 201-2484

Brenda: (231) 420-2736



Please join us in thanking Kevin Prediger and Gary Stranally for their service on the SFT Board of Directors! Thank you for your service and leadership!!



Kevin and Dee Prediger

Kevin Prediger and **Gary Stranally** brought a wealth of knowledge and enthusiasm to the board leadership team as we developed our strategic plan and committee's purpose, goals, objectives and key results. Both are certified divers and have assisted the MSU Research Team to net, tag and collect biological data on the spawning adult sturgeon in the river during the annual field seasons.

Kevin joined the board in 2011 and Gary was recruited to the board in 2012. We are sincerely grateful for their investments in Sturgeon For Tomorrow, and wish them well in their new endeavors.

As per our by-laws, our board can function with five members. We feel it is important to represent a diverse cross-section of voices and desire to fill these open seats on the board. **If anyone reading this feels passionate about lake sturgeon recovery and have an interest in moving our organization forward, we want to hear from you!** We will make arrangements to meet with interested leaders and provide materials that map out our strategic plan, vision, objectives and key results.



Gary Stranally

Please contact any board member to express your interest. We stand ready to assist and develop future conservation leaders – Thank you!



*Mark your calendars!
20th Annual Banquet
Saturday, September 8, 2018*

Memorials and Honorariums

In loving Memory of Ullis Janney

Mary Janney

In loving memory of Don Snyder

Mary Janney

In loving memory of Clayton Brown

Mary Janney

In loving memory of Chuck Richmond

Susan J. Race

In loving memory of Bob Tomlinson

John Tomlinson

In loving memory of Carl H. Posther

David M. Posther

In loving memory of Bettie Cannon

The Cannon Family Cottage

In loving memory of family Birthdays:

Harry L. Karr

Roger B. Karr

Michael D. Nodine

From Karen L. Karr

In loving memory of Betty Kwaitkoski

James and Wendy Johnson

Trevor and Laura Contreras

Reed Burgette and Emily Johnson

In loving memory of Carol Faner

Tom Faner

In loving memory of Linda Patzer

Fred and Nancy Hynick

In loving memory of

Robert "Bob" Shoemaker

William and Beverly Worden

Beth and Steve Worden

In loving memory of Maureen and James Rentz

Joseph T. Rentz

We accept contributions, memorials and honorariums for special occasions, like birthdays, anniversaries, and special tributes.

Thank you to the following individuals and families who have contributed to lake sturgeon recovery in 2017.

Sustainer

Amy Roy Ferneding
Ralph and Hazel Williams

Leaders

Cannon Cottage
Steve and Pam Cassin
Tom Faner
Gray and Carol Fischer
Robert Gielegthem
Gary Gurizzian
William and Cynthia Harrison
Paul A. Hense
Michael Hyland
Fred Hynick
Christopher and Joni Kallgren
Bradley and Susan Moffatt
Karla and Mike Passalacqua
Stan Ponstein
Joseph T. Rentz
Shumate Middle School / Jeff
Bouwman
Frank Wheatlake
Kevin and Jackie Winkle

Partners

Don and Nan Blasy
John Dempsey and Margo Lakin
Gordon Edmondson - International
Centre for Sturgeon Studies
Ronald Funke
Richard D. Goodell
Virginia Pierce and Don Inman
Karen Karr
James LaForest
Ronald J. Maka
Charlie and Trish Moyer
David M. Posther
Susan J. Race
James L. Ribby
Gary and Jane Roe
Roy Sjoberg
Michael and Peggy Supernault
Pat Sweebe

William Thompson
Barbara Tyger
Constance and George Warner
William and Beverly Worden
Beth and Steve Worden

Contributions

Timothy Hasso and Toni King
Mary and Jim Knight
Sharon DePaulis
Mullett Area Preservation Society
Nicholas Posak
Bruce and Jbanne Manny
Barbara and Richard Kowalczyk

2017 Banquet Sponsors

Rick Ackerberg and Kathy Bezotte
Lindsey Adams
Archambo Electric, Inc.
Art and Patty Archambo
Gil and Brenda Archambo
Scott and Beth Archambo
Brian and DeAnna Bailey
Jim and Gina Burke
Chaskey's Septic Service
Pete and Judy Chimner
Bill and Sharon Church
Dave Cowper
Mike Decent
James and Jean Deurwearder
Mark and Ann Feldhauser
Jim Felganauer
Bob and Beth Garner
Dick Hopkins
Ryan and Kerry Howell
Jay's Sporting Goods
Doug and Treisha Larson
Lyle and Lynne Lippard
Bryan and Anita Madison
Tom and Nancy Madison
Charlie and Amy Maltby
Manzana's Restaurant
Damon and Darlene Marsh
Todd and Donna Merchant

Linda and Fred Moulder, III
Alice and Curt Mushlock
Stan and Mary Neff
North East Rental / Casey and Kristin
Shimel
Jim and Nancy Norton
Jim Parrott
John Proctor and Heather Woodard
Ed Ptaznik
Harley and Pam Schaedig
Steve and Dawn Showalter
Eileen Steward
Joyce Stokes
Straits Area Federal Credit Union
Dan and Karen Stroup
Jim and Anne Sturgeon
Sunrise Communications
George and Connie Warner
Nick and Heidi Whitehead
Bob and Jackie Williams
Scott Williams and Kim Beck
Jay and Mary Kay Woiderski

2017 Banquet Big Spenders

Roy and Donna Berry
Citizens National Bank
Ed Delana
Ann Douglas
Tom Faner and Alice Gaujanian
David and Nancy Kolar
Charles and Dawn Ku
Denise Lange
Shawn and Mary Mankin
Ed and Barb Mason
Tony and Cheryl Merchant
Kevin and Dee Prediger
Roy Sjoberg
Carla Skuse
Mike and Peggy Supernault
Joe and Sue Williams
Korey Wischmeyer
Greg and Pat Woodcroft
Carl Yost

Follow Us on
FaceBook 



Dedicated to the future of our sturgeon.

Sturgeon General Volume 19 Issue 1 WINTER 2018

Upcoming Events 2018

February

- 2-3 Black Lake Sturgeon Shivarree
- 3 Black Lake Sturgeon Season Opens
- 15 Sturgeon Advisory Council Meeting

April Register for Sturgeon Guarding Program

May Sturgeon Guarding Program —All month
Guided Sturgeon Viewing Tours
Research: Netting, tagging and larval sampling

June-July Hatchery Rearing/ Research

August Sturgeon Hatchery Tours and Release Ceremony TBD

September
8 20th Annual SFT Banquet, Cheboygan

October and November
Sturgeon in the Classroom deliveries

www.sturgeonfortomorrow.org

Follow Us on
FaceBook



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.