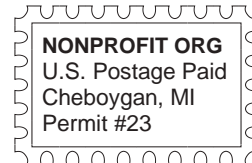




1604 N. Black River Road  
 Cheboygan, MI 49721  
 231-625-2776  
 www.sturgeonfortomorrow.org



*Dedicated to the future of our sturgeon.*

**Sturgeon General** Volume 24 Issue 1 WINTER 2023

### Upcoming Events 2023

January	Membership Renewals/Sturgeon Guard registration opens
February	
3-4	Black Lake Sturgeon Shivaree
4	Black Lake Sturgeon Season Opener
TBD	Sturgeon Advisory Council Meeting
March 15	Scholarship Application Deadline
April	Register for Sturgeon Guarding Program
May	Sturgeon Guarding Program—All month Guided Sturgeon Viewing Tours/Classroom sturgeon returns Research: Netting, tagging and larval sampling
June-July	Hatchery Rearing/Research
August	Sturgeon Hatchery Tours and Release Ceremonies TBD
September 9	24th Annual SFT Banquet - K of C, Cheboygan
October - November	Sturgeon in the Classroom deliveries

**Board of Directors Meetings**  
 Your Sturgeon For Tomorrow Board of Directors meet on the 3rd Monday of the month at 6:00pm from March through October. We usually meet at Bernard Building Center in Cheboygan, or Zoom meetings if appropriate.

**Winter 2023 issue**

Shivaree/New Board Members/Scholarships	P.1
MemberRenewals/PresidentsMessage/Contacts	P.2
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Shivaree Calendar of Events	P.4
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2022 Memberships/Contributions	P.7
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**February 3-4, 2023**

### Sturgeon For Tomorrow hosting the Black Lake Sturgeon Shivaree Feb 3-4, 2023!!

Activities for this event will be on Black Lake in front of the former Black Lake Hotel. The Shivaree will coincide with the opening of Black Lake Sturgeon season which opens on Saturday, February 4.

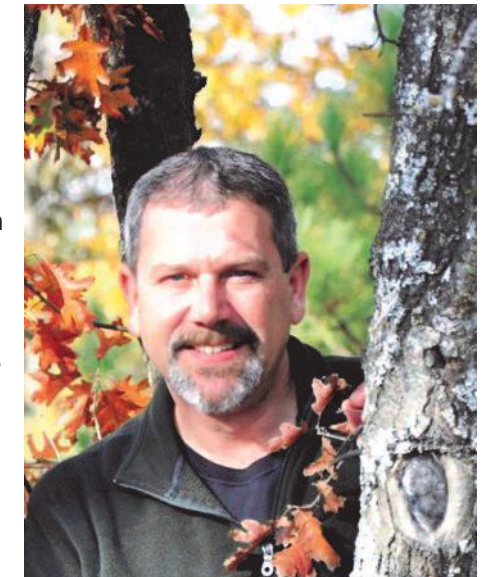
Proceeds from Shivaree Weekend will be invested in lake sturgeon recovery, protection, hatchery, research, habitat conservation, and outreach programs. **Sponsors and Volunteers needed.** See inside for details.

Join us in welcoming Andrew LaLonde and Scott Williams to your Board of Directors



**Andrew LaLonde**

Born and raised in Onaway, the Sturgeon Capital of Michigan, Andrew LaLonde joined our board in 2022. Andrew and his wife Kaitlin work and live in Cheboygan County serving our community at the Sheriff's Department and in Healthcare. They have two young daughters, Charlotte, and Elenior. Living on the Black River allows them to enjoy all of the sporting activities Black Lake provides including boating, fishing, and sturgeon fishing. Andrew was lucky enough to spear a sturgeon in 2020, and is now happy to help the Sturgeon for Tomorrow Team keep the fish population strong to let others enjoy and pursue that "once in a lifetime experience."



**Scott Williams** grew up in Cheboygan and now lives in Millersburg, and is married to his wife Kim. Scott has two children Brett and Amanda. Scott is a Contractor & Project salesman at Bernard Building Center in Cheboygan and has been in the building material sales since 2005. Before that, he was in both commercial & residential construction for about 15 years. Scott enjoys all outdoor activities but is especially fond of ice fishing. Scott has been involved with Sturgeon for Tomorrow since the beginning lending a hand when he could. With learning of openings on the board last year at the banquet, Scott felt it was time get directly involved & do his part for the beloved fish.

### Sturgeon For Tomorrow Scholarships Available to Area Graduates

The Sturgeon For Tomorrow (SFT) Fisheries, Wildlife or Natural Resources Scholarships in the amount of \$1000 each is being offered to 2023 high school graduates at Cheboygan Area High School, Inland Lakes High School and Onaway High School. Students may contact their school guidance office for an application. **The application deadline is March 15.** For more information and to download a scholarship application, log onto [www.sturgeonfortomorrow.org](http://www.sturgeonfortomorrow.org)

**Sturgeon Guard Sign Up Opens Jan 1—Register here** [sturgeonfortomorrow.org/guarding-program.php](http://sturgeonfortomorrow.org/guarding-program.php)



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### President

Brenda Archambo  
231-420-2736

### Vice President

Jason Woiderski  
231-420-7853

### Secretary

Charlie Maltby  
231-627-3407

### Treasurer

Jay Woiderski  
231-420-1237

### Directors

Gil Archambo  
Andrew Lalonde  
Scott Williams

### Membership Manager

Marty Jones

### Volunteer Coordinators Sturgeon Guard

Jim and Mary Paulson  
989-763-7568

### Sturgeon Ambassadors

Keith and Karen Abrahamson  
Pete and Judy Chimner  
Bill and Sharon Church  
Doug and Treisha Larson  
George and Connie Warner

Sturgeon For Tomorrow  
Black Lake Chapter  
1604 N. Black River Road  
Cheboygan, MI 49721  
[www.sturgeonfortomorrow.org](http://www.sturgeonfortomorrow.org)



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## January is Membership Renewal Month—PLEASE RENEW TODAY!

*We need you now, more than ever, to sustain our work in lake sturgeon rehabilitation and recovery. Sturgeon For Tomorrow is a 501c3 non-profit corporation. Your membership and contribution investments are tax deductible.*

Your membership investments and contributions is the lifeblood of this organization and aids in the implementation of the many important programs facilitated by Sturgeon For Tomorrow. Meaningful work is ongoing through Sturgeon in the Classroom, investing funds in the hatchery for rearing and stocking lake sturgeon throughout the Cheboygan River & Saginaw Bay Watershed, Sturgeon Guarding Program, Guided Tours, Outreach and Education, Scholarships, Collaborative Research, Habitat improvements/monitoring, advocacy as well as supporting the development of the highly successful Sturgeon on Loan program.

Please return the enclosed blue membership renewal envelope or renew online using PayPal at [www.sturgeonfortomorrow.org/membership.php](http://www.sturgeonfortomorrow.org/membership.php)

*Thank you in advance for your sustained support!!*



### President's message...

To *The People of the Sturgeon*,

I am super excited to welcome Andrew Lalonde and Scott Williams to our Board leadership team! Andrew and Scott joined your Board of Directors in the fall of 2022 and bring with them a passion for conservation. The vision forward is even larger than the vision getting us to this point!

In June, Gil and I are passing on our 28-year legacy of volunteer service to lake sturgeon rehabilitation and recovery to enjoy retirement, family, and adventure travel. We wish to express our heartfelt gratitude and resounding appreciation to YOU our faithful members, ambassadors, funders, volunteers, collaborators and Board of Directors (past, present and future). Your dedication and commitment to our mission drives the integrity and impacts that makes our programs unique and meaningful. We will continue to coach when needed. Just know... we will always be your biggest fans!!

I could write a book about the decades of sturgeon work on the Upper Black River. But **to summarize the past 20 years of collaborative sturgeon work** focused on understanding factors affecting recruitment in the Black Lake population: Research, restoration hatchery production, and outreach and educational programs **please watch this mini-video titled "20th Anniversary Lake Sturgeon Research Michigan"** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FDUHw5bVAI0>

### Another fantastic read:

**20 years of Lake Sturgeon research, outreach, and management on the Black River**

by Kim Scribner and Edward Baker

[https://iaglr.org/II/2022-4-Fall\\_LL15.pdf](https://iaglr.org/II/2022-4-Fall_LL15.pdf)

Your ongoing support and engagement are vital to our continued success. Thank you!!

*Brenda Archambo*



## Your investments are the lifeblood of our programs. Sincere gratitude!!

### Sustainers (\$500+)

Don and Nan Blasy  
Amy Roy Ferneding  
William S. Gray  
Brian Joseph  
Bradley and Susan Moffatt  
Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op  
Bryan Stump DMD  
Alex Taylor\*\*  
Adam Weinrich

### Leaders (\$100-\$499)

Keith and Karen Abrahamson  
Kathy Bezotte and Rick Ackenberg  
Milus Allison  
Art and Patty Archambo  
Gil and Brenda Archambo  
Scott and Beth Archambo  
Archambo Electric, Inc.  
Christine Baker  
Glenn and Maryanne Belyea  
Roy Berry  
Donald Bessey  
Black River Sand and Gravel  
Dave and Rob Borowicz  
Barbara Brett  
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Jim and Gina Burke  
Todd Charboneau Builders  
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Gray and Carol Fischer  
Will Fitzpatrick  
Jeffrey Fossmo  
James and Nancy Frybarger Jr.  
James Frybarger Jr.  
Ronald Funke  
Robert and Elizabeth Garner  
Richard D. Goodell  
Craig and Deb Gronda  
David and Elaine GuLock  
William and Cynthia Harrison  
Lynne Heasley  
Dr. Mary Ann Heidemann

Fred Helmer  
Cathy Hendricks  
Dennis Hoag  
Dick Hopkins  
Bill and Shirley Houle  
Don Inman and Virginia Pierce  
Jay's Sporting Goods  
Jim's Lawn Care  
Christopher and Joni Kallgren  
Dale Kennicott  
David Kerekes  
John Kostecki  
Rich Krentz  
Andrew and Kaitlin LaLonde  
Kurt and Lori LaLonde  
Denise Lange  
Doug and Treisha Larson  
Lyle and Lynne Lippard  
Sarah and Jay Lucier  
Bill and Judy Mack  
Bryan and Anita Madison  
Paul and Bren Maenle  
Ronald J. Maka  
Charles and Amy Maltby  
Shawn and Mary Mankin  
Tom and Kim Martin  
Thomas Lee Miller  
Ann Minock  
Jeff Morrrell  
Fred and Linda Moulder  
Alice and Curt Mushlock  
Jim and Nancy Norton  
Karla and Mike Passalacqua  
James and Mary Paulson  
James R. Pedersen  
Nicholas Posak  
Larry Poynter  
Brock Prater  
Kevin and Dee Prediger  
David and Linda Sandvik  
Steve Shomaker  
Roy and Peg Sjoberg  
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Stevenson Water Hauling  
Joyce Stokes  
Straits Area Federal Credit Union  
Ressie Stranally and Darin Wallis  
Dan and Karen Stroup  
Sunrise Communications  
Timothy Sutton  
The Conservation Fund  
William Thompson  
Dustin Tiemeyer

Linda and Ronald VanSickle  
George and Connie Warner  
Frank Wheatlake  
White Buffalo Restaurant  
Bob and Jackie Williams  
Scott and Kim Williams  
Bob and Dave Williams  
Kevin and Jackie Winkle  
Korey Wischmeyer  
Cyndie Wiszowaty  
Jay and Mary Kay Woiderski  
Larry Wood  
Carl Yost



### Partners (\$50-\$99)

Glenn and Maryanne Belyea  
Racquel Dobry  
Doug and Marleen Frens  
Jessica Goletz  
Dr. Mary Ann Heidemann  
Fred Helmer  
Don Inman and Virginia Pierce  
David Milon  
Diane Morand  
Nicholas Posak  
Larry Poynter  
Kevin and Dee Prediger  
Ann Ratterree  
James L. Ribby  
Indian River Sportsman Club  
Michael and Peggy Supernault  
Mike Sutton  
Dustin Tiemeyer  
John Tomlinson  
Linda and Ronald VanSickle  
Ralph and Hazel Williams  
Michael and Elisabeth Worzniak  
Nicholas Yeager

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**The 2023 sturgeon season on Black Lake is set to begin at 8 a.m. on Saturday, February 4.**

*The DNR has not issued a press release as of this writing. Below are likely guidelines.*

- In order to participate in the season, anglers must register online by Friday, February 3.
- Participating anglers age 17 or older must have a valid Michigan fishing license.
- Fishing Season starts Saturday, February 4, 2022 @ 8am
- Fishing hours are 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. each day of the season
- Season will end either at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, February 8 or when
  - > the sixth fish is harvested,
  - > or when five fish have been harvested at the end of any fishing day
- Seven (7) lake sturgeon are allowed in total (State recreational anglers)
- Those who harvest a lake sturgeon must immediately contact DNR personnel on the ice to register the lake sturgeon harvest.
- All anglers will be notified when season is over by text message and on the ice by Michigan DNR personnel that they must immediately stop fishing for lake sturgeon.
- [Michigan.gov/fishing](http://Michigan.gov/fishing)



**Sturgeon in the Classroom (SITC) celebrates TEN YEARS!!!**

The goal of the Sturgeon in the Classroom program is to instill conservation stewardship. Schools are selected to raise a juvenile sturgeon during the school year, while incorporating hands-on, place-based education to enlighten youth on the importance of environmental conservation and stewardship. This program is a perfect example of place-based stewardship education since students are learning about their local watershed, recovery of threatened species while improving local fisheries with the fish's release. Students also learn strategies and tactics on how to keep the Great Lakes, Great!

**Acknowledgements: Michigan State University, Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians, Saginaw Bay Sturgeon, Michigan Sea Grant**

**2022-2023 SITC Participating Schools**

- Alcona Elementary School
- Cheboygan Middle School, Cheboygan
- Holt High School, Holt
- Inland Lakes Schools, Indian River
- Lakeville Middle School, Otisville
- Meridian Early College High School, Sanford, MI
- Onaway High School, Onaway



***We accept contributions, memorials and honorariums for special occasions, like birthdays anniversaries and special tributes. THANK YOU on behalf of your loved ones.***

<b><i>In Honor of Marg Zielinski</i></b> M. Jones	<b><i>In Memory of Rourke J Haas, Jr</i></b> Randall Haas	<b><i>In Memory of Lester M. White</i></b> Fayne Hodgman
<b><i>In Honor of Bob Tomlinson</i></b> John Tomlinson	<b><i>In Memory of Geraldine and TL Hart</i></b> Jackie Bartasius	<b><i>In Memory of Bob Minock</i></b> Ann Minock
	<b><i>In Memory of Gary Race</i></b> Susan J. Race	<b><i>In Memory of Bob Shoemaker</i></b> Beth and Steve Worden



**2022 Lake Sturgeon Research and Stocking Summary  
By Doug Larson, Research Assistant I  
Michigan DNR - Michigan State University**

The 2022 Black Lake research season began on April 28th when Michigan State University (MSU) and Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) researchers captured one adult Lake Sturgeon ascending the Upper Black River. Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) data indicated the first sturgeon entered the river on April 23rd, 2022, with the first fish reaching the spawning grounds on April 25th.

A total of 316 adult Lake Sturgeon were captured during the spawning season, of which 68 were captured for the first time (21.52%). Of the first-time captures, four fish were confirmed to be of hatchery origin. The largest single day capture was on May 7th, where the crew sampled 40 fish. Unfortunately, this just so happened to fall on the day of the 20th anniversary celebration day! The largest fish captured this year was a 6.3 ft female that weighed 145.95 lbs. The smallest fish this year was a 12 lb, 2.9 ft lake sturgeon which was originally released above Tower Dam in 2015 as part of a study of how young lake sturgeon interact with the hydropower facilities. This marks the first time one of these fish has been captured in the annual adult survey.

In addition to raising a small number of eggs in the hatchery for research, 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 fulfil all stocking quotas with fish captured in the wild, where possible. This year, larval drift sampling began on May 19th and continued sparsely until June 12th. At the historical drift site, MSU personnel captured 13,704 larvae across 20 drift nights.

In 2022, 560 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, 524 Lake Sturgeon were released into Mullet Lake, all of which were implanted with a PIT tag.

At the direction of the Lake Sturgeon committee and in collaboration with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Black Lake Sturgeon for Tomorrow, and Michigan Sea Grant, fall fingerling Lake Sturgeon were released into the Titabawassee (n = 129), Flint (n = 130), Shiawassee (n = 130), and Cass Rivers (n = 130), respectively as part of an ongoing rehabilitation and research effort. This project will continue at an approximate density of 125 Lake Sturgeon from the Black River Streamside Rearing Facility for the foreseeable future. In addition, as part of the ongoing effort to monitor young-of-year lake sturgeon movement, 20 fish from each of the four Saginaw Bay tributaries were implanted with a hydroacoustic transmitter. These transmitters allow researchers to passively monitor the movements of lake sturgeon both in the river, and throughout Saginaw Bay for up to a year post stocking. 2022 was the first of a two-year effort to evaluate how fish move in each of these rivers. Researchers conducted a mark-recapture assessment across four transects from the mouth of the river to Red Bridge nightly from dusk until completion during the week of August 1st, 2022. 26 fish were recaptured across four recapture nights. Based on 17 recapture events, MSU calculated that an estimated 30 lake sturgeon



**Michigan State University Facility Supervisor, Doug Larson, holds an adult Lake Sturgeon in 2022.**

were in the lower stretch of the upper Black River this year. This survey will continue in 2023, and is a great example of collaboration between MDNR, MSU, and the five

Chippewa-Ottawa Resource Authority Tribes. Research efforts in 2022 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 including migratory strategy, inter-annual migratory trade-offs and sperm quality. This work resulted in a publication in the Canadian Journal of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences.

Finally, Michigan State University collaborated with Dr. Gary Anderson and graduate student Alaina Taylor to collect fin ray samples from adult lake sturgeon for elemental signature analysis. Elemental signatures in fin rays have been used to predict past life history events in fish, such as migration, habitat use, and exposure to pollutants. This study aimed to compare fin rays to known life history events (i.e. point of first known spawn) to determine if onset of sexual maturity can be identified based on elemental composition and/or morphology of the fin ray. Pectoral fin clips were collected from the Black Lake sturgeon population because it has been closely monitored since 2001. Individuals inter-spawning intervals were available from fish tagged with Passive Integrated Transponder (PIT) tags and monitoring with Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) antennas (established 2016). Continuing research through MSU includes: the selective properties of female lake sturgeon ovarian fluid; downstream outmigration of drifting Lake Sturgeon and the consequences for recruitment; behavioral plasticity as a function of intra-species reproductive competition and its consequences for current and future reproduction. In total, Michigan State University published 9 papers related to lake sturgeon in Black Lake in 2022. Additionally, two manuscripts are in revision or review.

Finally, Michigan State University, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Tower-Klieber Limited Partnership, and The Black Lake Chapter of Sturgeon for Tomorrow celebrated 20 years of partnership on lake sturgeon restoration on May 7th, 2022. An estimated 200 members of the public were on hand to tour the facility, view lake sturgeon on the spawning grounds, and learn about lake sturgeon life history. The event was documented in a short video, which can be found here: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U\\_K19etbiZc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U_K19etbiZc). This collaboration was also highlight in a recent issue of the Lakes Letter, a quarterly publication by International Association for Great Lakes Research.

More information can be found at [glsturgeon.com](http://glsturgeon.com), as can the 20-year bibliography of lake sturgeon research.

# STURGEON Black Lake SHIVAREE

## Shivaree Weekend

### Feb 3-4, 2023

Event Location: Black Lake

Near the former Black Lake Hotel  
1701 Winifred Street, Cheboygan, MI 49721

www.sturgeonfortomorrow.org/shivaree  
231-420-1237

#### SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

#### FRIDAY, Feb 3

Entertainment tent opens at 3pm  
Shop Shivaree collectables

3-6pm: Acoustic tunes with **Laura Fullford**



Register for Ice Fishing Contest and Poker Run (tent)

6-10pm: (21+)



Live Band  
**The Lonely Pines**



Black Lake Chapter  
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\$5.00 Entrance w/Button



#### SATURDAY, February 4

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

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

8am-6pm: **Fishing Contest**

11am-6pm: **Poker Run**

8am-11am Live Mic

11am-2pm: **Mike Ridley**

11am-4pm: **Youth Activities Nautreology**

**Live Sturgeon Exhibit**



3pm-6pm **Evan Archambo, soloist & DJ**  
**Rock'n the tunes...**



6-10pm: Entertainment Tent: 21+

**Electric Soul**

7pm: Announce Fishing Contest Winners

8pm: Announce Poker Run Winners

9pm: Shivaree Raffle Drawing

10pm tent closes

#### Interpretive Signage Installed at Indian River Sturgeon

SFT in partnership with the **Burt Lake Preservation Association** and **Mullett Area Preservation Society** invested funds to develop interpretive signage at the sturgeon on M-68 and Straits Highway in Indian River. The signs were professionally designed by Joe Hindz at Project Arts and Ideas. We appreciate Tuscarora Township Parks Commission for installing the signs.



#### Sturgeon Capital of Michigan Signs Installed.

Several years ago during an MDOT road reconstruction project the old "Sturgeon Capital of Michigan" signs we taken down. SFT approached the City of Onaway, Sturgeon Capital of Michigan, and asked if they would partner with us to pay for replacing the four signs. We worked together and got it done! These signs were installed this summer.

#### SFT partners with collaborators to donate PIT Tags and Reader to Little Traverse Bay Band of Odawa Indians (LTBB)

The Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians (LTBB) was in need of a PIT tag reader for use in their sturgeon assessments and research. The Black Lake Chapter and St. Clair-Detroit River Chapters of Sturgeon For Tomorrow partnered and purchased a Biomark PIT reader in support of this important work. We sincerely appreciate LTBB for their work, including Sturgeon in the Classroom leadership.

SFT Black Lake Chapter also partnered with LTBB and the **Burt Lake Preservation Association** for the purchase of PIT tags to use in the Burt Lake system.

#### Research and Hatchery Investments

**Research:** SFT's sustained support of Michigan State University (MSU) and Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) research, we invested in an OregonRFID ORMR Multiple Antenna, reader, tuner and tags. This tracking equipment increases operational efficiency, reduces capital costs, grants access to real-time data, eliminates human error, and offers insight for better decision making.

**Hatchery/Stocking:** In Partnership with **The Conservation Fund and SaginawWIN**, SFT funds the costs of feeding the sturgeon in the hatchery from larval stage to stock-out. The **Saginaw Bay Sturgeon Restoration** is part of a larger statewide, multi-year rehabilitation plan to develop self-sustaining lake sturgeon populations across Michigan and support removal from the threatened species list. This work includes restoring sturgeon habitat, reintroducing sturgeon into their native ranges, and raising awareness and appreciation for this unique species. Since 2017, juvenile lake sturgeon have been released annually into the tributaries of the Saginaw River system. Special shout-out to **Michigan Sea Grant** for taking the lead in the Saginaw Bay Watershed sturgeon releases.



LTBB Left to Right:  
Dan Monhollon (Great lakes Fisheries Management Technician), Jessica Walker (Seasonal Fisheries Technician), Katherine Skubik (Great Lakes Fisheries Research Specialist), Kevin Donner (Great Lakes Fisheries Program Manager)