



Kazoo News

February, 2010

Kalamazoo River Sturgeon for Tomorrow, 3131 57th St, Fennville, MI 49408
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Year in Review

By Suzanne Dixon

UPCOMING EVENTS INSIDE

- 1** IMAX Movie: Mysteries of the Great Lakes
- 2** Sturgeon Guarding Program
- 3** Drift Sampling

Approximately 25 to 30 adult sturgeon make the Kalamazoo River their home base. Kregg Smith of the MDNR reports that he found spawning activity in the Allegan Dam area the end of April. There were two females. One bottomed out a 200 pound scale. She may be the largest identified in the state. Evidence of a successful spawning season was found with the discovery of two juvenile sturgeon in Kalamazoo Lake in the fall.

We will begin a guarding program this year to prevent poaching like the Grand River incident last spring. Spawning is dependent on water temperature and variable so volunteers will be contacted when the activity begins. Families and camping are welcome with DNR permit to be obtained by this organization. Even if you have only a couple of hours, we invite you to join us down by the river.

This year we will be assisting with research being done by the Gun Lake Tribe. We will be dropping, checking, and cleaning nets in search of new hatchlings. The work is done from boats provided by the DNR under their guidance. Join us to see this season's spawning success.

Consumers Power requested a relicensing permit for continued operation of Allegan Dam. Their agreement requires them to install several more spawning sites in the coming year.

We will continue to actively seek the funding to do bank restoration work in areas of severe erosion to restore the river's fishery habitat.

We have just received notification that we are the recipient of a technology grant from Freshwater Future. We look forward to keeping you up to date.

We are forming partnerships with the Gun Lake Tribe, MDNR, Kalamazoo River Watershed Council, Allegan County Conservation District, Outdoor Discovery Center, and Black Lake Sturgeon for Tomorrow. We are indebted to the assistance received from Michigan Sea Grant. A big thank you to the guys of KAST for their generous donation.

We need your support to bring back a healthy, self-sustaining sturgeon population. Join, volunteer, and learn.

*The sturgeon are an
indicator species for a
healthy river.*

Upcoming Events

MYSTERIES OF THE GREAT LAKES: IMAX film opening February 12.

Limited showing at Celebration Cinema Grand Rapids North, 2121 Celebration Dr. Grand Rapids, 49525. Call (616) 530-7469 for times. This film highlights the challenges to sturgeon survival including the loss of habitat from dams, sediment, dredging, and toxic pollutants. Sound familiar? See the successful work being done.

To Volunteer,

Call (616) 335-5076

Or

E-mail

kazoosturgeon@gmail.com

STURGEON GUARDING PROGRAM

Lake sturgeon are a threatened species. They are most vulnerable while spawning. River guarding will take place at spawning sites in the area of Allegan Dam. The timing is dependent on several variables, but usually occurs the end of April. Sign up now to be notified when the time is right. This could be a fun family event. Camping will also be made available.

DRIFT SAMPLING

The Kalamazoo River Sturgeon for Tomorrow will be assisting the Gun Lake Tribe in a juvenile research project. Shift of 2-3 adults are needed to work between 10 pm and 4 am. Yes, that time is right. This work will be done during May and June when the sturgeon eggs begin to hatch. We will be checking nets with the MDNR from boats in the river. Sign up now to be notified. Be part of this valuable study to get more information on the reproduction of sturgeon in the Kalamazoo River.



Members inspecting egg sampler.

Membership and Donation Form

Yes, I want to become a member of SFT.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Basic Membership (\$20) Family Membership (\$30) Donations _____

Thank you. Kalamazoo River Sturgeon for Tomorrow, 3131 57th St.
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