



OLD SCHOOL HOUSE
HISTORY CENTER

SAUGATUCK-DOUGLAS
HISTORICAL SOCIETY



SAUGATUCK-DOUGLAS
HISTORY MUSEUM

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HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S JULY 28 "TUESDAY TALK"
UPDATES KALAMAZOO RIVER STURGEON PROJECT

JULY 17, 2015 -- An update on The Kalamazoo River Sturgeon Habitat Restoration Project highlights the next Saugatuck-Douglas Historical Society "Tuesday Talk" on July 28 in the Old School House History Center, 130 Center Street, Douglas. The one-hour program begins when the school bell rings at 11 a.m. Admission is free, public attendance is invited and audience participation is welcomed.

Presenters Jay Wesley, Al Weener and Ronald Clark will show a video about the project, and discuss the history of the species, the upcoming release of a dozen baby sturgeon into the river, and plans for increasing the egg production of sturgeon returning to the Kalamazoo to spawn.

Wesley is Lake Michigan Basin Coordinator, Fish Division, for the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR); Weener and Clark are, respectively, President and Executive Director of *Kalamazoo River Lake Sturgeon for Tomorrow*, a not-for-profit organization that partners with the DNR, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and the Gun Lake Indian Tribe "to restore this ancient, sacred and revered unique species to the Kalamazoo where it once abounded".

According to Clark, "each female returns only every four to seven years, but does not begin to spawn until age 24 to 26 years, so obviously this is a long term project. Females can live to be 100 while males live to about 70. Sturgeon have populated the Kalamazoo River for more than 10,000 years", he notes, "but in the past 125 years human pollution, dam building and overfishing have severely diminished their numbers. Now, only human intervention can bring them back."

A summertime tradition since 1996, "Tuesday Talks" present entertaining and informative insights into our community life weekly throughout July and August.

To learn more about the restoration project, visit www.kazoosturgeon.org. For more information about the Saugatuck-Douglas Historical Society, its Museum and Old School House History Center, or its activities planned for 2015, visit www.sdhistoricalsociety.org.

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DNR fish biologist Kreg Smith wrestles female sturgeon, about 50 years old, netted near Allegan Dam to harvest eggs for Habitat Restoration Project, topic of Historical Society's July 28 "Tuesday Talk".