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Sturgeon for Tomorrow, Black Lake Chapter Receives Interpretive Project Grant from the National Association for Interpretation - Region 4

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. Projects may include exhibitry, signage, programs, or other ideas that enhance visitors' interpretive experience. Applications are submitted annually, and reviewed by the IPG Committee consisting of members of NAI Region 4 who guide the grant process and make recommendations to the Region 4 Board of Directors.

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 Archambo, "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."

IPG funds from NAI Region 4 will add financial support for the project, contributing to the Sturgeon in the Classroom interpretive programming, workshops, outreach and events.

"It is always interesting and enlightening for the Committee to see all of the wonderful projects underway in Region 4 - we have very passionate and creative members in our region," said Jennifer McDowell, Chair of the Interpretive Project Grants Committee. "Congratulations to the Black Lake Chapter on their work increasing awareness of our Great Lakes ecosystem and engaging constituents to become active stewards in conserving this important natural resource."

Applicants receiving funding this year along with Sturgeon for Tomorrow, Black Lake Chapter's *Lake Sturgeon in the Classroom* project include the Kensington Metropark Farm Center's *The Farm Center Kids' Corner: Day in the Life of Today's Farm Kid* project (MI) and Jim Witter with Wood County Park District's *Interpretive Signage Project* (OH).

The National Association for Interpretation (NAI) is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit professional organization dedicated to advancing the profession of heritage interpretation, currently serving about 5,000 members in the United States, Canada, and over thirty other nations. Individual members include those who work at parks, museums, nature centers, zoos, botanical gardens, aquariums, historical and cultural sites, commercial tour companies, and theme parks. Commercial and institutional members include those who provide services to the heritage interpretation industry.

The Association is divided into ten geographical regions to help members network with others near them through professional development opportunities, workshops, and periodical newsletters. Region 4 – the Great Lakes Region - includes Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, and Ontario.

NAI's Mission is to inspire leadership and excellence to advance heritage interpretation as a profession.
