

# Name the first sturgeon at newly renovated Watershed Discovery Center in Petoskey

by Trevor Roubadeaux

Fri, April 12th 2024 at 9:10 AM

Updated Fri, April 12th 2024 at 9:41 AM

EMMET COUNTY, Mich., (WPBN/WGTU) -- There are changes coming to the Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council in Petoskey.

To celebrate, you have the chance to name the first sturgeon being placed in the new Discovery Center.

Meteorologist Trevor Roubadeaux has a look at the renovations and how you can name the sturgeon.

The Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council in Petoskey has some big renovations underway to improve its education and outreach in Northern Michigan.

"We're currently working on renovating our front room, which was before just to space for publications and to kind of meet with our membership and people that come in," Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council Education Manager Eli Baker said. "We're turning it into a Watershed Discovery Center, named after Ruth Tucker Ayers Harris, a donor who gave a bequest in order to help us further spread our message about protecting water resources here in Northern Michigan."

This Discovery Center will be a great place for families and people of all ages to visit and learn about our vast native species and resources.

"We're going to be using all the information we've collected and our partnerships that we've gained over the years to just help educate the community as a whole to why water is so important and what everybody can do to protect it," Baker said. "We want to start with the most important people, the people who will be inheriting this from all of us-- the next generation."

And with these renovations comes a partnership to raise a young sturgeon right in their Discovery Center.

"Every year the Watershed Council is going to be working with that fisheries enhancement facility at the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians, and we will be getting a sturgeon from them and we're going to get it as a small surgeon and we will raise it over the course of the year," Baker said.

“Then in summer, we're going to work with them. They have an annual sturgeon release event where they release sturgeon that were raised at local schools, the Watershed Council and at their Hatchery and they take them to the Sturgeon River, and we'll bring them to let those sturgeon go to hopefully increase the population here in Northern Michigan.”

And every year, the community can have their shot at naming the sturgeon, and you can get as creative as you want.

"Just submit your name and you can submit any name that you think would be a good name for a sturgeon," Baker said. "We've had everything from Finnegan, all kinds of goofy sturgeon names. So what we're going to do is after those initial submissions after May 1, the Watershed Council staff we're going to go through and select 10 names, and then we'll open those 10 names up to voting for the public."

The winner of the event will earn some fun prizes, and everyone in the top 10 will receive a sturgeon plush toy.

[To learn more or to submit a name, reach out to the Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council.](#)

The winning name will be announced June 1 at the Watershed Discovery Opening Celebration.