



Frank Jakubicek

District Fisheries Biologist



**Wanted dead, not alive
INVADING SPECIES**

Northern Snakehead, *Channa argus*



(Keeper's of the Knowledge)

Al Loppinot	1950's - Illinois' 1 st Fisheries Biologist
Paul Vidal	1950's - Illinois' Third Fisheries Biologist
Bruce Muench	early 1960's
Greg Tichachek	late 1960's
Gary Erickson/Jim Langbein	1970's
Joe Ferencak	1980's to 1998
Frank Jakubicek	1998 to present





A/C Electrofishing in Smaller Lakes and Ponds



D/C Electrofishing on Larger Systems





Netting



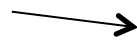
Vast Majority of My Work Deals with Predators and Sportfish

- Balancing Populations
- Sportfish Abundance
- State Hatchery Production
- Dead Fish and What Potentially Killed Them (Natural or Not)
- IEPA Contaminant Sampling for Consumption Advisories
- Habitat Work
- Streams Sampling
- Etc.
- Etc.
- Etc.

Why Pick on Me?



Mirror carp



Common "Scaled" Carp



“The introduction of this new food fish will be of great interest for there is no fish pond, mill pond, or boggy, muddy spot where they do not thrive. It will be strange if within 20 years, carp do not become as common as domestic ducks and pigeons.” American Aquaculturist Report 1880

(Referencing a proposed stocking in Southeastern Wisconsin)

General Life History

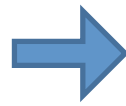
- Spawn in late May.
- Noticed only when they splash in the shallows.
- A typical female produces 1.0 million eggs.
- Intermittent reproductive success.
- Thrive in soft bottom lakes and ponds.
- Less abundant in clear, sandy bottom lakes and quarries.
- Feed on invertebrates by “rooting” along bottom re-suspending soft sediments.
- Tolerant of poor water quality.
- Long lived species (15+ years).

Here-in Lies the Problem



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Root Around



Stir up Trouble

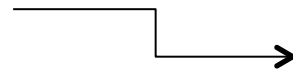


Reduce light penetration

How Did They Get Here?

- Fish Move!

(Seasonally and during High Water Events)



Why Do They Thrive?

- Tolerant of Poor Water Quality (Low DO)
- Survive Catastrophic Events Like Winter Kills or Summer Kills.
- Can Inhabit Shallow Ponds Not Suitable For Sport Fish.
- Have the Ability to Degrade Habitat Enough to Promote Their Existence.

When Present and Abundant

- Less Light penetrates the water column.
- Plant diversity decreases or becomes non-existent.
- Sport fish abundance and diversity decrease.
- Carp abundance increases until stunting occurs.
- Your lake looks like Chocolate milk!
- Your fishing isn't like the Good Ole Days!

What can be Done?

- Remove Carp!
- Then Remove More Carp!
- Stock Predators Consistently, Over Time, Develop a Strong Presence.
- No Need to Stock Crappie, Yellow perch, Sunfish, etc.
(Your problems are bigger than these fish until vegetation starts to grow!)
- When Your Spending More Money on Vegetation Treatments Than Fish Stocking Your Getting Close!
- This is a Long, Slow Process!

What Can You Do

- Evaluate Carp Source of Your Lake.
- Study the Art of Catching Carp.
- Promote and Hold Carp Derbies.
- Hire Commercial Fishermen to Catch Your Carp (\$2000 day)
(Requires some Permitting)
- Evaluate Your Vegetation Management Plan and Make Sure It Isn't Impacting Vegetation Too Much!
- Start Thinking About Reducing Carp Today 😊

Things to Think about While in The Audience

- Is My Lake Deep?
 - Is My Lake Hard Bottom?
 - Is My Lake Isolated?
 - Is There Enough Predation?
 - Is Sediment Re-suspension From Carp or Wind Driven?
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- Are We Reducing Nutrients?
 - Is Vegetation Present?
 - What kind?
 - Are My Carp Big or Small?

