



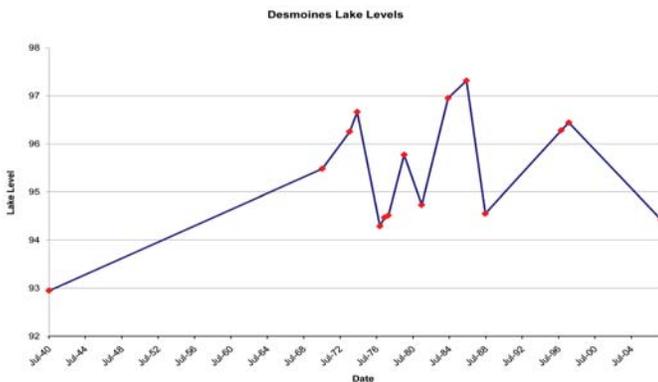
LAKELINES

Burnett County Lakes & Rivers Association
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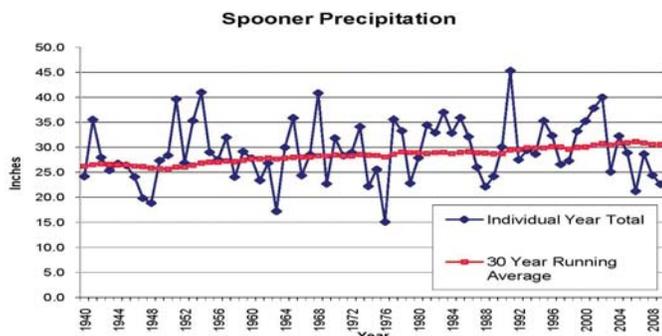
Low Water Levels: Past and Present

by John Haack, UWEX Educator for Natural Resources, St. Croix River Basin

Water level fluctuations and low water are nothing new to Burnett County. Lake level records on Burnett County's Des Moines Lake illustrate the fluctuating nature of ground water seepage (lakes that don't have inlet or outlet streams). These lakes depend entirely on rain and snow to replenish groundwater and lake water, and water levels can fluctuate several vertical feet as shown.



Rainfall records at the Spooner research station illustrate the variable nature of rainfall over the past century. Looking at the average precipitation over a 30 year period tells part of the story. Rainfall over the past 100 years shows the range of annual fluctuation as well. It also shows that historical 30 year averages were lower than the recent past. In 1940, the average



Rainfall over the past 100 years shows the range of annual fluctuation as well. It also shows that historical 30 year averages were lower than the recent past.

annual precipitation for the previous 30 year period was only 26.2 inches compared to the annual precipitation during the 30 years prior to 2008 of 30.6 inches.

Lakes and humans have been on the landscape for thousands of years, but lakes seem better at adapting to fluctuating water levels. As water levels decrease, very beneficial plants are stimulated to grow along the shore. In fact, some aquatic plants require water level fluctuations and many, like wild rice and bulrushes, are really important for fish spawning and stabilizing sediment. Plants like these along the lake edges are home to fish fingerlings, tadpoles and insects which in turn feed herons, eagles, song birds and loons and even fishermen.



Bulrushes provide critical spawning areas for bass, crappies and other fish.



Last summer brought lower water and exposed lakebed. When water returns, these areas again provide important habitats for lake life.



Message from the President *by Roger Noe*

Burnett County Lakes and Rivers Association

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“Burnett County..... Vision and Stewardship”

It was my pleasure to be able to present the Burnett County Board of Supervisors with a plaque of appreciation at the February 18th County Board meeting. The plaque pictures Governor Doyle and others signing legislation prohibiting the transfer of aquatic plants on Wisconsin highways. It also expresses appreciation to Burnett County for being a state leader in the fight against AIS issues (Aquatic Invasive Species).

My pleasure in presenting this plaque comes in that it is so well deserved. A small, rural, poor county in northwestern Wisconsin truly does have “vision” concerning its resources. “Stewardship” is fostered in all decisions pertaining to county issues and resources.



The Burnett County Board needs to be proud of its standing in Wisconsin. The programs and people the Board has put in place are serving the people and the resources with “Vision and Stewardship”. Congratulations County Board members. Keep up the good work.

Speaking of which.....Burnett County Lakes and Rivers Courtesy Code... the Burnett County Lakes and Rivers, Inc. group will produce and deliver 4000 copies of a “Courtesy Code” for lake shore owners, users, friends and relatives. “Road Rage” has become a part of life in America. We need to keep such crazies off of and away from our lakes and rivers. The Courtesy Code is a simple one page reminder of how pleasant life is while cruising the lake. A reminder to be respectful of others, the critters and the water. Please share it with others and “walk the talk”.

Lake Liaisons – each member lake within the BCLRA has been matched with a “lake liaison”. Do you know who yours is? Lake Liaisons will be sharing valuable information and literature with lake associations this spring. Revised Burnett County Courtesy Codes will be delivered to lake associations. A copy of “The Magic Goggles”, which is an educational read for children, also will be given to each lake association.

It is worth contacting your lake liaison so as not to miss some valuable lake and river information. Contact Roger Noe @ 715-635-6309 if you need to know who your liaison is. Enjoy your time at the lake this spring, summer and fall. Take time to listen, look and absorb the natural beauty which abounds in Burnett County Wisconsin.

Shoreline Invasive Compels Rapid Response

by Eric Wojchik, Conservation Planner, Burnett County Land & Water Conservation Department

We need your help identifying and locating Japanese Knotweed (*Polygonum cuspidatum*)! Once a common ornamental sought after for its “green screen” facade and lilac like flowers that seemed to emit a warm glow, it now presents a tremendous threat to Wisconsin’s waterways. This species has been listed by the World Conservation Union as one of the world’s 100 worst invasive species. This large herbaceous plant is native to eastern Asia and is a member of the family Polygonaceae. It has hollow, bamboo-like stems with raised nodes. Though Japanese Knotweed has the appearance of bamboo it is not closely related. It is actually a closer cousin to Buckwheat. As a very frost susceptible species, frost causes this plant to die back leaving only reddish hollow bamboo like canes above ground throughout the winter. Make no mistake, winter does not kill Japanese Knotweed, it is only dormant. With the arrival of spring, Japanese Knotweed begins to grow back from its enormous root system and takes full advantage of the growing season. In the peak of the growing season Japanese Knotweed can grow 2-4 inches per day. When conditions are right, mature colonies can easily reach their maximum height of 10-12 feet in one growing season.

Japanese Knotweed has the potential to spread by many different methods. Modes of reproduction include rhizomes, root and stem cuttings and seed. There is conflicting evidence as to whether or not Japanese Knotweed spreads by seed due to the plants Dioecious nature, meaning Japanese Knotweed colonies are either male or female. It is thought, as a species cultivated for ornamental uses all plants sold would have been only one sex. However, with the plants many uses it is likely that both male and female plants have been imported and now exist, resulting in viable seed.

The Burnett County LWCD in conjunction with the Polk County LWRD has secured a grant from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources for rapid response and control of Japanese Knotweed in 2010. The grant monies allocated to Burnett and Polk will help in purchasing supplies and herbicides to effectively control Japanese

Knotweed. The grant will also allow staff to perform information/education activities for the public and control workshops for property owners with infestations of Japanese Knotweed. We hope to establish an effective control program before infestations become too costly to address.

If you would like more information or you would like to report existing infestations of Japanese Knotweed in your area please contact the Burnett County LWCD at 715-349-2186 or the Polk County Land and Water Resources at 715-485-8699 for assistance in eradicating this harmful invasive.



Japanese Knotweed is a very aggressive plant that will grow on a wide range of soil types, has no native biological controls, is easily transported and almost impossible to eradicate in one single attempt. Wherever this species has been allowed to thrive has now proven to be a very costly mistake.



Long Lake Couple Embraces Native Plantings

by Cheryl Clemens, Shoreline Consultant,
Harmony Environmental

Marlee and Gary Farsund's waterfront on the southeast side of Long Lake is flat, sandy, and prone to erosion problems. Small gullies were created by runoff flowing from the driveway and house on the hillside above and made worse by sparse lawn grasses that did little to hold the sand in place. The Farsunds decided to face the problem head on several years ago by planting native plants in a shoreline buffer zone and allowing other areas of the shoreline to grow wild. The assistance the Farsunds received began with a contact to Burnett County (715-349-2186) for a free, on-site consultation with a shoreline restoration expert. They also worked with a landscaper to divert and allow runoff water to soak into the ground. But, with limited plantings and dry summers, plant coverage was still sparse in some areas.



Demonstration site planting crew - Farsunds at back right.

Plants selected primarily from Burnett County's Top Ten Native Plant List were used to give their shoreline restoration a jump start in September 2009. The Farsunds had assistance from county and state staff and other dedicated volunteers on planting day. The Farsunds' commitment is to keep the plants well-watered to ensure their survival. Long and Des Moines Lake residents will have the opportunity to see the plantings later this summer.

Why complete the native planting project? The Farsunds fill us in on what motivated them . . .

We were quite alarmed at how much our waterfront had eroded and filled in the lake over the years, and wanted to do what we could to keep the lake clean and healthy. Cheryl, our shoreline consultant, provided us with excellent advice on how to manage our property in a way that also takes care of the lake. She was very patient and encouraging as we made our decisions to change. We appreciate the help we received from Burnett County and are happy to have fewer erosion problems and less lawn to maintain!



2010 Northwest Wisconsin Lakes Conference - Telemark Resort, Cable, WI

Thursday, June 17, 2010 Preconference Workshop
 9 am - 4 pm..... *Portoon Classroom on Lake Namakagon - Lakewoods Resort (Limited Space)*

2010 Northwest Wisconsin Lakes Conference

Friday, June 18, 2010 - Telemark Resort & Convention Center, Cable, WI

AGENDA

- 7:30 am..... **Registration, Continental Breakfast & Exhibits**
- 7:30 am..... **NW Wis. Waters Consortium Annual Meeting** - Waldo Asp
- 8:45 am..... **Welcome & Opening Remarks** - Earl Cook, WAL and Washburn Co. Lakes & Rivers Assoc. and MaryJo Gingras, Iron Co. Land Conservation
- 9:05 am..... **Animal Life on the Lakeshore** - Scott Craven, UWEX
- 10:15 am..... **BREAK**
- 10:45 am..... **SESSION I**
Low Water - What Property Owners Can Do - Tom Blake, WDNR
Legal and Legislative Update - Earl Cook, WAL and Washburn Co. Lakes & Rivers Assoc.
Shoreland Restoration Techniques and Challenges - John Haack, UWEX
Economic Impacts of Aquatic Invasive Species - Bill Provencher, UW Madison
- 11:45 AM..... **LUNCHEON**
- 12:45 pm..... **SESSION II**
Limnology 101 Part 2 - Management - Pamela Toshner, WDNR and Tim Asplund, WDNR
New NR 115 Rules - Impacts on County Ordinances - Karl Kastrosky, Bayfield Co. Planning & Zoning and Lynn Markham, UWEX
Science Behind Lakeshore Buffers - Mike Meyer, WDNR
Fishing Tournaments and Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention - Mike Persson, Musky, Inc. and Frank Pratt, WDNR
- 1:45 PM..... **BREAK**
- 2:00 pm..... **SESSION III**
How to Be Firewise - Marty Kasinskas, WDNR and Mark Braasch, WDNR
Town Lakes Committees - Tony Tubbs and Russ Robinson, Town of Minong Lakes Committee
Our Love Affair with Lakes - A Timeline - Dave Thorson, Down To Earth Tours
Invasive Plant Management - Smart Prevention - Bob Wakeman, WDNR
- 3:00 pm..... **ADJOURN**

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Name 1 _____
 Name 2 _____
 Address _____
 City _____
 State _____ Zip _____
 Telephone # _____
 E-Mail Address _____
 Please send my registration confirmation via email.
 Lake Organization _____

*Submit names and addresses for each registrant.

I would like a vegetarian meal.

Name 1 Name 2

Payment Information.

Thursday Portoon Classroom
(includes lunch - space is limited)
 No. Attending _____ x \$15.00 = \$ _____

Friday NW Lakes Conference *(includes continental breakfast, lunch and materials)*

No. Attending _____ x \$45.00 = \$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ _____

Return registration form and check/money order made payable to Bayfield County UW Extension to:

Bayfield County UW-Extension
Courthouse, PO Box 218
Washburn, WI 54891

Registration Deadline:
Saturday, June 12, 2010

For more information contact **Tim Kane**,
timothy.kane@ces.uwex.edu or
(715) 373-6104, ext. 254



Thrills and Chills: Fireworks on Our Lakes

Edited by Mike Kornmann, UWEX - Originally published in Lake Tides, Spring 2005

How do you remember the Fourth of July at the lake? Barbeques, sparklers, boat parades around the lake? Here, at the UW-Extension Lakes office, phone calls about the Fourth of July sometimes go like this: "What can I do about my neighbor? My canvas boat awning burned off from falling hot fireworks, my beach is full of a nasty procession of scorched cardboard and plastic remains, the smoke makes us sick and I haven't seen my dog in two days! Not to mention what that noise is doing to the loons!"

Fireworks around Independence Day are certainly an American tradition. Firing them over the water seems to be a "no brainer" as far as fire safety is concerned, yet doing so can cause human explosions. So what about fireworks around the lake?

Noise

Complaints of noise caused by fireworks are common around lakes in the beginning of July and more recently even in May. The sounds of fireworks going off at all hours of the day and night can be more than just an annoyance. The blast can terrify pets and wild animals alike, causing them to seek a place to hide or be overcome with physical effects such as trembling. The noise from exploding fireworks can top 130 decibels (dB). According to acoustic health specialists, exposures to 105 dB for one hour can cause hearing damage. The typical lake environment has noise levels from 30 dB to 50 dB.

Accidents & Property Damage

Fireworks are dangerous. They can cause burns, loss of limbs and sometimes death. They are extremely hot -- sparklers can burn at temperatures of over 1800 degrees. On average, annually about 9,000 people are

injured severely enough by fireworks to require hospital treatment. Forty-five percent of those injuries occur to children younger than 15 years old.

Pollution

Some researchers believe heavy metal fallout from exploding fireworks poses a threat to the environment and us. Currently toxicological studies on the effects of fireworks on the environment are limited and vary in results. The solid reaction products that give us the pretty colors and special effects include a nasty bunch of chemical additives. The unknown factor is the concentrations needed to cause a problem. Fireworks contain a number of other toxic metals that are used to create a range of colors. Strontium produces blazing reds; copper compounds burn blue; magnesium, titanium and aluminum create brilliant white sparks. Sodium chloride generates orange-yellow fire; boric acid burns green; potassium and rubidium compounds produce purples and burning lithium glows red. Glittering greens are produced by radioactive barium. These ingredients drift on the winds and settle into our water and soils.

Celebrating this Independence Day can be more enjoyable for everyone if we are all respectful of our neighbors and wildlife, cautious in how we use fireworks and concerned with the potential impact they may have.

For information on the regulation of fireworks in Wisconsin, see Wisconsin Statute 167.10.

Anually, fireworks cause over 30,000 fires nationwide, resulting in millions of dollars of property damage. Reports of fires caused by fireworks on Wisconsin lakes are most frequent in July.

Talking Goose Educates Property Owners About Reducing Problem Geese

by John Haack, UWEX Educator for Natural Resources, St. Croix River Basin

A new video featuring a live-action, animated talking goose has been released on YouTube by UW-Extension as part of a new campaign aimed at encouraging shoreline property owners to consider a more natural approach to ridding their shorelines of pesky geese.



The video communicates that lawn-loving geese will be deterred from spending too much time on their land because they fear that natural shoreline vegetation may harbor predators who will eat them, their goslings or their eggs. Restoring natural shoreline vegetation is an important part of the overall maintenance of lake water quality and wildlife habitat and the video is intended to reach lakeshore homeowners who may not be focused on these issues.

Sebastian, the talking goose, discusses the importance of preserving and restoring natural shorelines and conveys the message that by restoring lakefront shorelines, geese will be less of a problem for lakeshore property owners. The video can be accessed at the below link:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uhKIGxXgrLg>



Top Ten Native Plants

Consider adding native plants, trees or shrubs into your shoreline landscape. Native trees and plants attract song birds and butterflies, are home to frogs and dragonflies, and help maintain water quality by slowing erosion. The Burnett County Lakes & Rivers Association is sponsoring this year's Top Ten Native Plants booklet and coupon (enclosed in this issue).

These plants were chosen based upon years of experience assisting with native plantings in the county. This short list of native plants will help to make your planting project a success. The sandy soils of Burnett County make plant establishment a challenge. The selected top ten plants are suited for most sites in Burnett County. The rest is up to you. The most important advice for plant survival is frequent WATERING! Planting from mid-May to mid-June and from mid-August to mid-September increases your planting success. Choosing plants suited to your site is critical.

To learn more about plants and planting options that fit your taste, your budget and your property, schedule a free shoreline site visit by calling Ann at the Burnett County Land and Water Conservation office 715-349-2186. The site assessments come with expert advice, no-strings-attached, no fees and no requirements.

Visit one of the nurseries listed below to try out some of the beautiful and beneficial plants on the list and redeem your coupon for a FREE native plant.

Austin Lake Greenhouse
HWY 35 Webster

Grantsburg Family Foods
HWY 70 Grantsburg

Wayne's Foods Plus
Webster (HWY 35)
and Danbury (HWY 77)

Wood River Nursery
HWY 70 East of Grantsburg

If you are ready for a more detailed list of native Burnett County plants, go to: www.burnettcounty.com/shoreline



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Fish Sticks: They Are Not Just For Supper Anymore

Edited by Mike Kornmann, UWEX - Written by Bayfield County LWCD



WHY IS WOOD GOOD? Wood in the near-shore areas of lakes continues to play a crucial role in the ecosystem. The forest-lake interface creates edge habitat on the shoreline. This forest-lake edge habitat, like all edge habitats, contains richer species diversity and higher concentrations of species than adjoining habitats themselves have. Research shows that a single white pine tree along the waterline could have as many as 27 separate species rooted to it. The structures also protect the shoreline from wave erosion. These physically complex lakeshore habitats are far superior to the shorelines typically found today on well developed lakes.

FOOD The abundance of wood in the near shore areas creates a super market for the animals in the lake. The bottom of a single pine log laying on shoreline could house a density of up to 75,000 invertebrates. While the invertebrates dine on the white pine, small fish gather to feast on them, and larger fish find the abundance of smaller fish to their liking. Research has proven that pan fish in lakes with significant complex woody habitat have growth rates up to three times that of fish in more simple habitats due to the increased availability of invertebrates.

COVER Wood complexes provide the critical cover fish and other animals require to successfully complete their lifecycles. All living things must have the opportunity to be born, to love and successfully procreate. The nooks and crannies of the wood complexes offer critters safety from predators while, at the same time, concentrating prey to make predators more efficient.



SHORELINE PROTECTION Wood complexes can protect shorelines from wind and wave erosion. The forty to fifty foot long trees commonly used to construct wood complexes calm the waters by absorbing the energy both of wind and powerboat generated waves. Without wood, waves can crash full force against the shoreline, creating areas of raw soil that will harm the lake. “Fish sticks” protect shoreline property owners’ interests as well as the fishes.

HOW MUCH WOOD IS ENOUGH? On undeveloped lakes, the density of natural woody complexes often exceeds 1,100 pieces per mile; or one every five feet. On Bony Lake in Bayfield County, the original density of wood was 36 pieces per mile, and has been increased to 179 pieces per mile through landowner efforts of creating “fishsticks.” This five-fold increase is still only 20% of the density usually found on the undeveloped lakes.

CREATING WOODY HABITAT More landowners are participating in creating wood habitat through “fish sticks” projects and the number of lakes benefitting from habitat work is increasing. Trees are selected for use according to sound forest management guidelines. Trees may come from the landowners’ properties or from donor parcels nearby.

Installation is done from the ice, causing little ground disturbance of the uplands. The trees are attached to the shoreline by steel rods or cables, keeping them in place while they “settle in” for the next couple of hundred years. As the ecologic importance of wood is better understood by lake property owners, interest in the installation of “fish sticks” increases.

For technical assistance and cost share information, contact Dave Ferris, County Conservationist at 715-349-2186 (dferris@burnettcounty.org).

Lake Notes



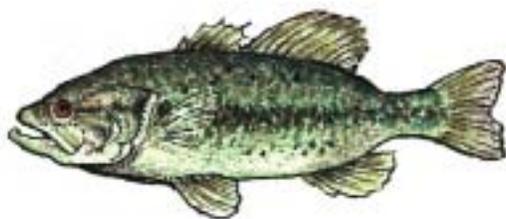
Starting New Lake Associations

This spring the BCLRA will focus on recruiting non-member lakes to join our association. Burnett County has 509 lakes, 128 larger than 20 acres and 381 smaller lakes, but only about 50 lake associations are currently members of the BCLRA. Consequently, we have identified 23 lakes with a reasonable number of permanent residents and at least a social group that we will approach about joining our organization. Depending on the success of the effort, we will likely target less populated lakes in the fall or spring 2011.

Below is a list of the lakes we will contact this spring:

Bass Lake (Swiss), Bashaw, Benoit, Big McGraw, Bluff, Boner, Buck, Connors, Crooked (Siren), Dunham, Frested, Hansom, Lily, Lucerne, Oak, Owl, Nicaboynne (& Goose), Poquette, Rice, Round (Swiss), Shoal, Stone, and Warner.

If you know people with property on any of these lakes, please encourage them to become a part of the Burnett County Lakes and Rivers Association.



largemouth bass

Largemouth Bass Size Limit Regulation Changes Up In The Air

Potential changes to the bass size limit in Burnett County will occur no earlier than the 2012 fishing season, according to Mike Staggs, WI DNR Fisheries Director. In 2009, voters across the state at Conservation Congress meetings overwhelmingly supported eliminating the largemouth size limit in Burnett County to combat the stunted and overpopulation of bass. Staggs recently commented that the size structure of bass was much worse in the 1980's with people catching fewer bass in general and fewer "big" bass. He also said that "there is a concern if too many bass are removed from lakes that it would result in poorer bass fishing and more stunted bluegills." Data from local fisheries biologist Larry Damman shows that bass from lakes in Burnett County take almost their entire life span (10 years) to reach 14 inches. Currently, the WI DNR Statewide Bass Committee continues to study the issue to determine an appropriate regulation change. The committee is considering some type of slot size limit that would protect bass in a certain size category (medium size). They see this as a way to protect larger fish and still give fishermen a chance to keep smaller bass and enjoy a fish fry. Staggs also potentially sees a separate northwest Wisconsin bass zone.

For more information contact Mike Staggs, Fisheries Director at 608-267-0796. Rep. Ann Hraychuck (Chair Fish and Wildlife Committee) 888-529-0028 or email: rep.hraychuck@legis.wi.gov; Rep. Nick Milroy (Vice-Chair Fish and Wildlife Committee) 888-534-0073 or email: rep.milroy@legis.wi.gov.

Boat Landing Camera Monitoring Is Your Lake Interested?

Burnett County has been a leader in Wisconsin in the battle against Aquatic Invasive Species in our waters. Through state grants, six Burnett County lakes were able to install monitors at their boat landings during summer months. Several incidents of folks launching watercraft with aquatic weeds were videotaped which led to stronger restrictions in the monitoring of dangerous weeds in lakes and rivers.

Burnett County Lakes and Rivers, Inc. is looking for further involvement by the lakes and rivers in the county. We have two interested lakes already - Fish Lake and Lipsett Lake. If you or your lake association has an interest in being part of a grant to pursue monitoring your landing, please give me a call. We welcome your involvement. Roger Noe can be reached at 715-635-6309 or dnoe@centurytel.net.

Critters for Kids - Snapping Turtle ("snapper")

by Christian W. Cold - Wildlife Technician, WI DNR - Ladysmith

What is a "snapper"?

A snapping turtle is a large to massive, dark turtle with a ridged or smooth shell, which is jagged at the rear. The tail is long and ridged with a row of dragon-like scales (scutes). The paws are thick and covered with heavy scales. The partially webbed toes are tipped with large, thick claws. The head is equipped with a powerful, shearing (scissors-like) beak.

Where do snappers live?

Snappers can be found in practically any type of wetland, but prefer shallow lakes, marshes and sluggish rivers with muck bottoms.

How big can a snapper get?

A baby snapper is only the size of a quarter, but an adult snapper can become very big! Old males may have a shell (carapace) over 20 inches long, and weigh up to 85 pounds!

What does a snapper eat?

A snapper will eat practically anything of nutritional value. Meat is preferred, especially dead things (carrion), crayfish and fish. Many types of aquatic (under water) plants are also eaten. A snapper cannot swallow food on dry land. It must eat its meals under water.

How long can a snapper live?

Sometimes a snapper can reach its 75th birthday (like us). Most adult snapping turtles live to age 50. Most baby turtles never grow up. They are eaten by other animals. Most turtle eggs never hatch (skunks dig them up).

Are snappers destructive to other wildlife?

A snapper will occasionally capture a duckling or two and is powerful enough to drown an adult goose or swan. In spite of this, studies have shown that snappers are not serious predators (hunters) of waterfowl.

Are snappers dangerous to humans?

A snapping turtle will defend itself if cornered on land. I have never been bitten by one in the water (and I have snorkeled with them). The bite of a large turtle can crush your finger, or produce a nasty cut or bruise on your body. Be careful when holding one (and watch out for those claws too!).

Are snapping turtles good to eat?

Many folks catch and eat snapping turtles. Would I eat one? Probably not.

A study on Mississippi River snappers in Minnesota found that their turtles contained high levels of dangerous chemicals (PCB's) in their body tissue.

Here's a picture of me properly holding a large one...



Notice the turtle's head is facing away from me.

The author highly recommends the following book for children and adults:

Holling C. Holling. 1979
Minn of the Mississippi
Houghton Mifflin Co.,
Boston, 87pp.

(A richly illustrated, very good read!)



Did you know?

A large snapping turtle eats only about 1X its body weight in an entire year! Think about it.....it is only active for about 4 months of the year.

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LAKELINES
 SPRING/SUMMER 2010
 VOLUME 15, ISSUE ONE



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