

Sturgeon Vignette - Sturgeon for Tomorrow

In 1977 a group of sturgeon enthusiasts from Lake Winnebago founded Sturgeon for Tomorrow to help preserve, protect and enhance the sturgeon resource of the lake system. That group quickly grew into the largest citizen advocacy group for sturgeon in the world, currently made up of five chapters and over 3,000 members. Through tremendous dedication and hard work, Sturgeon for Tomorrow (SFT) has raised and donated over \$810,000 for sturgeon research and management since its inception. SFT has funded a wide variety of projects over the years including the sturgeon guard program, the Sturgeon History Project, purchase of sampling equipment, spawning and nursery habitat construction, sturgeon population assessments, sturgeon propagation and the Upper Fox River sturgeon rehabilitation project. SFT also provided the support necessary to ensure the enactment of the \$1,500 fine for possession of an illegal sturgeon, and actively participates in the Winnebago Citizens Sturgeon Advisory Committee. I have immensely enjoyed my increased involvement with SFT since appointed the Winnebago Sturgeon Biologist, and I look forward to collaborating with the organization on many projects in the future!

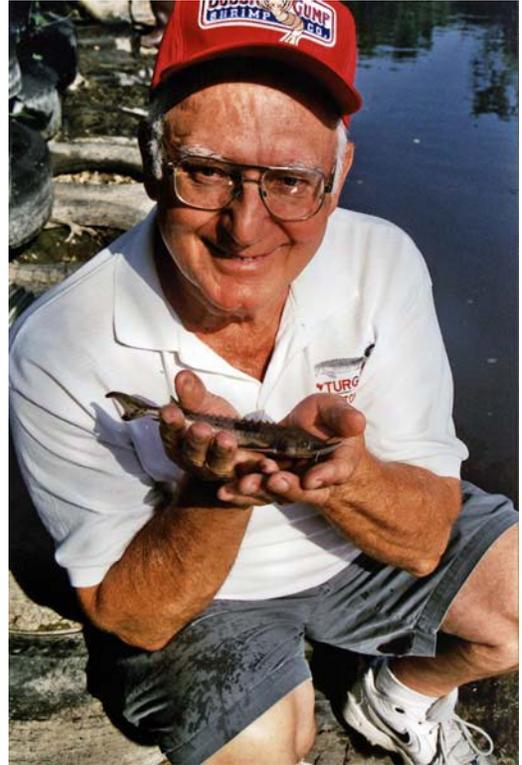




Sturgeon for Tomorrow funds the rearing of 500 sturgeon fingerlings at the UW Milwaukee WATER Institute released annually since 2002 into the Upper Fox River for the Upper Fox Sturgeon Restoration Program.

Right – Bill Casper, one of the founders of Sturgeon for Tomorrow, holds a fingerling lake sturgeon prior to its release into the upper Fox River at Princeton.

Stocked fingerlings will hopefully help rebuild the upper Fox River spawning stock someday and also provide critical information on movement and habitat use in the Winnebago System by fingerling sturgeon.



Three of the five 2013 Sturgeon for Tomorrow banquets have already been held prior to the spearing season. **If you would like to attend a 2013 banquet yet, you still have an opportunity to buy your tickets for either the:**



- **SFT West Central Chapter Banquet**, which will be held the evening of **Saturday March 16** at the Oshkosh Convention Center (call Pat Braasch at 920-231-4708 for tickets), and/or
- **SFT Upper Lakes Chapter Banquet** to be held the evening of **Saturday September 7** at Hahn-a-lula Resort in Orihula (call Matt Woods for tickets at 920-582-0113).

The banquets are a great time to re-live sturgeon spearing experiences and support a great organization. Door prizes abound and special raffles are a-plenty, along with great food and fellowship. I greatly enjoy attending these banquets and interacting with sturgeon spearkers and sturgeon enthusiasts!

I Hope to see you there...Ryan Koenigs, Winnebago Sturgeon Biologist, February 20, 2012