



# Frank Jakubicek

District Fisheries Biologist



## IDNR Fisheries Biologists Who Have Worked in NE Illinois



Al Loppinot		1950's
Paul Vidal		1950's
Bruce Muench	early	1960's
Harry White/Greg Tichacek	late	1960's
Gary Erickson/Jim Langbein		1970's
Joe Ferencak		1980 to 1998
Frank Jakubicek		1998 to present







NOVEMBER 7, 2003

## How the carp came to Wisconsin

**H**ow did we come by the carp?

In 1872 the state Legislature appropriated \$500 for propagation and introduction of better varieties of fish. As no one in Wisconsin was recognized as a fish culturist at the time, the money was given to Prof. Spencer T. Baird, Baird, the U.S. Commissioner of Fisheries, was charged with this study.

The following year, Wisconsin passed a law allowing propagation of these better varieties of fish, and \$360 was appropriated to the three newly appointed Wisconsin fish commissioners to expend toward it. The three appointed by Gov. Taylor were P.R. Hoy of Racine, William Welch of Boscobel, and A. Palmer.

Each year thereafter, they made reports and recommendations as to results and to further fish stocking. Early stockings were of salmon from California. These stocking were placed in many waters not suited for salmon, and the stockings failed.

In 1876, the state fish commissioners made a crucial decision. They recommended that German carp be stocked in Wisconsin. Their recommendation was that carp be planted in warm lakes and sluggish streams, stating that carp formed a principle part of the food supply of the Chinese.

They stated that less than 100 years had elapsed since the artificial propagation had begun in Europe and, in spite of the fact, consumption was increasing, and the supply was inexhaustible.

Their thought was that while artificial propagation was comparatively new to our Western civilization, we were compelled to recognize that for centuries China has thus aided nature in furnishing sustenance to her dense population. An acre of water in China yields a bigger net income than an acre of land.



WARDEN CENTURION

BY JIM CHIZEK

The American Agriculturist reported: The United States Commissioner of Fisheries has engaged an eminent German fish culturist, Dr. Randolph F. Hessel, to bring to this country a shipment of the best variety of carp, which was described as the favorite European fish. The first experiment of attempting to import these fish was in 1876, but only four survived an unfavorable trip.

Late the same year another effort was made, and seven survived the passage from Hungary. In May 1877, Dr. Hessel succeeded in bringing over 345 young carp, 227 of which were of the leather and mirror varieties, and the remainder were common or scale carp. The United States Bureau of Fisheries was not ready to receive the importation, and it was taken to Baltimore and the fish placed in ponds there. The carp thrived and increased rapidly, and in May 1876 part of them were brought to Washington and placed in ponds there.

The Agriculturist goes on to say: The carp have now [1880] multiplied to such an extent that it is possible to begin the work of distributing them, and soon Pro-

fessor Baird's messengers will have carried cans of these fish to all parts of the United States. The introduction of the new food fish will be of great interest and importance to all inland communities, for there is no fish pond, or mill dam, or boggy, muddy spot, which cannot be converted into a pond in which they will thrive. It will be strange if within 20 years, carp do not become as common as domestic ducks and pigeons.

In 1881, William Welch, then employed by the Wisconsin Commission as superintendent, said in his report: "Last June I received from the United

States Commissioner of Fisheries, 75 European carp, two years old, which were placed in a pond carefully prepared at the Madison Hatchery. Professor Baird notified me that they would commence breeding next season. They are said to be very prolific, and the commission will no doubt soon be able to begin stocking waters suitable for them throughout the state.

In spite of their many setbacks, we see the results of those difficult original stockings.

Because of the steadfast work of the original fish commissioners, the stocking of carp has succeeded beyond their wildest dreams. The carp has firmly established itself around the country and in Wisconsin. All the predictions have come to bear. There is no "fish pond, mill pond, or boggy, muddy spot where they do not thrive. They are as common as domestic ducks and pigeons. Our supply is inexhaustible!"

Jim Chizek of Lodi is a retired game warden and an author.

## Stocked Around 1881



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**CARP!**



# Attempted Carp Removals

	Results Based on My Judgement
Crooked Lake - Experimental Carp Bait	Good
Chicago Botanic Garden (FPDCC)	Fair
Gages Lake (Public Coop)	Fair
Nippersink Lake (LCFPD)	Fair
Loch Lomond	Fair
Turner Lake (State owned)	Good
Hastings Lake (LCFPD)	Good
St Mary's Lake	Too New to Tell
Slough Lake (LCFPD)	Too New to Tell



## The Goal

To Grow Rooted Aquatic Vegetation  
Where None Was Present













## COMMERCIAL FISH

The minimum size limit on fish taken commercially or by commercial fishermen for market (except in the Ohio River) is 15 inches in total length for: channel catfish, flathead catfish, blue catfish and white catfish. **There is no size limit on carp**, drum, bullhead, buffalo, shovelnose sturgeon, paddlefish, sucker, gar (except alligator gar), bowfin, eel, yellow perch, chub, mooneye, goldeye, carpsucker and smelt. All other species may not be taken commercially, but if caught incidentally must be returned immediately to waters where taken

## DIP NETS

A sport fishing license allows the holder to harvest smelt in Lake Michigan with a dip net not exceeding 12 feet in diameter and having a mesh size not less than 1 inch diagonal stretch. **In other waters carp, carpsucker, buffalo and gizzard shad may be taken with a dip net up to 15 feet in diameter and with a mesh size no less than 1 1/2 inches bar measure.** Such equipment may not be used within 100 feet of a dam or to harvest game fish.



**Have a Carp Derby**  
(Free Fishing Days - Father's Day Weekend)  
(June 16 - 19, 2017)

[www.ifishillinois.org](http://www.ifishillinois.org)

(For All Things Fish, in Illinois)

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