

# **TURTLE TUESDAY**

## **COMMON SNAPPING TURTLE**

**~SPECIAL CONCERN SINCE 2009~**



### **Fact #1**

**The common snapping turtle is ancient. Snapping turtle fossils have been dated back to 40 million years ago. The oldest primitive turtle that we know of was on earth 220 million years ago.**

### **Fact #2**

**Turtles can retreat into their shells, except for the snapping turtle. Their bottom shell is too small to have space to get all its limbs inside. Snapping is a way to defend while on land.**

### **Fact #3**

**Snapping turtles are thought to have fierce dispositions but when they are encountered in the water or a swimmer approaches, they will slip quietly away .**

### **Fact #4**

**As foragers, their diet consist of up to 90% dead plant and animal matter. They are considered nature's vacuum. We have them to thank for helping to clean up our lakes and wetlands.**