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American Currents,
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Dues: \$20 (U.S.), \$25 (Canada/México),
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North American Native Fishes Association



DUES: USA, \$20/yr. (US\$); CANADA and MÉXICO, \$25/yr. (US\$);
ALL OTHER COUNTRIES, \$34/yr. (US\$).

Please begin my NANFA membership, or send a gift membership to the
person named below. Enclosed are dues in the amount of
US\$ ___ for ___ year(s). In addition, I'd like to make a *tax-deductible*
contribution in the amount of US\$ ___ to help fund NANFA's
education and conservation programs.

Mail check or money order made out to "NANFA" to:
NANFA, P. O. Box 1596, Milton, Washington 98354-1596.

Mr./Ms./Mr./Dr. _____

Address _____

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A membership directory is available to NANFA members. May we include your
address in this directory? yes no Your phone number? yes no

If this is a gift membership, say it is from: _____

"Raising public awareness about fishes is a greater challenge than it is for birds.
Fish don't come to the feeder. We can't watch them with binoculars. They don't
migrate over our roof or identify themselves through song when they can't be
seen. Nevertheless, because most of mankind lives next to seas and rivers, fish
subsist in real proximity to us and are, in countless ways, our dependents. Yet
they live in great mystery." — Thomas McGuane



Est. 1972

If you're interested in the fishes of North America, whether they're in the wild, in an aquarium, or in a lab or museum, there's a place for you in NANFA.

The North American Native Fishes Association (NANFA) was founded in 1972 by a group of fish enthusiasts who saw the need for an organization dedicated to the appreciation, study and conservation of a poorly-known and little-loved part of our natural heritage — the native fishes of North America.

Now a 501(c)(3) corporation, NANFA attracts a diverse membership. Aquarium hobbyists. Ichthyologists. Anglers. Teachers. Fisheries managers. Professional aquarists. Natural resource agency biologists. Fish collection curators. Nature center educators and exhibit designers. Aquatic ecologists. Watershed protection activists.

All are fascinated by the continent's native fishes. All are concerned with their increasing imperilment.

And all have never outgrown the childhood joy of running a net through a creek or pond to reveal what swims below.

NANFA has five objectives:

- To increase and disseminate knowledge about North America's fishes and their habitats.

- To promote the conservation of native fishes and the protection/restoration of natural habitats.
- To advance the educational, scientific and conservation benefits of keeping and breeding native fishes in captivity.
- To support the legal and environmentally responsible collection of native fishes for private aquaria as a valid use of a natural resource.
- To provide a forum for fellowship and camaraderie among its members.

NANFA's quarterly publication, *American Currents*

The contents of *American Currents* are as varied as the membership. Contributions from professional biologists are published alongside those by aquarium hobbyists and other amateur naturalists. Information and writing not ordinarily found in more technical journals — but still relevant to a deeper appreciation and knowledge of our fish fauna — are perfectly at home here.

Indeed, no topic is too broad or too narrow. Taxonomy. Distribution. Collecting techniques. Field photography. Trip reports.

Aquarium system design and maintenance. Captive breeding. Behavior. Ecology. Conservation. Fishwatching. And more.

Above all, *American Currents* is an enthusiasts' publication. The enthusiasm of its contributors — unbridled by the restraints of purely academic writing — may just make it the most fun-to-read journal indexed in the Zoological Record!

NANFA's grants: much-needed funds for much-needed work

To help fulfill its dual conservation and education objectives, NANFA funds two grant programs:

The NANFA Conservation Research Grant awards a minimum \$1000 per year for research that aids the conservation of North America's native fishes, particularly those that are imperiled. Students, researchers, conservation groups and aquarists are all eligible for the award.

Named for a past NANFA president and renowned environmental educator (now deceased), the Gerald C. Corcoran Education Grant earmarks at least \$1000 annually to fund projects that help educate the public about the diversity of North American fishes and the protection of their habitats. Projects may include, but are not limited to, brochures, posters, nature center and classroom displays, Web sites, stream survey field trips, and streamside signage.

Since the inception of these grants in 2000, NANFA has awarded over \$20,000.

For complete grant program details, visit nanfa.org/grants.

"Annotated Checklist of North American Freshwater Fishes"

Oddly, no comprehensive, up-to-date checklist of North America's freshwater fish fauna — including subspecies and undescribed forms — is available. This NANFA project fills that void, providing taxonomic, distribution and conservation data for over 1,400 taxa.

Four of the five projected volumes of the Checklist have appeared in *American Currents*. The final volume is in development and will be published in the middle of 2009. A scaled-down version of the Checklist is at nanfa.org/checklist.

Fun and "finship"

NANFA offers three fun ways for native fish enthusiasts to meet and learn from one another. You can do it electronically on the NANFA Forum (forum.nanfa.org). And you can do it in person at regional NANFA outings and national annual conventions.

The 2009 convention is being planned for late summer or early fall in Tampa Bay, Florida. Not only are these conventions fun and educational, but they also raise the money that helps fund NANFA's two grant programs.

Learn more about NANFA events on the NANFA Forum or at nanfa.org.