

The 2017 NANFA Convention

June 8–13, Meramec State Park, Missouri



Hosted in part by the Missouri Department of Conservation

- The Meramec River drainage is home to over 120 fish species, including the Meramec Saddled Darter (below)
- Boat trip to Pelican Island Preserve on Missouri River, with opportunities for collecting, fishing & trawling, plus an evening cookout on the island (will be moved if necessary due to weather or river conditions)
- Fellowship with other native fish fans, including aquarium keepers, anglers, snorkelers, biologists and more
- Annual NANFA auction and banquet
- Fish photography
- Roughly an hour from St. Louis airport
- Hotel (4- and 8-person rooms) & cabins on site (hotel rooms are being held for NANFA until May 1, but cabins could not be held. Reserve soon!)
- Registration includes banquet meal, two sack lunches for field trips, and the cookout/boil on Pelican Island.

PLENTY OF HOTEL ROOMS STILL AVAILABLE! IF ANY GO UNUSED, NANFA LOSES THE DEPOSIT.



ITINERARY



JUNE 8: Travel day and check-in

JUNE 9: Check-in (9–noon). **AFTERNOON FIELD TRIP TO THE MISSOURI RIVER AT PELICAN ISLAND NATURAL AREA** (accessible only by boat). Buses will be provided. There will be trawling trips and ample space to collect fishes from an expansive gravel bar. Evening cookout on-site.

JUNE 10: **MEETING AND PRESENTATIONS** The afternoon is free so attendees can explore the park, chase fish, or enjoy area attractions.

EVENING BANQUET AND FUNDRAISER

JUNE 11 AND JUNE 12: COLLECTING TRIPS

Three options each day for exposure to different habitats (big rivers, medium-sized rivers, and smaller streams) and maximum species variety.

TRIP 1: LaBarque Creek Conservation Area. This creek has the highest fish species diversity in the Meramec River basin for a stream of its size.

TRIP 2: Canoe trip on Big River or Meramec River.

TRIP 3: To be determined.

JUNE 13: Bob Hrabik will guide a trip wherever (within reason!) remaining die-hards want to go.

REGISTER NOW! www.nanfa.org/convention/2017.shtml

FISHES OF THE MERAMEC RIVER BASIN: Northern Brook, Least Brook, Silver & Chestnut Lamprey • Lake & Shovelnose Sturgeon • Paddlefish • Spotted, Longnose & Shortnose Gar • Bowfin • Goldeye & Mooneye American Eel • Alabama & Gizzard Shad • Skipjack Herring • Largescale & Central Stoneroller • Goldfish Common, Grass, Silver & Bighead Carp • Red, Spotfin, Steelcolor, Striped, Bleeding, Redfin, Golden, Emerald, Bigeye, Ghost, Bigmouth, Wedgespot, Sand, Carmine, Mimic, & Channel Shiner • Gravel, Shoal, Silver, Hornyhead, Bigeye & Creek Chub • Silverjaw, Ozark, Suckermouth, Bluntnose, Fathead, Bullhead & Mississippi Silvery Minnow • Southern Redbelly Dace • Northern Studfish • River, Quillback & Highfin Carpsucker • White, Blue, Spotted & Northern Hog Sucker • Western Creek & Lake Chubsucker • Smallmouth, Bigmouth & Black Buffalo • Silver, River, Black, Golden & Shorthead Redhorse • Black & Yellow Bullhead • Blue, Channel & Flathead Catfish • Slender & Freckled Madtom • Stonecat • Northern Pike • Chain & Grass Pickerel • Rainbow & Brown Trout • Blackstripe & Blackspotted Topminnow • Western Mosquitofish • Brook Silverside • Mottled & Banded Sculpin • Flier • Green, Pumpkinseed, Warmouth, Orangespotted, Bluegill, Longear & Redear Sunfish White, Rock, Smallmouth, Spotted & Largemouth Bass • White & Black Crappie • Logperch • Western Sand, Crystal, Mud, Greenside, Rainbow, Fantail, Johnny, Stippled, Orangethroat, Banded, Gilt, Blackside, River Slenderhead, & Meramec Saddled Darter • Sauger & Walleye • Freshwater Drum • **AND THAT'S JUST ONE BASIN!**

2017 CONVENTION SHIRT FEATURES UNIQUE NORTH AMERICAN NATIVE SPECIES



The t-shirt for this year's convention, designed by Olaf Nelson, features the Blue Sucker (*Cycleptus elongatus*), a fish with strong ties to Missouri. Until at least the 1920s it was usually known in the literature as the Missouri Sucker (for more on this, see Olaf's article on the history of the Blue Sucker's names in the Winter 2015 AC or <http://moxostoma.com/bluesuckernames/>). It is a big river fish and Missouri is home to the two biggest rivers of North America. Further, it is an under-appreciated but historically and biologically important native species.

Olaf based the two main fish in the design on photos he took while electrofishing the Wisconsin River for Blue Suckers and Shovelnose Sturgeon with John Lyons (Wisconsin DNR) in 2013. He may never recover from the hours hunched at his desk drawing each scale.

Two silhouettes in the background are based on early Blue Sucker drawings. On the left is an 1884 illustration (of a specimen in the Smithsonian) that was copied in most publications for the next several decades. The skinny one on the right is based on the earliest Blue Sucker image that exists, drawn by LeSueur and published with his original description of the species (as *Catostomus elongatus*) in 1817.

For true Blue Sucker fans, Olaf is making prints of the design available. A portion of the proceeds will be donated to NANFA. See his Etsy shop for more information: <http://www.etsy.com/shop/chinookdesign>.

SHIRT DETAILS

- Full-color silkscreen on 100% cotton navy blue shirts.
- Proceeds from your purchase directly benefit NANFA.
- Available in M, L, XL, 2XL and 3XL for \$25.
- \$5 shipping, no matter how many shirts are ordered.
- If there is sufficient demand, a small quantity of quick-dry polyester shirts may be made available for \$35 each (plus shipping). See the post on the NANFA forum or the NANFA Facebook group to make your interest known.
- Order soon and your shirt will be shipped to you, or you can pick it up at the convention. Shirts will be for sale at the convention.
- Order at <http://www.nanfa.org/cart.shtml#MOshirt>



REGISTER FOR THE CONVENTION, RESERVE ON-SITE HOTEL ROOMS NOW!

The 2017 NANFA Convention is rapidly approaching. If you will be there and want to stay in Meramec State Park's hotel, you **must reserve your room by May 1st!** NANFA put a deposit on all the rooms and will lose the money for rooms not reserved by then. Register **NOW** at nanfa.org, or ask Bob Hrabik (Robert.Hrabik@mdc.mo.gov) to reserve a room for you.

Josh Porter, NANFA's California rep, wrote on the NANFA forum: "I for one will testify that making the Kentucky Con-

vention shortly after joining NANFA really went a long way to making me want to get even more involved. I've made some great friends in NANFA, and the annual convention has become my guaranteed way to see all these friends once a year. If anyone has been on the fence about making one of these, you'd be missing one heck of a time not going. Can't wait!"

REGISTER AT

<http://www.nanfa.org/convention/2017.shtml>

PLEASE HELP: IF YOU HAVE ITEMS TO DONATE TO THE ANNUAL NANFA FUNDRAISING AUCTION, CONTACT BOB HRABIK: Robert.Hrabik@mdc.mo.gov.