

American Currents

Publication of the North American Native Fishes Association

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BY FISH SPECIES

NANFA CONVENTION 2016, MISSOURI STATE PARK, MISSOURI

IN MEMORIAM DONALD STEVENS

FUNDELS HOTEL, A SEASIDE TOWN

PURE COLORADO TRUCK SAFETY BY CALIFORNIA

FRESHWATER SMOKELESS: WHY AND HOW TO GET MORE PEOPLE INTO THE WATER

UNDERSTANDING OF SHORELINE GEAR REDUCES IN THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER AND BOWEN TRADING

A SOUTHERN ILLINOIS OUTING

FISH IN FOCUS: KEEPING THE TIGERAN SALMON MILLET (PISCIFILIA VELLEFA)

GRANT REPORT: BRUNER NATURAL CENTER'S SMOKELESS THE STILLWATER RIVER PROJECT

REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

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North American Native Fishes Association



"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 \$2000 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 \$2000 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 \$25,000.

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

NANFA Sponsors Publication of the Three-Volume "Freshwater Fishes of North America"

Published by Johns Hopkins University Press and written and edited by a who's-who of North American ichthyology, *Freshwater Fishes of North America* promises to be a landmark reference for years to come. NANFA has donated \$6,000 to offset the printing cost of this massive, full-color, three-volume work. Volume I and II are now available; Volume III is scheduled to be released soon.

Fun and "finship"

NANFA offers several 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.

Our annual convention is held each year at a new and exciting location. 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.