

What is NANFA?

NANFA was formed in 1972 by a group of fish enthusiasts who saw the need for an organization dedicated to raising awareness of and disseminating information about the native fish fauna of North America. Now a federally tax-exempt, non-profit corporation with a dual conservation and education focus, NANFA attracts aquarists and naturalists from all walks of life, from nearly every state and province in North America, and from countries overseas. Whether they're students or recreational fishkeepers who are curious about aquatic life, or biologists or fishery professionals who study native fishes for a living, NANFA members have one thing in common: They all think that North America's native fishes are among the most fascinating and beautiful fishes on earth, and a natural resource worth protecting for future generations.

What Are Our Objectives?

- to increase and disseminate knowledge about North America's native fishes and their habitats through publications, electronic media, regional and national meetings, and other means;
- to promote the conservation of native fishes and the protection/restoration of natural habitats;
- to advance the captive husbandry of North America's native fishes for the educational, scientific, and conservation benefits it affords;
- to defend 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 individuals who share a common interest in the diversity, biology, captive husbandry, and conservation of North America's native fishes.



How Do We Accomplish Our Objectives?

Our quarterly publication, *American Currents*, has been published since 1972. *American*



Currents contains articles on topics such as personal accounts of fish-collecting, rearing and conservation, aquarium techniques, featured fish articles, aquatic ecology, natural history, research, and many other items of interest.

Conservation of native fishes and their habitats receive terrific boosts from NANFA's Conservation Research Grant and the Corcoran Education Grant, each of which will contribute at least \$2,000 annually for native fish research and educational activities by NANFA members. Past projects have included research into the life history of a blind cave catfish in Coahuila, Mexico, school children learning about endangered fishes and habitats through direct interaction in a restored wetland in Tucson, Arizona, Water Turbidity and Color Communication in Darters, Wildlife Pond Renovation at Clinton Community Nature Center in Clinton, Mississippi, Genetic discrimination of pallid and shovelnose sturgeon, A photographic exhibition, Freshwater Fishes of the Northeastern United States, Conservation genetics and population structure of the federally endangered Vermilion Darter and related Warrior Darter, The Traveling Native Fish Showcase, Microhabitat Use by the Redside Dace, Wetlands as a Classroom," the Harpers Ferry Historical Association in Harpers Ferry, Virginia, Conservation Genetics of the Least Madtom, A Checklist Of Fishes Of The Lower Mississippi River, and many more to come in the future.

Some NANFA members have offered to act as representatives of their area as a way to help other members and further NANFA's causes. These volunteer representatives serve to coordinate activities such as meetings, field trips, conservation activities, and member recruitment. You may find that your most valuable interactions occur within your NANFA region. You may even wish to start your own region (some areas don't presently have regional representatives).

Annual meetings are popular national events. Past meetings have been in: Ann Arbor, MI; Huntsville, AL; Columbia, SC; Little Rock, AR; Cape Girardeau, MO; Greensboro, NC; Athens, TX; Tampa, FL; Ash Meadows, NV; Roanoke, VA, Salt Fork State Park, OH, Cumberland Falls State Park, KY, and Linville Falls, NC. As you can see we meet in diverse locations and have an opportunity to see diverse habitats and fishes from all over North America. Check the web at www.nanfa.org for information about the next NANFA Annual Convention.

The NANFA website contains a wealth of information about NANFA and native fishes, not to mention a complete index to all articles ever published in *American Currents*. Visit the website at www.nanfa.org to learn more about these plus NANFA's regions, structure and activities.

The NANFA Forum (forum.nanfa.org) is a great way for members (and non-members) to share information, trade fishes and make new friends.

**Regional Representatives,
please write your contact information here.**

Please Join Us!

If you join NANFA to receive our publication, that's great! But, if you wish to become active in NANFA, there are several areas where we need volunteers. We invite you to participate in whatever ways you enjoy. Join us in the enjoyment, study and conservation of North America's native fishes and their habitats!

Membership costs (US\$): USA= \$30/year;
Canada= \$40/year; all other countries= \$60/year.

Join on-line at www.nanfa.org/join.shtml or

Mail to: **9129 Debold Kobel Rd
Pleasant Plain, OH 45162**

Please begin my NANFA membership. Enclosed is a check or money order made out to NANFA in the amount of \$_____ (US\$). This covers _____ years at \$_____ a year.

I would like to make a tax-deductible contribution in the amount of \$_____ to help fund NANFA's education and conservation activities.

Non-U.S. members, please send postal money order in U.S. funds.

Mrs./ Ms./ Mr./ Dr.

Address _____

State/Prov. _____

Zip Code _____

Country (if not USA) _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

How did you hear of us? _____

Upon request, we send a membership directory to NANFA members. This is a way for members to meet each other. May we include your address in this directory? yes no

May we include your phone number? yes no

Thank you!

**North American Native Fishes Association
9129 Debold Kobel Rd
Pleasant Plain, OH 45162**

“...dedicated to the appreciation, study and conservation of the continent's native fishes.”



“Once the initial shock of the beautiful gold body traversed by a bold black stripe, and sprinkled intermittently by gold spots had passed, I noticed that the fish had VIVID BLUE NOSES! I was uncertain exactly what kind of fish they were, or where they originated from, but vowed that I would find out more about these ‘blue-nose’ beauties.”

--written over 20 years ago by Tony Terceira, upon first seeing the Bluenose Shiner (pictured here, © Joseph R. Tomelleri), a southeastern U.S. native.