

**CALL FOR ABSTRACTS**  
**FMCS 2013 SYMPOSIUM, LAKE GUNTERSVILLE STATE PARK**  
**Guntersville, Alabama – March 10-14, 2013**



The FMCS Executive Committee would like to announce the 8<sup>th</sup> Biennial Symposium to be held the week of March 10-14, 2013 at Lake Guntersville State Park, outside Guntersville, Alabama. This will be our biennial general symposium with contributed abstracts on a range of research and management topics in both oral and poster presentation format. The meeting will be hosted by the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. Symposium registration fee will include all meals, break, and society membership for non-members.

**Call for Abstracts:**

Abstract format will be similar to previous meetings (300 word limit). An example abstract follows. The FMCS abstract submission deadline for the March 2013 symposium will be December 3<sup>rd</sup> 2012. The symposium format will be both oral and poster. Oral presentations will be limited to 20 minutes (including the question and answer period). Poster size is limited to 4' by 8' feet. If you wish to bring a display unit, special arrangements can be made.

Abstracts for posters and presentations are limited to 300 words. Abstract title should appear in all caps and be followed by the author name(s), affiliation(s) and e-mail address(es). Abstracts should be written in Word utilizing Arial 11 point font. Abstracts should include clearly stated objectives, brief methods, general results, and the basic conclusion. At the bottom of your abstract please indicate your format preference (oral or poster), and if the presentation is eligible for a student award. Please indicate the presenting author by underlining their name. Please submit your abstract in Word format to: [fmcs2013symposium@gmail.com](mailto:fmcs2013symposium@gmail.com)

**Example abstract from a previous FMCS symposium:**

**ASSESSING THE HAZARDS OF CURRENT USE PESTICIDES TO EARLY LIFE STAGES OF NATIVE FRESHWATER MUSSELS.** Robert B. Bringolf<sup>1</sup>, LeRoy F. Humphries<sup>2</sup>, Peter R. Lazaro<sup>1</sup>, Chris Eads<sup>2</sup>, Chris Barnhart<sup>3</sup>, Damian Shea<sup>1</sup>, Jay F. Levine<sup>2</sup>, and W. Gregory Cope<sup>1</sup>. <sup>1</sup>Department of Environmental and Molecular Toxicology, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC 27695; <sup>2</sup>College of Veterinary Medicine, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC 27606; <sup>3</sup>Department of Biology, Missouri State University, Springfield, MO 65804.

Native freshwater mussels (family Unionidae) are among the most imperiled faunal groups in North America. Approximately 67% of the nearly 300 freshwater mussel species are considered vulnerable to extinction or already extinct. North Carolina has historically supported 56 species of mussels; however, 82% of those species are currently listed as endangered, threatened, or of special concern by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the State of North Carolina. Although numerous stressors have been implicated in the decline of freshwater mussels, the effects of pesticides on native mussels is largely unknown. Timing of pesticide application combined with the unique life history and reproductive strategy of mussels makes them susceptible to pesticide exposure. The objective of this study was to determine the hazards of pesticides to early life stages of freshwater mussels. We performed acute toxicity tests with glochidia (7 species) and juveniles (6 species) exposed to a suite of current use pesticides (atrazine, fipronil, pendimethalin, and permethrin) and a reference toxicant (NaCl). Our results indicate that these pesticides, at concentrations approaching water solubility, were not acutely toxic to the species of glochidia and juveniles tested. However, in a 21-d chronic toxicity test performed with 4-month old juvenile *Lampsilis siliquoidea* exposed to atrazine, the 14-d atrazine LC50 was 15.8 mg/L (95% confidence interval 12.0-19.5) and the 21-d atrazine LC50 was 4.3 mg/L (95% confidence interval 2.8-5.8). Effects on growth and genotoxicity (single-strand DNA breaks) were also determined in the chronic test. Our results indicate that the relative risk associated with acute exposure of early life stages of mussels to the current use pesticides tested singly is likely low; however, survival and genotoxicity results indicate that chronic exposure of juvenile mussels to atrazine may be impacting mussel populations and warrants further investigation, as does the assessment of pesticide mixtures.

**Preferred presentation format:** Oral or Poster

**Presenter:** Underline name of presenter

**Will you switch presentation format if necessary:** Yes or No

**Will presentation be eligible for Student Award:** Yes or No

The goal of the symposium committee is to publish the agenda and abstracts by mid-January, 2013. As many state resource agencies are now requiring 60-day notice for out-of-state travel authorization, we intend to post a meeting program approximately 90-days prior to the symposium.

**Location and Travel:**

Lake Guntersville State Park is located in northwest Alabama, on the bank of Guntersville, Reservoir (Tennessee River). The park is accessible by car via US 431 from Huntsville International Airport (HSV). It is approximately 58 miles from the airport and multiple ground-transportation vendors and car rental facilities are available. Round trip shuttle service from Huntsville Airport to the park is approximately \$150.00. Alternatively, the Birmingham International Airport (BHM) is 87 miles from the park and also provides multiple car rental and ground transportation options. Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport in Atlanta, Georgia is 163 miles from the park.

**Accommodations:**

There are a number of housing options at the park including 112 hotel rooms and suites from \$80.10 or \$90.00 (bluff side) per night; 15 lakeside cabins that can accommodate up-to 6 people

(\$112.50 per night); or 19 chalets for up-to 6 people at \$103.50 per night. Chalets and hotel rooms are adjacent to the main lodge while cabins are approximately 1.25 miles from the mountaintop lodge. To make reservations you can reach the park at: (256) 571-5440 or (800) 548-4553.

Main lodge convention facilities include 2 large rooms for presentations (concurrent sessions) and a large banquet room. There are also multiple support rooms to accommodate committee meetings and other smaller functions. You can find out more information about Lake Guntersville State Park on the web at: <http://www.alapark.com/LakeGuntersville/>

**Ground Transportation:**

All major car rental services are available at the Huntsville International Airport. In addition to car rental, several ground transportation services are also available including:

Executive Connection Shuttle Service:

Phone: (256) 772-0186 - Web: <http://executiveconnection.biz/home.nxg>

Huntsville Cab Company:

Phone: (256) 539-9444

Rocket City Cab Service:

Phone: (256) 534-4524



**Student Travel Awards Available:**

*CALLING ALL STUDENTS* - To facilitate your participation in the 8<sup>th</sup> Biennial Symposium, travel awards are being offered by the FMCS. Support is provided via Society-paid lodging accommodations for the duration of the meeting at the host location (Lake Guntersville State Park). It is anticipated that 8 awards will be made for the 2013 Symposium. An individual must be an FMCS member to be eligible for travel awards. A complete application package must be

submitted by e-mail as a PDF file to Dr. Teresa Newton, FMCS Awards Committee on or before January 30, 2013. Please see the Awards Committee web site at [http://molluskconservation.org/Mservices\\_awards.html](http://molluskconservation.org/Mservices_awards.html) for application forms and procedures or contact Teresa ([tnewton@usgs.gov](mailto:tnewton@usgs.gov), phone 608-781-6217) for more information.

**Meeting Theme:**

A tentative theme for this meeting: ***Species Recovery and Restoration - From Concept to Implementation***. This anticipated session will highlight implementation of river and mollusk recovery. If you have an abstract for this session please contact the symposium committee chair: [paul.johnson@dcnr.alabama.gov](mailto:paul.johnson@dcnr.alabama.gov)

**Day trip offerings organized by the FMCS Symposium Committee:**

Optional day trips are scheduled for Thursday, March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2013: the day after the Guntersville Symposium concludes. All event trips will provide roundtrip transportation from Guntersville State Park.

**1. US Space and Rocket Center:**

The US Space and Rocket Center in Huntsville, Alabama is a state park originally opened in the late 1960's. It is one of the most highly visited space museums in the world, with a majority of exhibits focused on early NASA Mercury – Apollo missions. Huntsville's Redstone Arsenal was the primary engineering, development and testing center for NASA's early space program. The US Space and Rocket Center is 50 miles from Guntersville State Park. The trip includes museum admission, IMAX movie, and round trip transportation. Lunch will be available at the large cafeteria at the US Space and Rocket Center. Trip cost will be \$60 per participant.

More information about the US Space and Rocket Center can be found at <http://rocketcenter.com/>

**2. Paint Rock River Excursion:**

Located between Huntsville and Scottsboro, Alabama the Paint Rock River hosts one of the most diverse freshwater mussel assemblages in North America (45 species). The river has been the target of conservation and restoration efforts for more than a decade. The river and it's inhabitants were severely impacted by a snag removal and channelization program conducted by the US Army Corps of Engineers in the late 1960's. Fortunately, channelization efforts were comparatively small and the channel retained much of its native fauna. On the ground restoration efforts undertaken by The Nature Conservancy of Alabama, the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and the US Fish and Wildlife Service have intensified over the last 10 years. Restoration activities have focused on the ground projects along with some 15,000 acres of land acquisition. This watershed tour will highlight several projects including: land acquisitions, bridge removal / replacement, stream meander restoration, culvert replacement and streamside buffer restoration. Paul Freeman with The Nature Conservancy of Alabama will lead the trip. The day-long trip includes roundtrip ground transportation from Guntersville State Park and a boxed lunch. Trip cost will be \$60 per participant.

More information about ADCNR and TNC restoration activities in the Paint Rock River can be found at: <http://www.outdooralabama.com/research-mgmt/Landowner/lip/pr/>

**3. Little River Canyon National Preserve and Cathedral Caverns:**

Jackson County Alabama hosts some spectacular mountains, rivers and the highest density of caves in North America. This daytrip focuses on all 3 of those elements with a visit to Cathedral



Caverns State Park and the Little River Canyon National Preserve. Cathedral Caverns State Park is about 35 miles from Guntersville State Park and is home to some of the most spectacular cave formations in North America. Among the highlights is a single large stalagmite column extending over 45' in the air. The guided cave tour takes approximately 90 minutes. Little River Canyon National Preserve is located on Lookout Mountain approximately an hour's drive from Cathedral Caverns. Operated by the National Park Service the preserve was established in 1992. The Preserve's centerpiece is a 40 foot waterfall that plunges into a deep canyon extends several miles down rugged Appalachian terrain. The trip will include a tour of the Little River watershed and picnic lunch at Canyon Mouth Picnic Grounds. Trip cost will be \$60 per participant.

More information about Little River Canyon National Preserve can be found at:

<http://www.nps.gov/liri/index.htm>

More information about Cathedral Caverns State Park can be found at:

<http://www.alapark.com/CathedralCaverns/>

Other information about the Guntersville region can be found at the Marshall County Convention and Visitors Bureau Website: <http://www.marshallcountycvb.com/index.php>

We look forward to seeing you at Lake Guntersville next March.