

## **2018 FMCS Workshop: Freshwater Mollusk Health and Disease**

Radisson Hotel and Conference Center, La Crosse, WI, March 13-15, 2018

How do you know if your mussels are healthy? What can cause your mussels to get sick? This 3-day workshop will present a basic understanding of aquatic disease organisms, health assessment and disease diagnostic tools, and pathways of disease transmission. The opening session will include a review of freshwater mollusk declines, the current state of knowledge on freshwater mollusk health and disease, and a crash course in disease organisms. The afternoon session will include small panel presentations on health assessment tools, mollusk die-offs and kills, and risk characterization of disease organisms to freshwater mollusk. On the following two days, participants will rotate in small groups among three sessions: 1) health assessment and diagnostic techniques (e.g., laboratory techniques, mussel histology, and necropsy) at the FWS La Crosse Fish Health Center, 2) response actions to mollusk die-offs/kills, and 3) risk characterization of disease related to mollusk conservation. Experts in aquatic animal health, freshwater mollusk health and risk assessment will present on the opening day and lead small group sessions on the following two days. The Workshop will include a poster session, evening mixers with a jam session one night, and a separate opportunity to tour the FWS Genoa National Fish Hatchery Mussel Propagation Facility.

### **Meeting Theme and Schedule Overview**

The 2018 workshop will focus on freshwater mollusk health assessment, characterization of disease risk and strategies for responding to mollusk die-off events.

Monday, March 12<sup>th</sup> – Arrival, Registration, and Informal Meet and Greet

Tuesday, March 13<sup>th</sup> – Introduction and Morning I session, break, Morning II session, Lunch, Afternoon Panel presentations and Discussion, with break, Evening Social and Poster Session.

Wednesday, March 14<sup>th</sup> – Small group sessions. (1) Health Assessment methods (at La Crosse Fish Health Center, transportation provided), (2) Risk characterization, and (3) Response actions to die-offs, Lunch provided, Evening Social and Jam Session.

Thursday, March 15<sup>th</sup> –Final Small group session, Departure or Field trip

**Field trip:** Take a ride down the scenic Great River Road from La Crosse to the Genoa National Fish Hatchery. The drive will take visitors along the Mississippi River and portions of the Upper Mississippi Wildlife Refuge. Tour the Genoa National Fish Hatchery and learn about their freshwater mussel propagation program.

**Location:** The workshop will be held at the Radisson Conference Center in La Crosse, WI. The conference facility is located on the banks of the Upper Mississippi River in the heart of downtown La Crosse. The La Crosse Regional airport receives service from Chicago O'Hare

and Minneapolis International airports. The hotel provides free shuttle service from the airport. By car, La Crosse is a 2 ½ hour from Minneapolis and 4 hours from Chicago and Des Moines. Transportation will be provided from the Conference Center to the La Crosse Fish Health Center each day.

**Registration:** Early registration begins on **November 17, 2017**, and will close on **January 31, 2018**. Registration costs are:

Type of registration	Early registration fee (November 17 – January 31)	Late registration fee (February 1 – March 12)
Regular member	\$175	\$225
Regular nonmember	\$215	\$265
Student member	\$155	\$205
Student nonmember	\$175	\$225

Register online at the FMCS Events page (<http://molluskconservation.org/Events.html>).

**Lodging:** Radisson Hotel and Conference Center

200 Second Street South, 200 Harborview Plaza, La Crosse, WI 54601

A block of 65 rooms has been reserved for Workshop attendees at the Radisson Hotel. To qualify for the Group Room Rate (\$93/night plus tax) attendees must make the reservations by **Thursday March 1, 2018** and ask for the Freshwater Mollusk Conservation Society rate when making reservations

For Reservations [phone: \(608\) 784-6680](tel:6087846680)

Free parking

Other lodging options in downtown La Crosse within walking distance of the Radisson Conference Center include:

Courtyard by Marriot (2 blocks)

500 Front Street, La Crosse

Phone: 608-782-1000

Free parking

<http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/lsecy-courtyard-la-crosse-downtown-mississippi-riverfront/>

Fairfield Inn and Suites (5 blocks)

434 Third Street South, La Crosse

608-782-1491

<http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/lsefi-fairfield-inn-and-suites-la-crosse-downtown/>

Hampton Inn and Suites (4 blocks)

511 3<sup>rd</sup> Street North, La Crosse

1-608-791-4004

Free parking

<http://www.hamptonlacrossedowntown.com/>

Holiday Inn Hotel and Suites (1 block)

200 Pearl Street, La Crosse

608-784-4444

<http://www.holidayinn.com/lacrossewi>

The Charmant Hotel (1 block)  
101 State Street, La Crosse  
608-519-8800

<http://www.thecharmanthotel.com/>

Visit <http://www.explorelacrosse.com> for more information on lodging in the La Crosse area.

#### Transportation

Air: The La Crosse Regional Airport offers daily flights through Chicago O'Hare (American) and Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airports (Delta). The Radisson Hotel provides shuttle service to and from the airport.

#### Ground transportation

Train: La Crosse is served by Amtrak's daily Empire Builder line. Amtrak makes daily stops in La Crosse.

#### Amtrak

Bus: Greyhound Lines has a bus station located in downtown La Crosse, just 2 blocks from the Radisson Hotel

#### Greyhound

Car: Driving distance to La Crosse from major metropolitan areas: Chicago 4 h, Des Moines IA 4 h, Madison WI, 2 h 15 min, Minneapolis MN 2 ½ h, St. Louis MO 8 h.

#### Uber

#### Lyfte

#### About La Crosse

The La Crosse Area Visitors guide is available for download at:  
<http://www.explorelacrosse.com/visitor-guide/>

**Poster Session:** The poster session will take place on Tuesday, March 13 from 7:00-8:30 pm. Workshop participants are invited to submit an abstract for poster presentation on any topic related to freshwater mollusk conservation. A special section will be reserved for reports and case studies of mollusk die-offs.

See the Call for Abstracts on the Workshop web page

(<http://molluskconservation.org/Events.html>) for details regarding poster and abstract formats. Abstracts should be emailed, in Word format, to [megan\\_bradley@fws.gov](mailto:megan_bradley@fws.gov) or [dwall@usgs.gov](mailto:dwall@usgs.gov). no later than **January 31, 2018**.

**Sponsorships:** The FMCS is a not-for-profit society, dedicated to the advocacy and conservation science of freshwater mollusk resources. Our Workshops provide great opportunities to network and build relationships with conservation professionals from state and federal government, industry, universities, and conservation organizations. The Society has a membership of 500, of which about 150 generally attend the biennial Workshops. Instructors for the workshops are members of the Society and other leaders in conservation. These professionals are constantly working to conserve freshwater mollusks, and we need your help. We are requesting monetary sponsorships to help cover the costs of the Workshop facilities.

**All Sponsor Contributions Include Recognition in the Workshop Program**

<b>River</b>	>\$1000	One Complimentary Registration, Logo on Website Registration Page
<b>Stream</b>	\$500-\$1000	One Registration Reduced by 25%, Logo Displayed at the Welcome Social, Logo on Website Registration Page
<b>Eddy</b>	\$100-\$499	Logo on Website Registration Page
<b>Mussel</b>	<\$100	Recognition in the Workshop Program

**Further Information:** For further information about the Workshop and inquiries about sponsorships, please contact the Workshop co-chairs: Megan Bradley at [megan\\_bradley@fws.gov](mailto:megan_bradley@fws.gov) or Diane Waller at [dwall@usgs.gov](mailto:dwall@usgs.gov).

**FMCS Workshop Call for Abstracts and Guidelines for Posters page**

**Call for abstracts:**

Workshop participants are invited to submit an abstract for poster presentation on any topic related to freshwater mollusk conservation. The poster session will take place on Tuesday, March 13 from 7:00 to 8:30 pm. A special section will be reserved for reports and case studies of mollusk die-offs.

The abstract must be typed and should not exceed 250 words. Include name, affiliation, address and email of authors. Indicate presenting author with “\*”.

Indicate assignment of poster to:

General poster section

Mollusk die-off section

Abstracts should be emailed as an electronic Word file to [megan\\_bradley@fws.gov](mailto:megan_bradley@fws.gov) or [dwallier@usgs.gov](mailto:dwallier@usgs.gov).

Deadline for abstracts is January 31, 2018.

**Instructions for posters:** Posters will be mounted on poster boards and must be no larger than 48 “ by 36”. Posters can be set up any time after 5:00 pm on Sunday, March 12 and taken down no later than 10:00 pm on Monday, March 13.