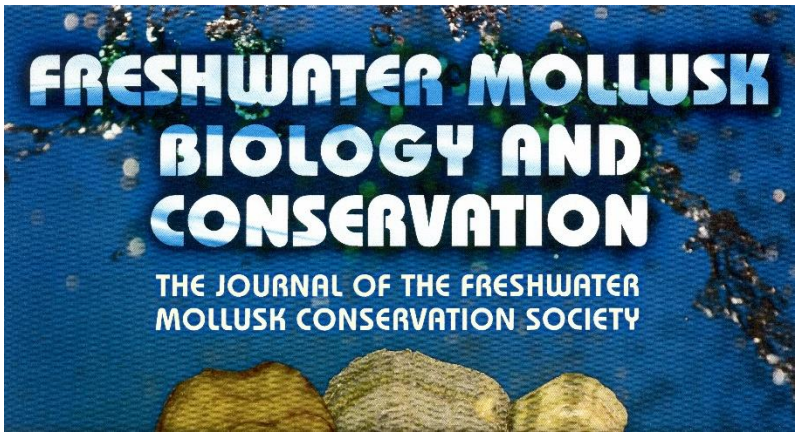
Newsletter of the Freshwater Mollusk Conservation Society
Vol. 23 – No. 3 ISSN 2689-2936 September 2021



Changes to the Editorial Structure of *Freshwater Mollusk Biology and Conservation*

Wendell Haag, *FMBC* Editor-in-Chief
Robert Bringolf, Chair, Publications Committee

As we described in the most recent Publications Committee report [*Ellipsaria* 23(2), page 14], submissions to *Freshwater Mollusk Biology and Conservation FMBC* continue to be strong, which has made it increasingly difficult for the three editors (David Berg, Robert Bringolf, and Wendell Haag) to process manuscripts promptly. To address this very good problem for our journal, we have made some changes to the *FMBC* editorial structure.

First, we have established an Editor-in-Chief position to oversee all aspects of the journal. This provides a single point of contact and accountability for

the journal, as opposed to our previous structure, in which three co-editors shared these responsibilities.

Second, we have dissolved the Editorial Board as it was previously organized. The duties of the previous board members were limited to providing reviews of manuscripts, and members had no role in making final decisions about manuscripts or other parts of the review process. Dissolution of the previous board is in no way a reflection on their performance; we are deeply grateful for their expert and constructive reviews, and we will continue to lean on them for reviews in the future. We have notified former editorial board members of this change, but we apologize to anyone who may not have received that message.

Third, we have replaced the Editorial Board with a board of Associate Editors, each of whom will have responsibility for soliciting reviews, evaluating those reviews, and making decisions on manuscripts. This new structure broadens the diversity of our editorial staff in terms of expertise, academic vs. non-academic perspectives, demographics, and geographic location. The composition of the new *FMBC* staff is as follows:

Editor-in-Chief:	Wendell Haag, US Forest Service
Managing Editor:	Megan Bradley, US Fish & Wildlife Service
Associate Editors:	David Berg, Miami University
	Robert Bringolf, University of Georgia
	Serena Ciparis, US Fish & Wildlife Service
	Daniel Hornbach, Macalester University
	Caryn Vaughn, University of Oklahoma
	Alexandra Zieritz, University of Nottingham

We think this new structure will lead to faster and more consistent decisions on manuscripts and shorter time-to-publication schedules for accepted papers. The result will be a better process for our authors and more timely distribution of research to our readers. In addition, we will now have an Associate Editor in Europe, and we hope this expanded representation will encourage more non-North American submissions.

We thank FMCS members for supporting the journal by submitting manuscripts. Keep them coming and spread the word! Also, thanks again to members of the former Editorial Board for your generous service.

Society News

Updated Interim Freshwater Mollusk Checklists Now Posted

The bivalve and gastropod subcommittees have posted updated interim checklists for North American freshwater mussels and gastropods on the FMCS website at https://molluskconservation.org/MServices_Names.html. These checklists include recent descriptions, synonymies, and changes in generic or family placement and apply to species found in the United States and Canada.

The FMCS Scientific and Common Names Subcommittee maintains consensus checklists that are proposed to be published every six years. The first published lists will appear in 2025. Interim versions of the checklists are updated by the respective subcommittees every two years and are posted to the FMCS website. The 2021 posting includes updated guidelines explaining Subcommittee operations. Specific questions regarding subcommittee decisions should be directed to John Harris (omibob1@gmail.com) concerning Bivalves or Paul Johnson (paul.johnson@dncr.alabama.gov) concerning Gastropods.

Job Opening -- *Ellipsaria* Editor-in-Training

John Jenkinson, *Ellipsaria* Editor

From my experience, I believe it is most efficient that the soliciting, compiling, and laying out the issues of this newsletter all be done by the same person, here called the Editor. As I look toward ending my tenure in this job, however, I recognize my successor would really appreciate knowing what she or he is getting into. To start that process, I invite ***you*** to consider volunteering to become the *Ellipsaria* Editor-in-Training.

The duties associated with editing this newsletter are posted starting on Page 23 in the FMCS Procedures Manual (Freshwater Mollusk Conservation Society Procedures Manual). If after reading through that text, this editing job still appeals to you, please contact me (jjjenkinson@hotmail.com) to document your interest and to start discussing how I think this training process would work. If all goes well, I hope the new Editor will be fully in charge of producing *Ellipsaria* by early 2023.

Important Notice Concerning Your FMCS Database Profile

The information you provide on your profile in the FMCS member database is important. It is how FMCS contacts you regarding issues you may be interested in (such as publication announcements, meeting updates, and committee activities) and it gives other active FMCS members quick access to your contact information. [The database is not accessible by non-members.] Your information will remain in the active database for four years after your membership has lapsed, then it will be archived. If you rejoin FMCS, your profile can be reactivated when you pay your membership dues.

If you need to change something on your profile (such as email or mailing address, membership type, or something else), please DO NOT create a new profile in the database. If you create a new profile, the old one will still be in the database with all of your old information. The best way to make any change is to log into your original profile and change the information there. Even if you no longer have access to the email address used to set up an out-of-date profile, if you remember your password, you still can access the profile and update any or all of the information. If in doubt, don't hesitate to contact our Society Secretary (now Sarah Veselka sveselka@enviroscience.com) or Treasurer (now Alan Christian, adchrist@clarkson.edu).

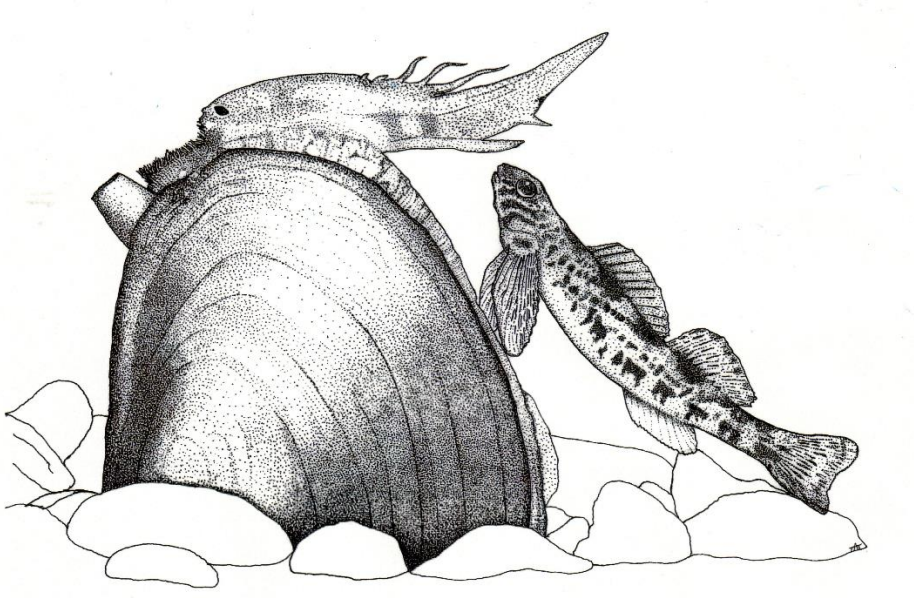
Announcement

Richard I. Johnson Remembrance and Bibliogrphy Published

Kabat, Alan R. 2021. Richard Irwin Johnson (1925–2020), a life well lived. *The Nautilus* 135(1):11–31.

ABSTRACT: This paper discusses the life and works of Richard Irwin Johnson (1925–2020), who made significant contributions to our knowledge of the Unionidae (Mollusca: Bivalvia) through his numerous publications and his curation of the sizable collections of freshwater bivalves at the Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University. Johnson also published extensively on the history of malacology, including biographical accounts and museum histories. His 135 publications on mollusks spanned 74 years (from 1941 at age 16 to 2015 at age 90), nearly setting a record for malacology, and his membership in the American Malacological Union / Society for 79 years (1941 to 2020) outlasted any other current or former member. Johnson amassed one of the largest ever private libraries of books and journals on mollusks, and contributed significantly to the growth of the MCZ Malacology Library.

William J. Clench (L) and Richard I. Johnson at the Boston Malacological Club picnic at Rye, New Hampshire in 1951. (from Kabat, 2021)



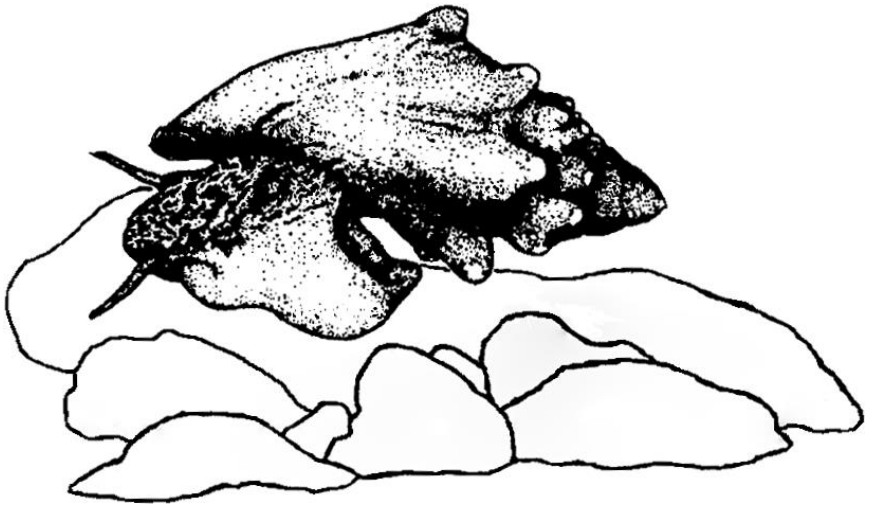
Upcoming Meetings

September 5 – 9, 2021 – Ninth European Congress of Malacological Societies (EUROMAL 2021), Prague, Czech Republic www.euromal.cz. [Now shifted to virtual format]
October 17 – 20, 2021 – Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies 75th Annual Conference,. Roanoake, Virginia, USA. http://www.seafwa.org/conference/overview/
November 6 – 10, 2021 –American Fisheries Society Annual Meeting, Baltimore, Maryland, USA Theme: *Investing in People, Habitat, and Science* https://afsannualmeeting.fisheries.org/

February 28 - March 4, 2022 – National Shellfisheries Association AQ' 2022 Triennial Meeting, Town & Country Resort & Convention Center, San Diego, California, USA Annual Meeting (shellfish.org)
May 16 - 20, 2022 –Joint Aquatic Sciences Meeting, JASM 2022, DeVos Place Convention Center, Grand Rapids, Michigan, USA. https://jasm2022.aquaticsocieties.org/
May (?), 2022 – Society for Freshwater Science Annual Meeting, [site and other details not yet posted]
June (?), 2022 – American Malacological Society Annual Meeting, site and other details not yet posted]
August 8 - 11 (?), 2022 – FMCS Field Sampling Workshop, Henry Horton State Park, Tennessee, USA [details still under discussion]
July 16 - 21, 2022 – Society for Conservation Biology North American Sectional Meeting, Reno, Nevada, USA Theme: *Restoring Connections and Building Resilience in a Changing World*, https://scbnorthamerica.org/index.php/naccb-2022/

April 9 – 12, 2023 – FMCS Biennial Symposium, Double Tree Hotel, Portland Oregon, USA. Theme: *Mountains to Sea and Mollusks Between.* [other details yet to be determined]

May (?) 2025 – FMCS Biennial Symposium, somewhere in Michigan, USA. [dates, location, theme, and other details yet to be determined]



Contributed Article

The following articles have been contributed by FMCS members and others interested in freshwater mollusks. These contributions are incorporated into Ellipsaria *without peer review and with minimal editing. The opinions expressed are those of the authors.*

How Elastic are our Mussels: Resilience in Freshwater Mussel Conservation

Megan Bradley, Genoa National Fish Hatchery, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

[Not Peer-reviewed]

2021 marks the 150th anniversary of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service. From its origins in fisheries conservation in 1871, the Service has seen tremendous changes in the Upper Mississippi River. But for freshwater mussels, the need remains the same: populations of species and communities that are resilient to change and local impacts. This is not to say that the historic mussel harvest, hydrologic change, pollution, and invasive species introductions in the interim have not caused declines, extirpations, or the need for protection and management at the state and federal level. But our overall objectives remain the same: species and communities that are resilient to change and local impacts.

What does resilient mean from an environmental perspective? Perhaps it's best to think of species as ships. Some ships can withstand a hurricane at sea or crossing of the Drake Passage to Antarctica while even the "unsinkable" Titanic failed to make it across the North Atlantic. The most resilient species have large enough populations to withstand failures in reproduction, the loss of portions of their number, and genetic diversity for future adaptation to their environment, so we must find ways to recognize and protect this resilience even in our common species to maintain their communities, ecosystems, and the biosphere.

What does resilient mean for populations and communities of freshwater mussels? That is a complex question and one we do not have specific enough information to address for most species, much less for most communities. This year the Genoa National Fish Hatchery staff completed two surveys: one in the Chippewa River, Wisconsin, where two federally endangered mussel species, the Winged Mapleleaf, *Quadrula fragosa*, and the Higgins Eye, *Lampsilis higginsii,* were reintroduced and the Sheepnose, *Plethobasus cyphyus*, is thriving; and one in the Mississippi River at Guttenberg, Iowa, where a train derailment occurred in 2008. Both surveys provide data that address different aspects of the web of resilience.

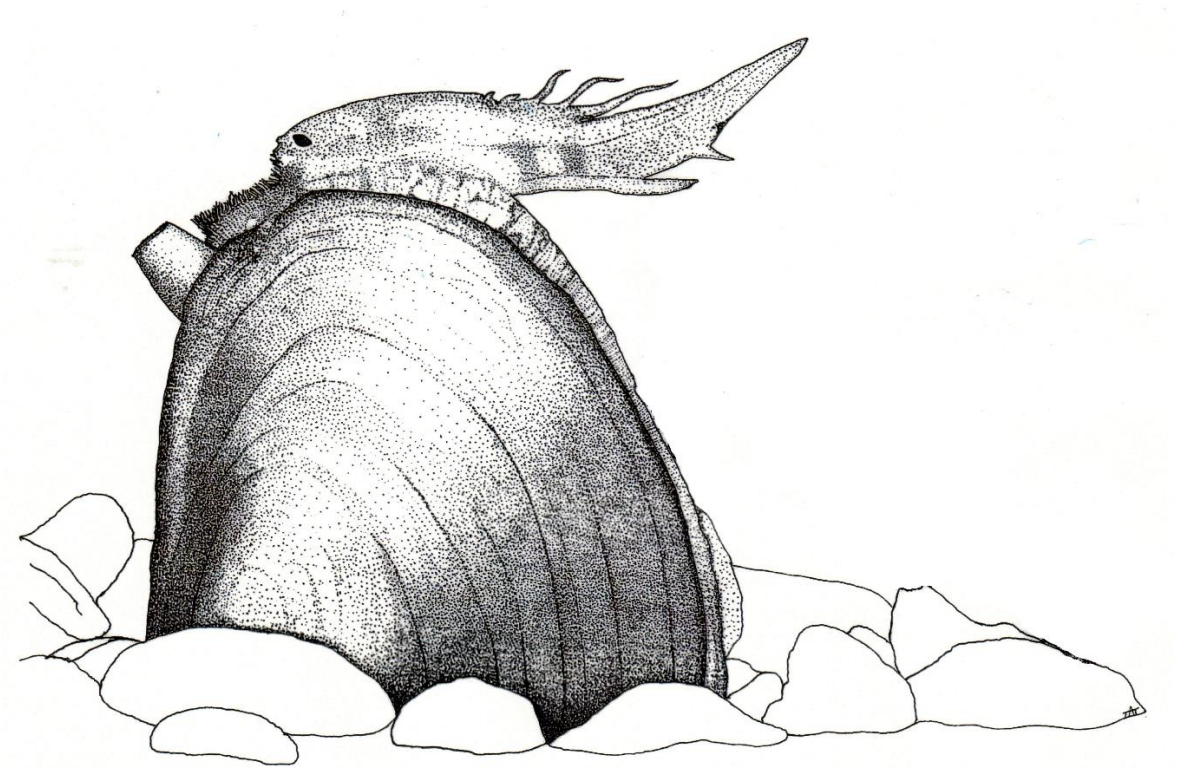
The reintroduction of Higgins Eye in the Chippewa River used the general exponential formula from Southwick and Loftus to calculate the number of mussels for release based on a conservative yearly survival rate (85%) for the genus *Lampsilis* from Haag, the area of good habitat, and their representing 0.25% of the community at least 10 years after stocking (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 2004). The 2021 quantitative survey found eight Higgins Eye in 80 quadrats along 16 transects, and those animals represent a full 4% of the sampled mussel community. Federally listed mussels including Sheepnose (18 individuals) and reintroduced Winged Mapleleaf (1) represented 14% of the community. Observations of female Higgins Eye displaying their mantle lures in the autumn of 2020 was promising, and future qualitative efforts at upstream stocking sites will further clarify the success of the effort to reintroduce these species into the river.

Hatchery reared *Lampsilis higginsii* released on the Chippewa River, Wisconsin, and recovered five years post-stocking.

The survey below Guttenberg, Iowa, looked at the response of what was likely an old, stable freshwater mussel community to the acute event of a train derailment. The post-restoration monitoring survey conducted this year shows that mussel densities have rebounded from a 2013 pre-recovery survey and that Higgins Eye are still thriving at the site. And, while recruitment is down as a percentage of the total mussels collected, 27% of the more than 1800 animals collected were less than 30 mm long. With more time and assessment, shifts in demographics and species dominance will be assessed, but the existing data suggest that the mussel community in this reach is doing well. A fall qualitative survey to expand the search for hatchery reared, tagged, and released animals will hopefully recover more juveniles but the near dozen collected across three species, including Higgins Eye, is encouraging, especially given the size of the area in which they were released.

Hatchery reared *Lampsilis higginsii* released in the Mississippi River below Guttenberg, Iowa, and recovered during site monitoring.

These efforts, while small in scope with regard to all of freshwater mussel conservation, play a role in understanding what it means for a mussel species or community to be resilient in the future in addition to furthering the recovery of individual species in the Chippewa and Mississippi rivers. Every mussel recovered from a cage, tagged, and placed in the rivers by our volunteers and biologists is subtly shaping the science of freshwater mussel recovery, which is a pretty significant role for some tiny mussels.



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Ellipsaria is posted on the FMCS web site quarterly: around the first of March, June, September, and December of each year. The newsletter routinely includes Society news, meeting notices, pertinent announcements, and informal articles about ongoing research concerning freshwater mollusks and their habitats. Anyone may submit material for inclusion in *Ellipsaria* and all issues are accessible to anyone on the FMCS website (http://molluskconservation.org).

Articles contributed to *Ellipsaria* should be preliminary or initial observations of note (e.g., natural history observations, meaningful new distribution records, interesting finds, etc.) concerning freshwater mollusks, their habitats, and/or their conservation. Articles that include quantitative analyses, draw conclusions based on analyses, or propose taxonomic revisions should not be submitted to *Ellipsaria* and, instead, should be submitted to a peer-reviewed journal such as *FMBC*. Please limit the length of contributed articles to about one page of text (i.e., excluding pertinent tables, figures, and references).

Information for possible inclusion in *Ellipsaria* should be submitted via e-mail to the editor, John Jenkinson, at jjjenkinson@hotmail.com. Contributions may be submitted at any time but are due by the 15th of the month before each issue is posted. MSWord is optimal for text, but the editor may be able to convert other formats. Graphics should be in a form that can be manipulated using PhotoShop. Note that submissions are not peer-reviewed but are edited for clarity and checked for appropriateness for posting in this freshwater mollusk newsletter. Feel free to contact the editor with questions about possible submissions or transmission concerns.

FMCS Committees and Their Chairs/Co-chairs

If you are interested in participating in committee activities, please contact one of the appropriate chairs.

Functional Committees

Awards
Curt Elderkin - elderkin@tcnj.edu
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Susan Oetker - susan_oetker@fws.gov

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Amanda Rosenberger - arosenberger@tntech.edu

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Nathan Johnson - floridamussels@gmail.com

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Wesley Daniel - wdaniel@usgs.gov

Ad-Hoc Committees

[None at present]

Parting Shot

Surprise ! This live specimen of the Shiny Pigtoe, *Fusconaia cor*, was found a few weeks ago during quantitative sampling in the Elk River downstream from Tim's Ford Dam in Tennessee. This is the first live record of this species from the Elk River reported since 1980. In 2006, the Tennessee Valley Authority -- in consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) -- stopped generating power with the turbine in Tim's Ford Dam between May and November of each year to enhance the recovery of the Boulder Darter, *Etheostoma wapiti*, and Cracking Pearlymussel, *Hemistena lata*. Sampling this year indicates that the operational change has benefited both target species as well as other mollusks and fishes, such as the Shiny Pigtoe. Adding to this enhancement, the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency and USFWS are planning to remove the old Harms Mill dam from the Elk River within the next few months. Photograph by Andy Ford, FWS, Cookeville, Tennessee.

If you would like to contribute a freshwater mollusk-related image for use as a **Parting Shot** in *Ellipsaria*, e-mail the picture, informative caption, and photo credit to jjjenkinson@hotmail.com.