

## ***Ontario Freshwater Mussel Identification Workshop***

Have you ever wondered how to tell the difference between a pimpleback and a purple wartyback? A fat mucket and a mucket? Fisheries and Oceans Canada with support from Environment Canada and the Royal Ontario Museum/University of Toronto is pleased to present the Ontario Freshwater Mussel Identification Workshop providing you with the opportunity to refine your mussel identification skills. This two day workshop will provide an introduction to the anatomy, biology and ecology of Ontario's freshwater mussels with special emphasis on the 8 COSEWIC listed Endangered species.



The program is organized to provide an introduction to the 41 species of Ontario mussels, provide insight into key features used in identification and maximize participants' hands-on experience. The workshop is designed around a *Species at Risk* theme and we encourage the use of non-destructive external shell characteristics for identification whenever possible. Day 1 will provide participants with an introduction to the basic biology and ecology of freshwater mussels, techniques for mussel identification, important shell features, species-specific differences, and provide key characters to be used when identifying specimens. Day 2 will permit participants to put their newly acquired skills to use during a field excursion. The Sydenham River is the richest mussel river in Canada and will allow participants the opportunity to see up to 30 species including 7 of Ontario's 8 Endangered mussel species. Participants will be introduced to a variety of field sampling procedures and will be able to practice their identification skills under field conditions.

### **Agenda**

#### Day 1 (in class)

- Basic Ecology – anatomy, feeding, reproduction, habitat
- Taxonomy
- Species at Risk
- Identification

#### Day 2 (field)

- Field sampling techniques
- Field identification skills

### **Time and Place**

The workshop will be held on June 13-14 2006. Day 1 of the workshop will be held at the Canada Centre for Inland Waters, 867 Lakeshore Rd, Burlington, Ontario. Day 2 will feature a field excursion to the Sydenham River in southwestern Ontario. Transportation to the site will be available from CCIW or participants may wish to travel separately and meet the group on site.

### **What to Bring**

Participants are invited to bring their own field collections for identification during Day 1. Participants are requested to bring suitable field attire on Day 2 including waders. Polarized sunglasses are not required but will assist greatly with field searches.

### **Cost**

The cost for the workshop is \$200. **Please make cheques payable to the Receiver General and attach to your registration form.** Your registration fee includes transportation to and from the field site, lunch and coffee breaks on Day 1 (please bring your own lunch for Day 2 as no facilities are available near the field site) and all course materials including a copy of the new "Photo Field Guide to the Freshwater Mussels of Ontario".

### **Registration**

To register for the workshop please contact the organizer listed below by e-mail; then complete the attached registration form and return it to the address below. Interest for the workshop is anticipated to be high and space is limited.

**Registration will be accepted on a first come first served basis so please register early.**

**Registration deadline is June 1, 2006.**

### **Contact**

Todd Morris  
Great Lakes Laboratory for Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences  
Fisheries and Oceans Canada  
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Burlington, ON  
Canada  
Ph: 905 336-4734  
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## Registration Form



**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Organization:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Province:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Postal Code:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Fax:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**E-mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

### **Experience Level**

- I have never seen a mussel before.
- I know the difference between a zebra mussel and a native freshwater mussel.
- I can identify up to 6 species.
- I can identify more than 6 species.
- I should be leading the workshop.

### **I am interested in:**

- Basic biology and an introduction to freshwater mussels.
- Species at Risk.
- Field techniques.
- Identification

**I will bring my own shell collection:**     yes             no

**I will**     require transportation to the field site on Day 2.  
           meet the group on site.  
           not be able to attend the field trip.

**To confirm your reservation please fax or e-mail your completed registration form to:**

Todd Morris  
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