

Freshwater Mussels & Their Hosts

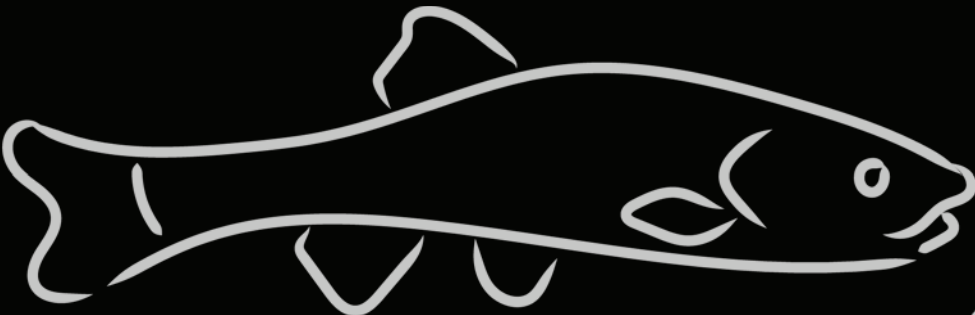
in Central Illinois' Upper Sangamon River

Catching a ride helps mussels spread far and wide

Female mussels take in sperm released into the water by the male. Fertilized eggs grow inside the female's gills.



Tiny mussel larvae (glochidia) are released and attach to fish gills or fins. Some mussels make lures that look like food to attract the right host fish.



Glochidia ride their fish host without harming it, while they transform into young mussels.

In a few weeks or months, the young mussels drop off and attach to the riverbed. They may be far upstream from where they started.



After a few years, the new adult mussels are ready to reproduce, and the cycle begins again.

MINNOW & CARP FAMILY Cyprinidae



CREEK CHUB *Semotilus atromaculatus*
AVERAGE LENGTH 3"



STRIPED SHINER *Luxilus chrysocephalus*
AVERAGE LENGTH 5"

SUNFISH FAMILY Centrarchidae



BLUEGILL *Lepomis macrochirus*
AVERAGE LENGTH 6"



LARGEMOUTH BASS *Micropterus salmoides*
AVERAGE LENGTH 12"

DARTERS & PERCHES FAMILY Percidae



WALLEYE *Sander vitreus*
AVERAGE LENGTH 18"



JOHNNY DARTER *Etheostoma nigrum*
AVERAGE LENGTH 2"

CATFISH FAMILY Ictaluridae



CHANNEL CATFISH *Ictalurus punctatus*
AVERAGE LENGTH 15"

MUDPUPPY FAMILY Proteidae

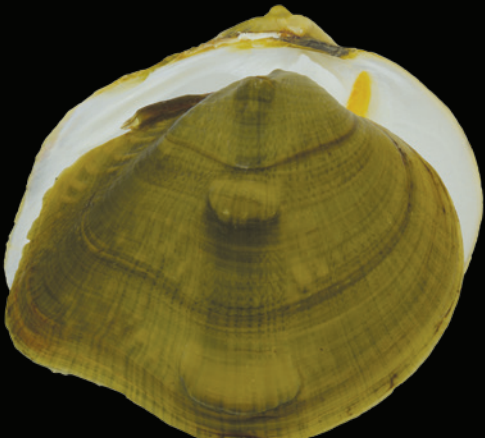


MUDPUPPY ★ *Necturus maculosus*
AVERAGE LENGTH 12"

FRESHWATER DRUM FAMILY Sciaenidae



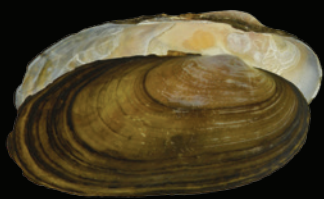
FRESHWATER DRUM *Aplodinotus grunniens*
AVERAGE LENGTH 24"



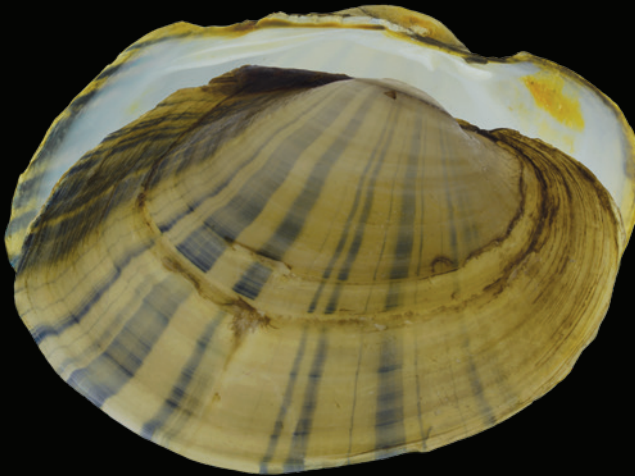
THREEHORN WARTYBACK *Obliquaria reflexa*
HOST: Striped Shiner



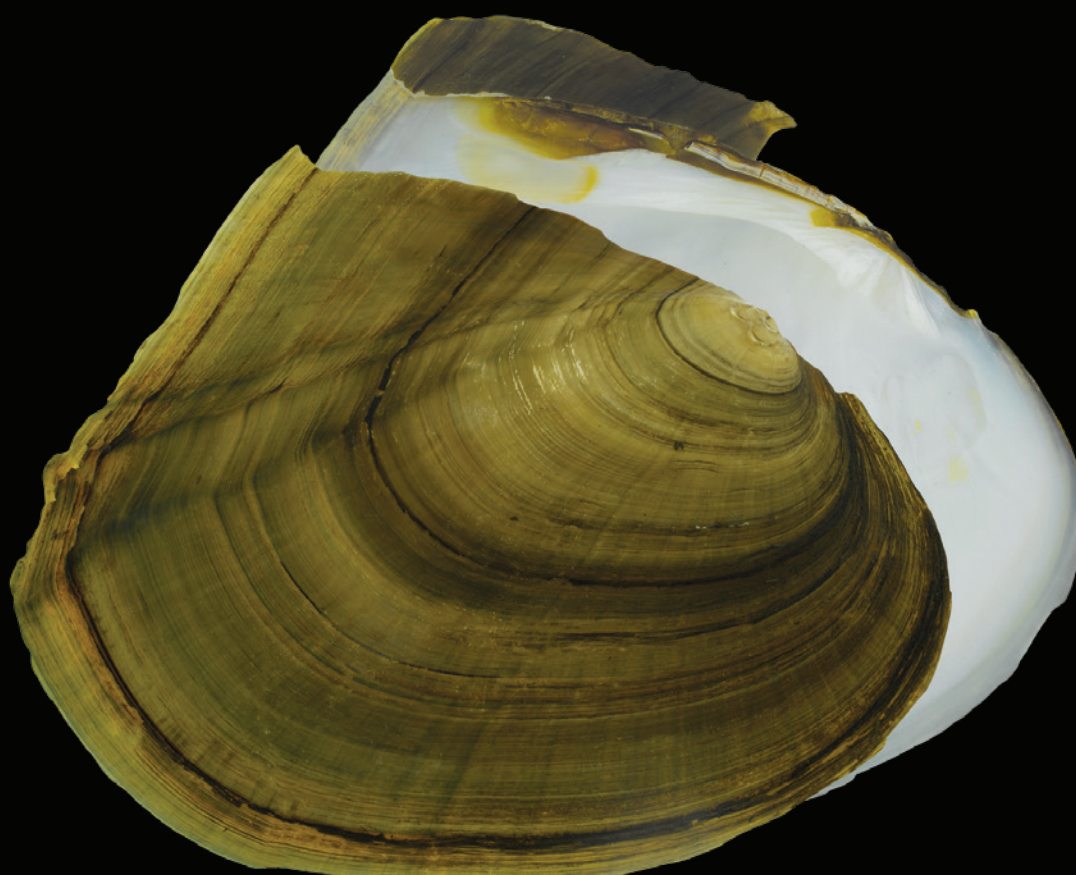
GIANT FLOATER *Pyganodon grandis*
HOSTS: Creek Chub, Striped Shiner, Bluegill, Largemouth Bass, Johnny Darter



SALAMANDER MUSSEL ● *Simpsonia ambigua*
HOST: Mudpuppy



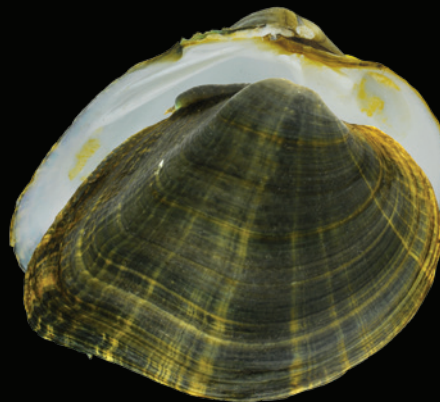
PLAIN POCKETBOOK *Lampsilis cardium*
HOSTS: Bluegill, Largemouth Bass, Walleye



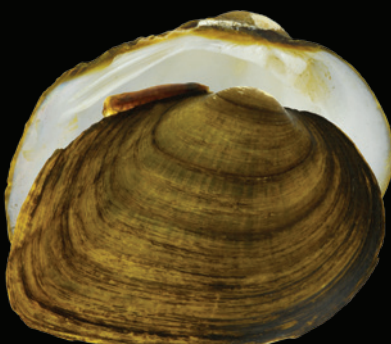
WHITE HEELSPITTER *Lasmigona complanata*
HOST: Largemouth Bass



FAWNSFOOT *Truncilla donaciformis*
HOST: Freshwater Drum



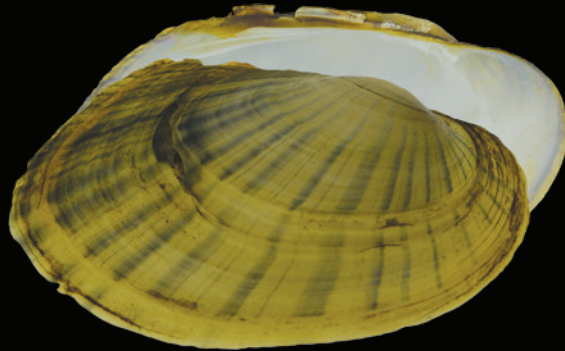
DEERTOEO *Truncilla truncata*
HOST: Freshwater Drum



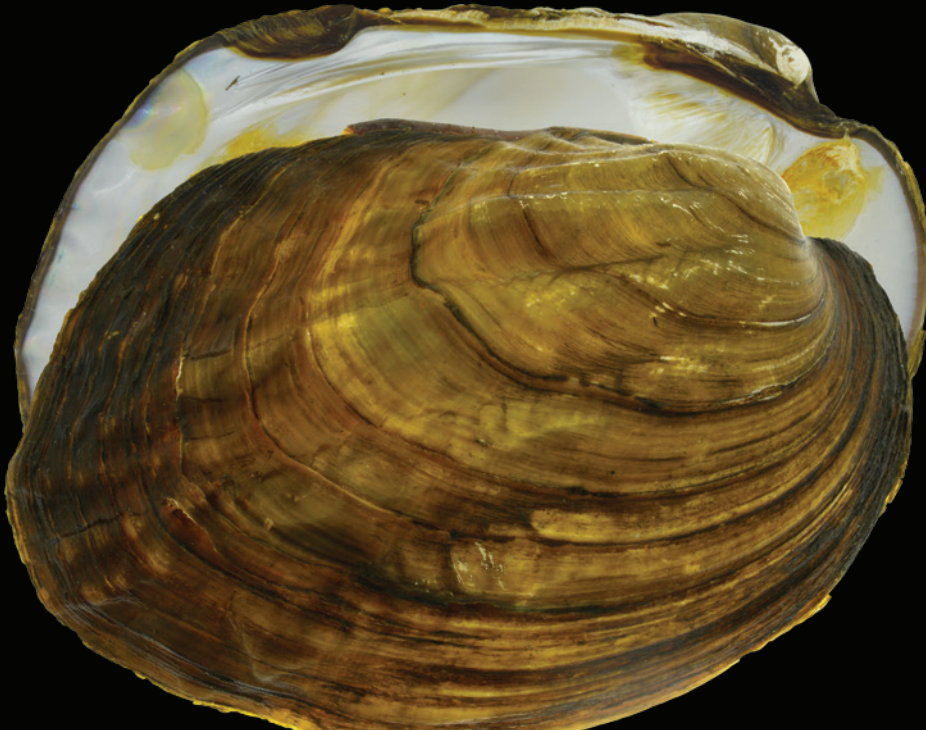
WABASH PIGTOE *Fusconaia flava*
HOSTS: Creek Chub, Bluegill



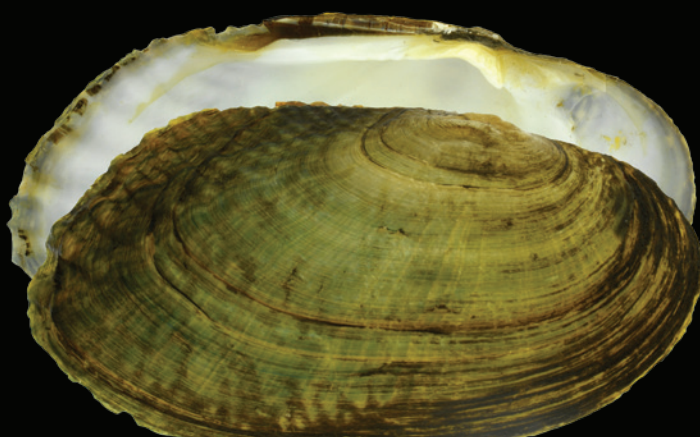
ROUND PIGTOE *Pleurobema sintoxia*
HOSTS: Creek Chub, Bluegill



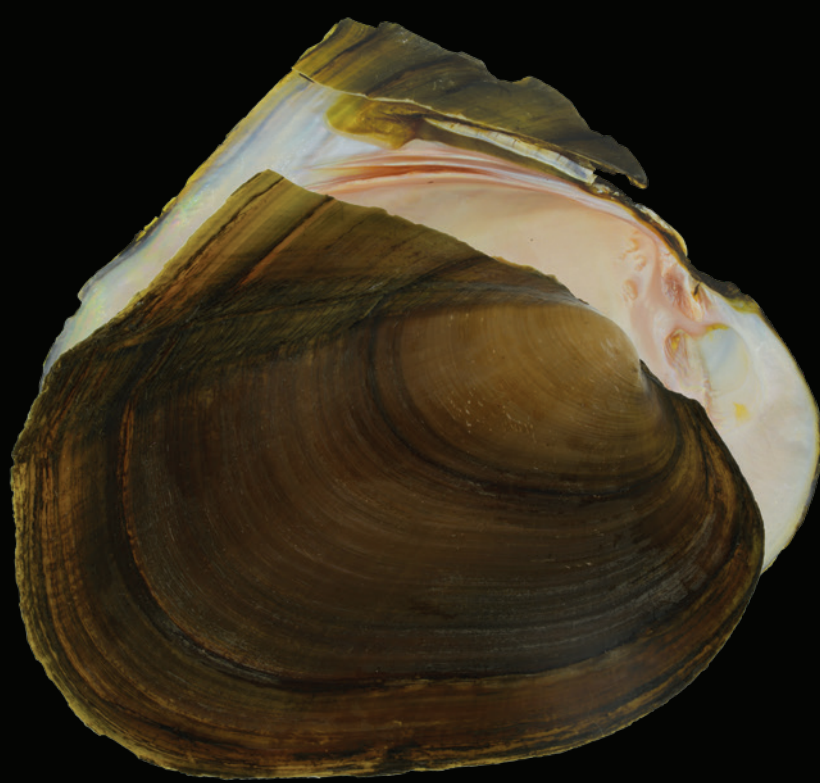
FATMUCKET *Lampsilis siliquoidea*
HOSTS: Striped Shiner, Bluegill, Largemouth Bass, Walleye



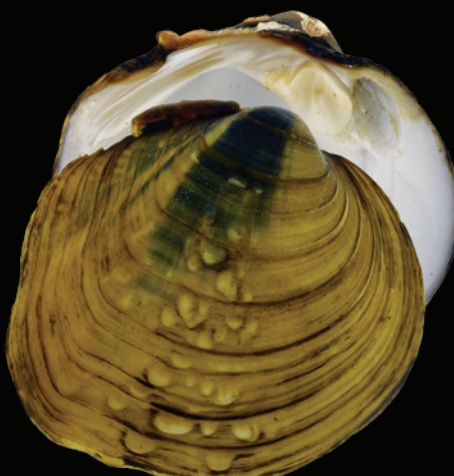
THREERIDGE *Amblema plicata*
HOSTS: Channel Catfish, Bluegill, Largemouth Bass



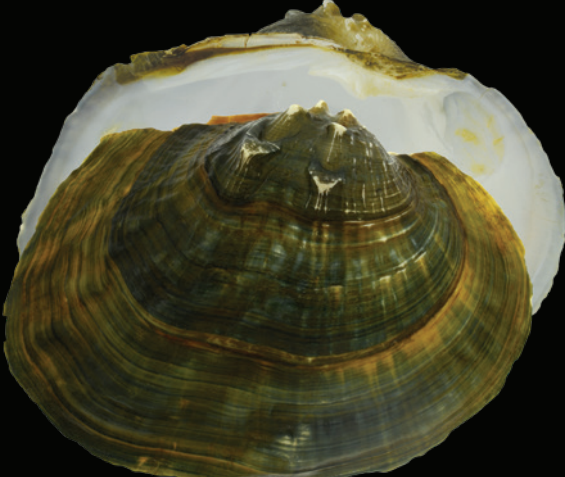
FLUTEDSHELL ★ *Lasmigona costata*
HOST: Largemouth Bass



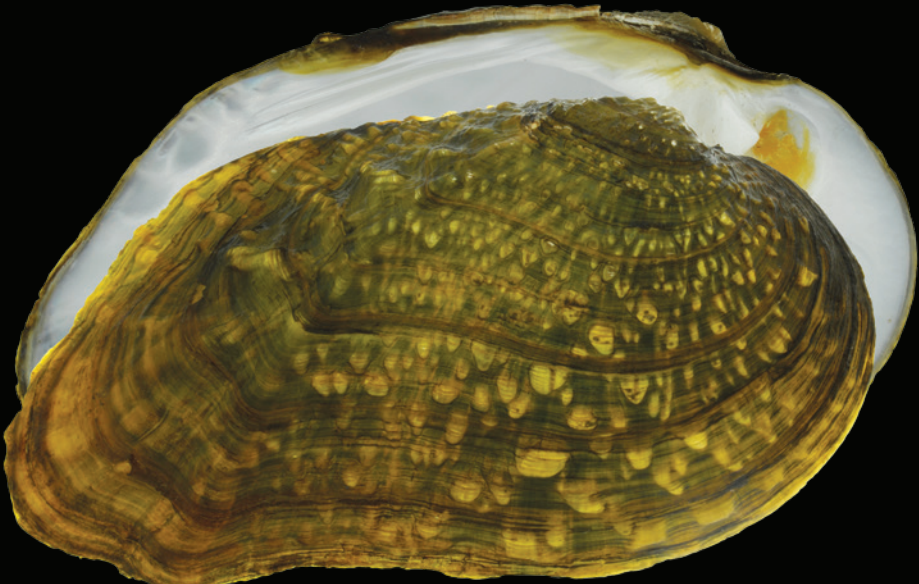
PINK HEELSPITTER *Potamilus alatus*
HOST: Freshwater Drum



PIMPLEBACK *Cyclonaias pustulosa*
HOST: Channel Catfish



ROCK POCKETBOOK ★ *Arcidens contragostus*
HOSTS: Striped Shiner, Channel Catfish, Walleye



PISTOLGRIP *Tritogonia verrucosa*
HOST: Channel Catfish



MAPLELEAF *Quadrula quadrula*
HOST: Channel Catfish



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Fish Photos: Lance Merry • Design & Text: Elizabeth Otto
landconservationfoundation.org

ILLINOIS
Illinois Natural History Survey
PRAIRIE RESEARCH INSTITUTE

● State Endangered Species
★ State Threatened Species
◆ Species in Greatest Need of Conservation
Mussels shown actual size; fish not to scale