

Freshwater Mussel Programs

LOCATION

The Freshwater Mussel Conservation & Research Facility plays a vital role in research on the breeding, rearing and re-introduction of threatened and endangered mussel species. It is one of the few facilities of its kind in the world.

Located on a 32 acre peninsula on the Scioto River northwest of Columbus, the facility is leased to the Zoo by Columbus Recreation and Parks. Originally a lodge and retreat for the Jeffrey Manufacturing Company, the property was extensively renovated in 2001-2002 to accommodate the mussel research facility.



DIRECTIONS

Located across the Scioto River from the Columbus Zoo & Aquarium. Cross O'Shaughnessy Reservoir at **Glick Road** in Dublin. Turn right at the 1st light onto Dublin Road. Turn right onto Harriott Road. (About .9 mi.) Harriott deadends at the facility,

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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Mussel Conservation Facility

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PARTNERS

Columbus Division of Parks & Recreation

Columbus Zoo & Aquarium

ODNR. Division of Wildlife

Ohio State University

National Fish & Wildlife Foundation

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Freshwater Mussels

&

Ohio's Aquatic Habitats

Education Programs



The Columbus Zoo & Aquarium, in cooperation with The Ohio State University, is excited to offer a series of Freshwater Exploration Programs for students that allow them to explore the world of freshwater mussels and learn about their importance to Ohio's aquatic



Freshwater Mussel Education Programs



WHY STUDY FRESHWATER MUSSELS?

Freshwater mussels are one of the most endangered species in North America. There are more kinds of mussels in Little Darby Creek than in all of Europe and Australia combined. Unfortunately, over 43% of the species in North America are extinct or on the way to extinction.

Most people have never heard of mussels because they live their lives out of sight (and out of mind) in the bottoms of rivers and lakes. But mussels play an important role in quietly filtering water day after day. The presence or absence, increase or decrease, in mussel populations can tell an important story about the health of a river.

The Columbus Zoo and Aquarium Freshwater Mussel Research & Conservation Center is dedicated to researching issues of paramount importance to the conservation of mussels. Close proximity to the Columbus Zoo and the Scioto River makes the Mussel Center an ideal location for culturing and holding native mussels.

EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Educators at the Mussel Center have developed programs to provide hands-on educational opportunities for middle and high school students to introduce them to the important role of the mussel in the ecologic and economic life of Ohio, creating opportunities for student research, training, and internships. For information about shadowing opportunities, please call 614-724-3449 or e-mail librarian@columbuszoo.org

Education programs at the Mussel Center offer students in grades 5 through 12 an opportunity to participate in hands-on activities that promote a balance between academics and real world science.

A selection of programs has been developed that are aligned with the Ohio Academic Content Standards. Labs would include, but are not limited to:

- Life cycle of mussels
- Mussel identification using dichotomous keys
- Water chemistry
- Energy transfer in aquatic systems
- Zooplankton sampling and

analysis and their role in the ecosystem



REGISTRATION

Teachers may request an information packet that includes a brief video with an introduction to the Mussel Center. Once registered, teachers may elect to check out a teacher loan kit through the Columbus Zoo & Aquarium. The kit contains background information about freshwater

Classes for Grades 5-8

Job shadowing

Independent study opportunities for college students