



International Symposium of the Freshwater Mollusk Conservation Society

Tour and Field Trip Information

Thursday, April 23



Visit the Smithsonian National Museum Of Natural History and the Smithsonian National Museum Of The American Indian

The National Museum of Natural History (NMNH) is part of the Smithsonian Institution, the world's preeminent museum and research complex. The museum is dedicated to inspiring curiosity, discovery, and learning about the natural world through its unparalleled research, collections, exhibitions, and education outreach programs. The Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian on the National Mall galleries and display spaces house both permanent and temporary exhibitions. The museum's permanent exhibitions, Our Universes, Our Peoples, and Our Lives, represent important ideas and experiences in Native life and history.

Tour Schedule: Leave Baltimore Marriott at 9am; First stop: National Museum of Natural History; Leave the NMNH at 12:30 pm (You are welcome to remain at the NMNH or visit other sites in the area.); Second Stop: National Museum of the American Indian; Bus departs the NMAI at 3:45pm; Bus departs the NMNH at 4:15 pm; Arrive at the Baltimore Marriott by 5:00 pm.



Or Visit the Smithsonian National Zoological Park

The National Zoo is a 163-acre zoological park set amid Rock Creek Park in the heart of Washington, D.C. Open to the public 364 days a year, it is home to 2,000 individual animals of nearly 400 different species. The best known residents are the giant pandas, Tian Tian, Mei Xiang, and their cub, Tai Shan.

Tour Schedule: Leave Baltimore Marriott at 9am; Bus departs National Zoo at 2pm.



Or Freshwater Mussel Field Trip

Come out and join us in viewing some of the eastern United States' Atlantic slope freshwater mussels. We'll visit two distinctly different aquatic systems including an area along the Maryland shoreline of the upper fresh tidal section of the Potomac River and Nanjemoy Creek, a small, nontidal, forested coastal plain stream with one of the region's best remaining populations of the federally endangered *Alasmidonta heterodon*.

Field Trip Schedule: Depart the Baltimore Marriott Hotel at 8:30am and return around 5pm

Hatchery Field Trips Information

Friday, April 24



Visit the White Sulphur Springs National Fish Hatchery

White Sulphur Springs National Fish Hatchery (WSSNFH) is one of the oldest national fish hatcheries in the U.S. Originally established in 1900 to produce fish for the American Public, WSSNFH began research into freshwater mussel conservation in 1995. Today, hatchery biologists use state-of-the-art technology to propagate federally endangered freshwater mussels to prevent extinction and common freshwater mussels to restore the natural filtration capacity of mussel beds, a critical ecosystem service in rivers. Hatchery staff will provide guided tours of the mussel propagation facility as well as the trout raceways and egg incubation facilities.

Field trip Schedule: Leave Baltimore Marriott 8:30am; Lunch upon arrival; Tour WSSNFH : 2:00-4:30pm

Saturday, April 25



Visit the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries AWCC

The Aquatic Wildlife Conservation Center (AWCC) operated by the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (VDGIF) is located along the banks of the scenic South Fork Holston River near Marion, Virginia. Established in 1998, the AWCC is a nongame production facility that specializes in the cultivation of freshwater mussels and snails. Over 30 adult mussel species, several of which are threatened and endangered, make their home at AWCC. Over one million juveniles of 23 species have been propagated with many held for grow-out beyond a year of age. AWCC staff will be on hand to give a guided tour of the facility, explain the mussel propagation process, and show juvenile mussels reared at the facility.

Field trip Schedule: Depart General Lewis Inn 8:30am; Arrive AWCC 11:30am; Tour AWCC 12:30 pm-3pm

Sunday, April 26



Visit the Virginia Tech Freshwater Mollusk Conservation Center (FMCC)

In 1978, the nation's first cooperative research and propagation facility was established to restore and recover endangered freshwater mollusks in Virginia and adjacent states. Numerous graduate students over a 20+-year period provided the knowledge and expertise to implement the propagation program. In 1997, the first propagated juveniles of a federally endangered species were released. The facility now produces roughly 250,000 juveniles of about 10 species each year. The VT Mussel Lab has been at the forefront of mussel research and advises both national and international efforts focused on mussel biology and conservation.

Field trip Schedule: Tour FMCC 9-11:30am; Depart for Baltimore at 1pm; Arrive Baltimore at 6:30pm