



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

# National Conservation Training Center

## Training Announcement

### Conservation Biology of Freshwater Mussels CSP 1101

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#### Course Description

This is an introductory course on the biology and ecology of freshwater mussels and the conservation issues facing this highly endangered group of animals. Topics to be covered include anatomy, physiology, life history, health, ecosystem services, mussels as biomonitors, conservation status, population impacts, conservation measures (relocation, propagation, conservation genetics), legal issues (permits and the ESA, Section 7 consultations, critical habitat) and field techniques (survey techniques, sampling techniques, habitat assessment). This course will address key characters for identification of freshwater mussels and will provide opportunities in the laboratory to practice with dichotomous keys, however due to time constraints and the regional nature of mussel assemblages; this is NOT a mussel identification course.



Matthew Patterson (USFWS)

#### Objectives

Upon completion of this course, you will be able to identify:

- ✓ why mussels matter to FWS
- ✓ why so many mussel species are endangered
- ✓ the skills and tools available for mussel conservation
- ✓ the legal issues related to mussel conservation
- ✓ the genetic concerns associated with mussel conservation

#### Date

August 1 – August 5, 2016

#### Location

NCTC, Shepherdstown, WV

#### Instructors

Dr. Chris Barnhart and Heidi Dunn

#### Who Should Attend

Anyone who works with freshwater mussels (biologists environmental educators, etc.) but has little formal knowledge of their biology.

#### Course Length

4.5 days

#### College Credit

2 semester hours

#### Tuition

Tuition for FWS, NPS, and BLM is prepaid. Tuition is \$1,195.00 for participants from other agencies and organizations.

#### To Register

**DOI employees:** Log In to DOI Learn, enter the course title in the search box, click scheduled classes, click submit request.

**Non-DOI employees:** If you do not have a DOI Learn account, please contact Matthew Patterson for instructions on how to create an account.

#### Course Contact

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*“Although some species are abundant, many others are in danger of extinction. The combination of ecological significance and protected status has made mussels a nexus of research, conservation, and environmental regulation in rivers” Dr. Barnhart*