**Mussel Facts**
- Over 65 native species in Missouri
- Members of the Bivalvia class (2 valves/sides of shell connected by a hinge)
- Food: filter phytoplankton, zooplankton, and organic matter out of water through siphons
- Predators: fish, waterfowl, raccoons, mink, muskrats, otters, and more
- Habitat: flowing or still water in stable areas of the substrate. They can anchor to ground with their foot

**Observing Mussels:**
- Dead shells can be found along edge of water when water is low.
- If you pick up a live mussel, return it to the exact spot it was and leave it partially embedded with its hinge side up.
- Check local regulations before removing.

**Physical Characteristics**

**Lifecycle**
1. Males release sperm. Females filter and collect sperm, which fertilizes the eggs.
2. Parasitic glochidia (larva) attach to host fish gills.
3. After a few days or a few weeks, juvenile mussels drop off of their host.
4. If the habitat is suitable, juvenile mussels grow into adults. Typical lifespan is 10-50 years.

**Common**
- **Fawnsfoot** (*Truncilla donaciformis*)
  - 1-2 in. long
  - Yellow, green with zigzag lines
  - Nacre: pearly white

**Native Species**
- **Plain Pocketbook** (*Lampsilis cardium*)
  - 3-6 in. long
  - Yellow, tan, or brown with thin rays
  - Nacre: white, pink

**Endangered**
- **Scaleshell** (*Leptodea leptodon*)
  - 2-4 in. long
  - Olive, brown with wavy rays
  - Nacre: rose, blue, purple and iridescent

- **Snuffbox** (*Epioblasma triqueta*)
  - 1-2 in. long
  - Yellow, green with rays
  - Nacre: pearly white

- **Spectaclecase** (*Cumberlandia monodonta*)
  - 5-10 in. long
  - Black, brown
  - Nacre: white, blue

- **Winged Mapleleaf** (*Quadrula fragosa*)
  - 2-4 in. long
  - Tan, brown. Some with green rays.
  - Nacre: Pearly white or iridescent

**Invasive Species**
- **Asian Clam** (*Corbicula fluminea*)
  - 1-2 in. long
  - Brown, black, yellow, or olive, often with dark concentric rings
  - Nacre: white, purple, blue
  - Can reach density of 2000+/m²

- **Zebra Mussel** (*Dreissena polymorpha*)
  - 1-2 in. long
  - Sit on ventral side
  - White or cream with jagged brown or black stripes
  - Nacre: white

- **Quagga Mussel** (*Dreissena bugensis*)
  - 2-2.5 in. long
  - White or tan with dark concentric rings
  - Nacre: white

**Prevent the Spread of Invasive Species:**
- Clean, drain, and dry all equipment used in water.
- Discard bait after it is used in one water body.