
2nd Freshwater Mollusk Conservation Society Meeting in Europe



- **Linking the Quadrants of the Earth: A Worldwide Exploration of Freshwater Mollusk Study and Conservation**

Karlstad, Sweden, 17th to 20th September, 2024

2nd ANNOUCEMENT



Scope

Mollusks are the second most species rich animal phylum on earth, and have a wide variety of adaptations and ecological niches in their terrestrial and aquatic environments. The freshwater mollusks provide many important ecosystem functions and services; however, their highly endangered status, mainly caused by anthropogenic factors, means that their impact on the environment is in drastic decline. To combat this, conservation and reintroduction practices need to be developed and implemented to reduce and reverse their drastic population declines. Nonetheless, conservation strategies for freshwater mollusks are hampered by a lack of key information surrounding freshwater mollusk biology and ecology. In recent decades there has been an increased interest in studying these animals; integrating the knowledge from researchers and conservationists is a key for scientific progress. This conference aims to connect international freshwater mollusk researchers and conservationists to stimulate more international collaborations, and to help global policy makers establish policies and guidelines for future mollusk conservation efforts.

The Freshwater Mollusk Conservation Society (FMCS) is dedicated to the conservation of and advocacy of these animals but until now its activity has been mainly confined to North America. However, since freshwater mollusks are in global danger, there is a need to pursue the FMCS goals beyond geographic and political borders. This restricted consideration has prompted the idea of promoting FMCS in other continents, and in 2018 the 1st European FMCS meeting was arranged in Verbania, Italy. The implementation of congresses outside of the American continent aims to expand the membership, share research and data with international colleagues and foster collaboration. It is under this perspective that we want to introduce the upcoming 2024 meeting at Karlstad University in Sweden; the second of a series of FMCS sponsored international meetings.

Goals

1. To bring together international experts in biology and conservation of freshwater mollusks that, through the present and forthcoming conferences and debates, will be able to create a network of knowledge with the final goal of develop collaborative projects and eventually global directives for the protection and conservation of this important faunistic group.
2. To provide an incentive for non-North American freshwater malacologists to become members of FMCS and participate in planned activities, symposia, publications and workshops.
3. To set up a subcommittee within the society of local malacologists - e.g. initially from Europe, but to be expanded to other continents around the

world - to provide structure and communication about resources, lobbying, collaboration and outreach. This will facilitate answering key questions and developing techniques to address the same or similar problems encountered across freshwater molluscan research.

4. To arrange joint international meetings around the world. The first three international freshwater bivalve meetings (Bragança, Portugal, 2012; Buffalo, NY, 2015; and Verbania, Italy, 2018) were exciting and fun with a very good international participation. With the 2024 international meeting at Karlstad University in Sweden, we want to expand the focus on bivalves including all the freshwater mollusks and thereby further improve the building of an international network.

We have planned for three days of presentations on a variety of topics that cover all aspects of Malacology, targeting the latest research advances in both theoretical and applied issues. A number of internationally recognized keynote speakers will present the state of current research on these topics. This will spark debate and interest on research needs concerning the many ways mollusks affect ecosystems and society.

A more detailed list of sessions will be provided in forthcoming announcements, and for the moment, we count on everyone's enthusiasm to continue the ideas of bridging the gap and knowledge exchange between malacologists around the world that was initiated during the 1st FMCS meeting in Verbania, Italy.

DEADLINES

Early bird registration end: 15 May 2024

Regular registration end: 30 June 2024

Abstract submission: 15 May 2024

Organizing Committee

Martin Österling – Karlstad University, Sweden;
Sebastian Rock – Karlstad University, Sweden;
Magnus Lovén Wallerius – Karlstad University, Sweden;
Raviv Gal – Karlstad University, Sweden;
Lea D. Schneider – The Rural Economy and Agricultural Societies - Halland, Sweden;
Ted von Proschwitz – Gothenburg Natural History Museum, Sweden;
Niklas Wengström Swedish Anglers Association, Sweden;

Contact

fmcs.karlstad@kau.se

martin.osterling@kau.se

RivEM (River Ecology and Management Research Group): <http://www.nrrv.se/>

Address: Karlstad University, Universitetsgatan 2, 651 88 Karlstad, Sweden

Registration / Whova

Scientific Committee (tentative)

Martin Österling – Karlstad University, Sweden;
Nicoletta Riccardi – CNR – ISE, Italy;
Manuel Lopes Lima – CIBIO, Porto University, Portugal;
Tadeusz Zając – Institute of Nature Conservation, Polish Academy of Sciences, Poland;
Maria Urbanska – Poznan University of Life Sciences, Poznan, Poland;
David Aldridge – University of Cambridge, United Kingdom
Alexandra Zieritz – University of Nottingham Malaysia Campus, Malaysia;
Ronaldo Sousa – Minho University, Portugal;
Karel Douda – Czech University of Life Sciences Prague, Czech Republic;
Anna Łabęcka – Jagiellonian University, Kraków, Poland;
Paz Ondina – University of Santiago de Compostela, Spain;
Jouni Taskinen – University of Jyväskylä, Finland;
Jürgen Geist – Technical University of Munich, Germany;
Mary Seddon – IUCN, Mollusc Specialist Group;
Vincent Prie – Institute of Systematics, Evolution, Biodiversity (ISYEB);
Amy Maynard (president elect of the FMCS) – Neosho National Fish Hatchery, USA;
David Strayer – Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies, USA;
Arthur Bogan – North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences, USA;
John Pfeiffer – Smithsonian Institution, Natural Museum of natural History;
Carla Atkinson – University of Alabama, USA;
Megan Bradley (president of the FMCS) – Fish and Wildlife Service, USA;
Teresa Newton – U.S. Geological Survey in Wisconsin, USA;
Astrid Schwalb – Texas State University, USA;