



SPECTACLECASE FEN
Cumberlandia monodonta



EBONYSHELL EN
Reginaia ebenus



THREERIDGE UN
Amblema plicata



CREEK HEELSPLITTER SC
Lasmigona compressa



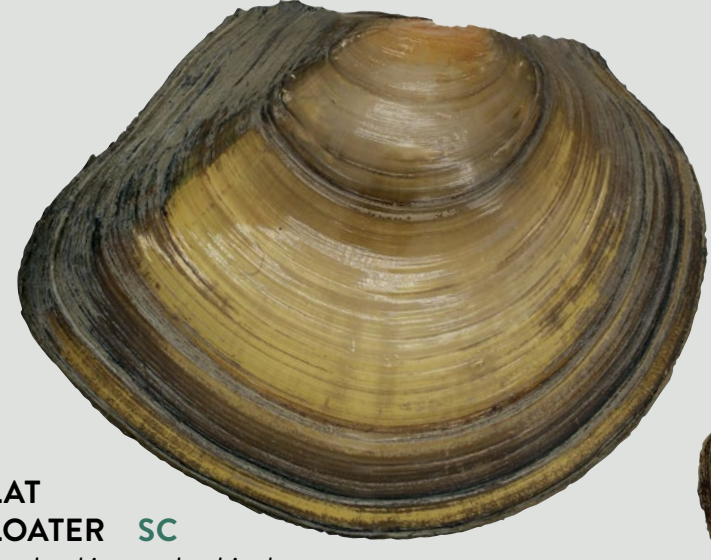
CREEPER UN
Strophitus undulatus



CYLINDRICAL PAPERSHELL UN
Anodontoides ferussacianus



ELKTOE TH
Alasmodonta marginata



FLUTEDSHELL TH
Lasmigona costata



LAKE FLOATER
Pyganodon lacustris



PAPER PONDShell UN
Utterbackia imbecillis



ROCK POCKETBOOK EN
Arcidens confragosus



SALAMANDER MUSSEL EN
Simpsonia ambigua



WHITE HEELSPLITTER UN
Lasmigona complanata

FLAT FLOATER SC
Utterbackiano suborbiculata

GIANT FLOATER UN
Pyganodon grandis



BLACK SANDSHELL SC
Ligumia recta



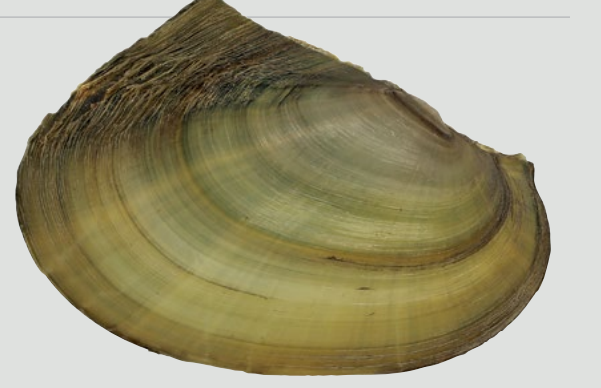
BUTTERFLY TH
Ellipsaria lineolata



FATMUCKET UN
Lampsilis siliquoidea



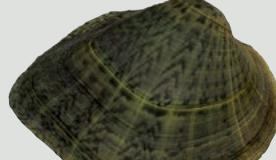
FAWNSFOOT TH
Truncilla donaciformis



FRAGILE PAPERSHELL UN
Leptodea fragilis



CANARY KINGSHELL
Lampsilis sietmani



DEERTOEL UN
Truncilla truncata



HICKORYNUT UN
Obovaria olivaria



HIGGINS EYE FEN
Lampsilis higginsii



ELLIPSE TH
Venusstacncha ellipsiformis



FAT POCKETBOOK EX
Potamilus capax



LILLIPUT UN
Toxolasma parvum

“LET ME CLEAN YOUR WATER”
—anonymous mussel

Mussels native to Minnesota are important to our lakes and rivers. They filter and clean vast amounts of water. As they filter food from the water, they deposit unused particles and metabolic waste that are important components of the aquatic food web. Mussels and their shells form habitat for algae and other aquatic animals that are food for fish. Similar to the effects of coral reefs in oceans, groups of mussels are biodiversity hotspots. These mussel “beds” attract fish that serve as hosts for different species of mussels, helping to maintain mussel populations and their benefits to aquatic ecosystems.

Mussels are sensitive to pollution and changes to their habitat. This makes them helpful indicators of the health of our lakes and rivers. Some species are so sensitive they may become endangered or even extinct.

Learn more about native mussels at mndnr.gov/mussels.

A MUSSEL'S AL-LURE

Adult mussels can't move long distances on their own, but their young can hitch a ride on a fish! Mussels begin life as larvae (an immature life stage), and must attach to a fish to develop and complete metamorphosis into a juvenile mussel—somewhat like a caterpillar turning into a butterfly. When they develop into juvenile mussels, they fall from the fish onto the streambed where they will grow into an adult.

The wabash pigtoe mussel releases small capsules that resemble appetizing worms. Each capsule has hundreds of larvae inside. Fish eat the capsules and some of the larvae attach to the fish's gills.

Different types of mussels need specific types of fish to develop. The black sandshell mussel needs to attach to a walleye or sauger. The host for the pink heelsplitter mussel is the freshwater drum. The giant floater mussel can attach to many different types of fish.

Some mussels have specialized lures to attract fish. The plain pocketbook mussel has a special structure that looks and moves like a minnow. When a fish tries to eat the imposter minnow, it sucks the mussel larvae into its mouth. The larvae attach to the fish's gills to develop.

MUSSEL REPRODUCTION

Male releases sperm OR Female releases larvae

MUSSELS OF MINNESOTA

PINK HEELSPLITTER UN
Potamilus alatus



PINK PAPERSHELL UN
Potamilus ohioensis



PLAIN POCKETBOOK UN
Lampsilis cardium



NON-NATIVE MUSSELS

Mussels native to Minnesota are beneficial to rivers and lakes. The zebra mussel is an invasive species that can harm native mussels by attaching to their shells and competing with them for food and habitat. They can also harm people by cutting the feet of swimmers, damaging boat motors, and causing expensive damage to water intake pipes.

You can prevent the spread of zebra mussels: **clean** watercraft of aquatic plants and prohibited invasive species, **drain** all water by removing drain plugs and keeping them out during transport, and **dispose** of unwanted bait in the trash.



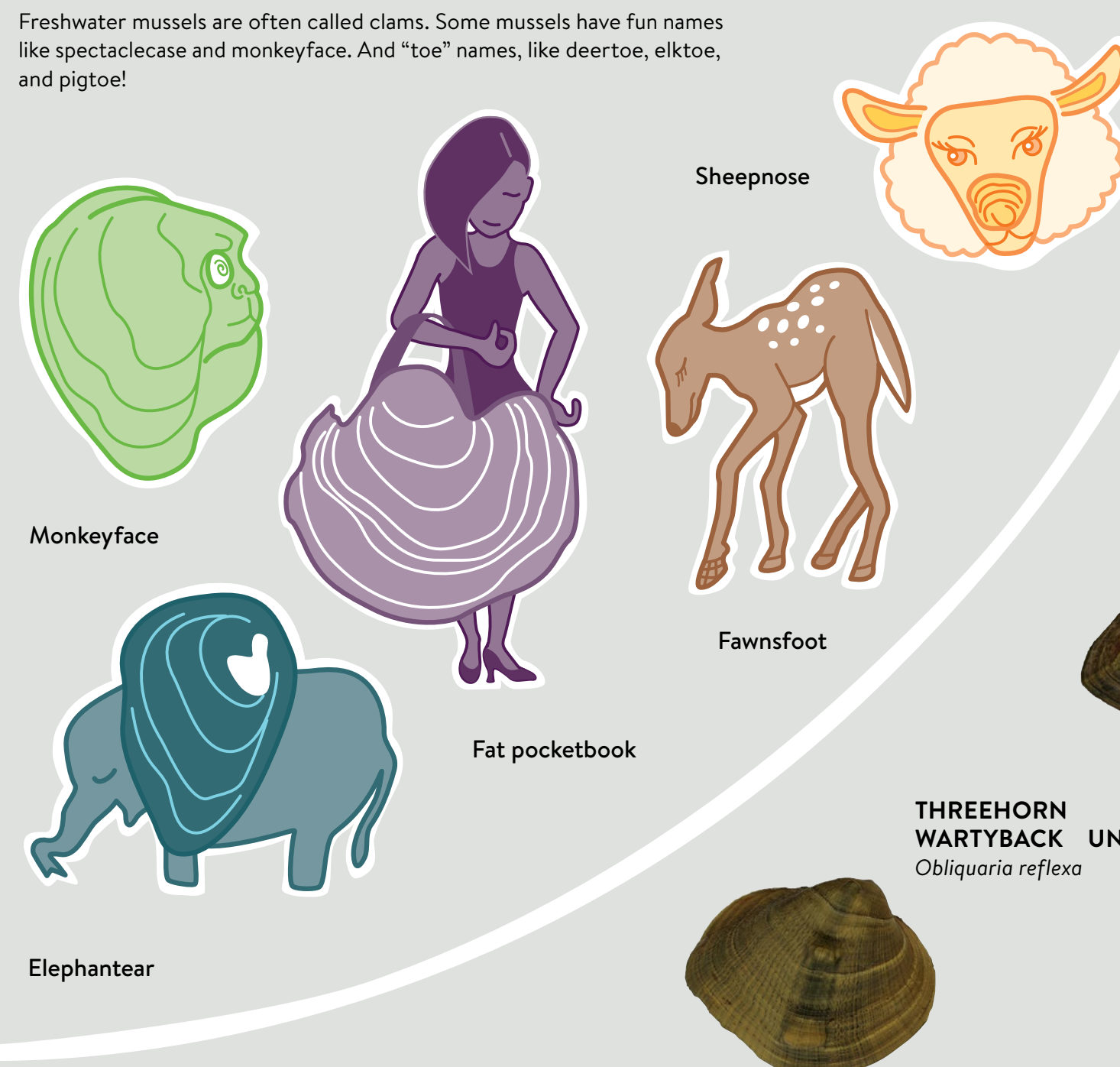
ZEBRA MUSSEL
Dreissena polymorpha



Zebra mussels attached to a native wartyback mussel

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

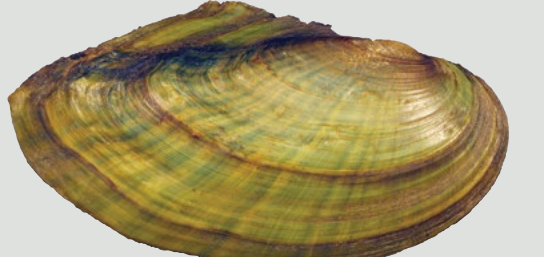
Freshwater mussels are often called clams. Some mussels have fun names like spectaclecase and monkeyface. And “toe” names, like deertoel, elktoe, and pigtoe!



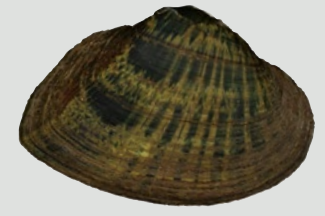
POND MUSSEL TH
Ligumia subrostrata



SCALESHELL EX
Leptodea leptodon



SNUFFBOX FEN
Epioblasma triquetra



THREEHORN WARTYBACK UN
Oblivaria reflexa



YELLOW SANDSHELL EN
Lampsilis teres



EASTERN ELLIPTIO SC
Elliptio complanata



ELEPHANTEAR EN
Elliptio crassidens



ROUND PIGTOE SC
Pleurobema sintoxia



SHEEPNOSE FEN
Plethobasus cyphus



SPIKE TH
Eurytnia dilatata



WABASH PIGTOE UN
Fusconaia flava



MAPLELEAF UN
Quadrula quadrula



PIMPLEBACK UN
Cyclonaias pustulosa



PISTOLGRIP EN
Tritogonia verrucosa



PURPLE WARTYBACK EN
Cyclonaias tuberculata



WARTYBACK TH
Cyclonaias nodulata

WASHBOARD EN
Megalaniais nervosa



WINGED MAPLELEAF FEN
Quadrula fragosa