

## **Mollusk Survey of the Saint Croix National Scenic Riverway and other National Park Service (NPS) Waterways in Minnesota**

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September 2005**

The Invertebrate Collection of the Bell Museum of Natural History received a grant from the National Park Service, Great Lakes Inventory and Monitoring Network (GLKN) in September 2004 to catalogue and prepare unionid specimens. We were able to hire an undergraduate to work 10 hours/week processing specimens, and have processed 712 mollusk lots of 1025 individuals in the past year. These lots contain unionids collected largely by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MN DNR) from 2000-2004. Of the lots processed, 396 (56%) were collected in the Mississippi River drainage, 121 (17%) were collected from the Mississippi River itself, and 109 (15%) were collected from the St. Croix River. These are regions of particular interest to the National Park Service.

In order to process a lot, unionid specimens were first identified to species by expert volunteers from the MN DNR or by collection staff. Next, specimens were entered into the collection's database of nearly 16,000 records. Once receiving a catalogue number, a specimen's tissue was separated from its valves. Tissue is stored in the wet collection in 95% ethanol, and corresponding valves are stored in the dry collection. Each dry lot is housed in a padded, archival-quality specimen tray (Figs. 1-2), and stored flat in 1 of 72 alphabetically-organized specimen cases (Fig. 3). Tissue and corresponding valves are stored with identical locality data labels.

In addition to being able to support specimen processing and housing, GLKN funding has allowed us to improve the collection by purchasing supplies (Table 1) to properly store more than 3,100 backlogged specimens. A spreadsheet of locality data for specimens entered with support from GLKN is being provided in addition to this report.

Table 1. Supplies purchased with NPS funding during the 2004-2005 academic year

#	Item	Cost per unit (\$)	Number of units	Shipping	Total cost (\$)
1	55 gallon drum of ethanol	339.00	1 drum	-	339.72
2	10 dram glass vials	107.72	1 case	-	107.72
3	Specimen cases	1033.00	10 cases	875.00	11,205.00
4	Specimen trays	various	56 cases	-	2,428.83
5	Glass jars	various	13 cases	-	319.95
6	Printer cartridge	128.99	1 cartridge	-	128.99
7	FMCS meeting registration	100.00	1 pass	-	100.00
				TOTAL:	14,630.21

Figure 1. Specimen trays



Figure 2. Specimen trays in a specimen case



Figure 3. Specimen cases. Ten were purchased with NPS funding.

