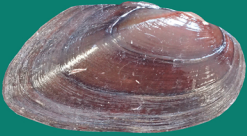


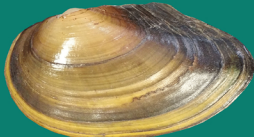
## Common species



Alewife floater (*Anondonta implicata*)



Eastern elliptio (*Elliptio complanata*)



Eastern floater (*Pyganodon cataracta*)



Eastern lampmussel (*Lampsilis radiata*)

## State listed species



Eastern pondmussel (*Ligumia nasuta*)



Tidewater mucket (*Leptodea ochracea*)

## Not a mussel (invader)



Asian clam (*Corbicula fluminea*)



All images and artwork by Liese Siemann, except where credited

# Freshwater mussels of Cape Cod

## Why are mussels important?

Mussels keep our water clean. They filter our water and remove excess nutrients.

Mussels are ecosystem engineers. They improve habitat for other organisms.

## Can you eat freshwater mussels?

Eating them is unwise. Freshwater mussels accumulate pollutants and they can be toxic.

## Amazing fact

Freshwater mussels use fish hosts to reproduce. They have evolved amazing ways to interact with fish. And the fish lives!



The mussel can wiggle a lure that is part of its mantle (arrow) and looks like a very realistic small fish.

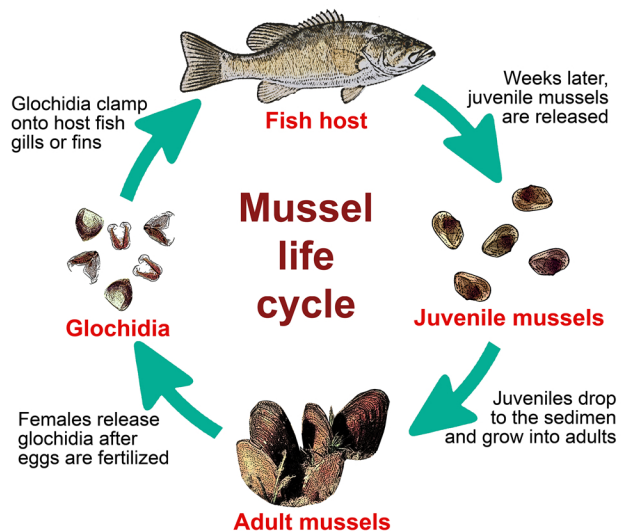


The mussel releases a lure on the end of a mucus cord (arrow). The lure moves in the water like a small fish.



The mussel releases sacs that are full of glochidia (arrow). These sacs look like worms or larval fish.

Lure photos from Chris Barnhart, Missouri State University



## How can you help save our mussels?

If you find a live mussel in the water, leave it alone.  
If you find a live mussel on the shore, put it in the water.  
Keep our ponds and rivers clean - don't dump trash or chemicals in the water or on the ground.