

# ILLINOIS RIVERWATCH NETWORK

National Great Rivers Research and Education Center

## Become a RiverWatch Citizen Scientist!

### Monitor Freshwater Mussels!

**What:** THE ILLINOIS RIVERWATCH FRESHWATER MUSSEL WORKSHOP

**When:** 9:00 AM – 4:30 PM, JULY 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017

**Where:** URBAN STREAM RESEARCH CENTER, BLACKWELL FOREST PRESERVE, 28W680 BUTTERFIELD RD WARRENVILLE, IL 60555

**Where to register:** REGISTER ONLINE AT <https://goo.gl/1wOfua>



RiverWatch Freshwater Mussel Monitoring is an environmental education program that provides participants with the unique, hands-on opportunity to learn about water quality in their community by monitoring freshwater mussels. Freshwater mussels are bivalve (hinged shell) mollusks that bury themselves in the stream bed and filter feed on fine particulate matter in the water column. They are excellent bioindicators of water quality. However, half of the freshwater mussel species in North America have been proposed to be listed as endangered, threatened, or of special concern, as a result of pollution. Participants will learn about freshwater mussels in an interactive workshop, before doing a freshwater mussel survey of their own at a local stream to measure water quality based on the mussel community. Data collected will be stored in the Illinois RiverWatch database to track the condition of Illinois streams, as well as to identify exceptional mussel communities in need of conservation.

For questions, contact Matt at 618-468-2784 or email [riverwatch@lc.edu](mailto:riverwatch@lc.edu). Registration is \$50 for adults and free for Illinois 4-H members. Children may attend but must be accompanied by a parent/guardian.