

CLARKE
1991

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In December 1990, Dr. Arthur Clark of Ecosearch, Inc., discovered a healthy, 8-year-old specimen of the Endangered ring pink mussel (*Obovaria retusa*) on the upper Kanawha River in West Virginia. This is the only recent evidence of *O. retusa* reproduction throughout its range. Dr. Clarke made this find while conducting a study to document the importance of the upper 5 miles (8 kilometers) of the Kanawha River as a reproduction site for the Endangered pink mucket pearly mussel (*Lampsilis orbiculata*). This stretch of the river supports over 35 other native mussel species and a diverse warm-water fish and benthic community. The Endangered tubercled-blossom pearly mussel (*Epioblasma torulosa torulosa*) was recorded in this area 22

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years ago and the Endangered fanshell (*Cyprogenia stegaria*) was recorded there 9 years ago. Efforts will be made in 1991 to reconfirm the presence of both mussels. The major threats to the river's freshwater mussels are associated with siltation from coal mining and the discharge of sewage.

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