

Zebra Mussel Problem Back in The News



Sunday's (Nov. 1, 2009) Milwaukee Journal Sentinel cover story "15,000 reasons to worry" highlighted the expanding problem of the invasive species called "Zebra Mussels". This excellent reporting addresses the cause, spread and problems created by this species. Click the link below to read the story and related articles. Zebra Mussels have occupied Lake Beulah since 1999.

<http://www.jsonline.com/news/wisconsin/68119707.html>

Crandon — A day at the beach in Wisconsin's North Woods didn't used to go like this.

Candy Dailey spent a Fourth of July holiday splashing with grandkids on the sandy shore of Lake Metonga when she felt a nasty sting on her foot.

She didn't need to look down to know the culprit was a zebra mussel - cuts from the razor-sharp shells have become as unremarkable as bee stings since the mussels invaded Dailey's lake eight years ago.

The natives of the Caspian Sea region first turned up in North America in the summer of 1988, thanks to overseas freighters' longstanding - and ongoing - practice of dumping their contaminated ballast water in the Great Lakes, which are now home to more than 185 non-native species.



None has wreaked more damage than the mussels, which feast on Great Lakes plankton and have cost the region billions of dollars in starved fish populations, beach-trashing algae blooms and plugged industrial and municipal water intake pipes.

Now, this ecological mess is spreading inland. ...

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