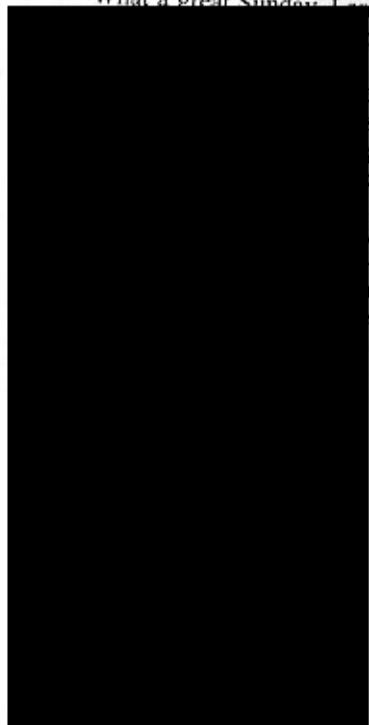


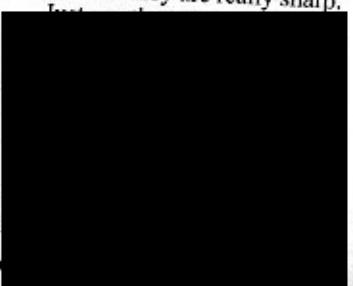
By Carol Stai
Special to the Reporter

What a great Sunday. I



west side of the hospital.
I wrote about the zebra mus-
sels a few weeks back and did
get to speak with a water
species consultant from the
DNR in Madison and did get in-
formation I can pass along. My
first question was "how long has
the zebra mussel been in the
lake, just recent or longer." Her
answer was the mussels have
been in the lake since 2009 and
the population has grown since
that time. They usually go with
the current and the current does
come into Highwood Beach.
She was surprised that so many

were in our area and there really
isn't anything that can be done
to get rid of them. I asked when
removing them from lifts or
other water vehicles and she rec-
ommended putting a tarp under
whatever you are going to clean
and that way when your scrap-
ping is completed, discard the
tarp and watch not to get any on
your yard as they can cause cuts
on bare feet. Also watch for any
liquid that comes from the ones
that are not dead as this liquid
could start a new mussel. The
best possible thing to do is pres-
sure wash your boat, jet ski, or
pontoon if you take it out of the
water each time to discourage
any attached mussel and also
this will prevent transporting the
mussels to another lake or river.
All the lakes in Madison do
have the zebra mussels and the
only lake that has not reported
mussels yet is Lake Kegonsa.
She mentioned they normally
stay on the bottom of lakes and
rivers and they don't eat the fish
as some people have mentioned.
They help with the cleaning of
water and the only time we see
clean water in Lake
Koshkonong is early spring. Be
careful with the removal of the
mussels as they are really sharp.



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