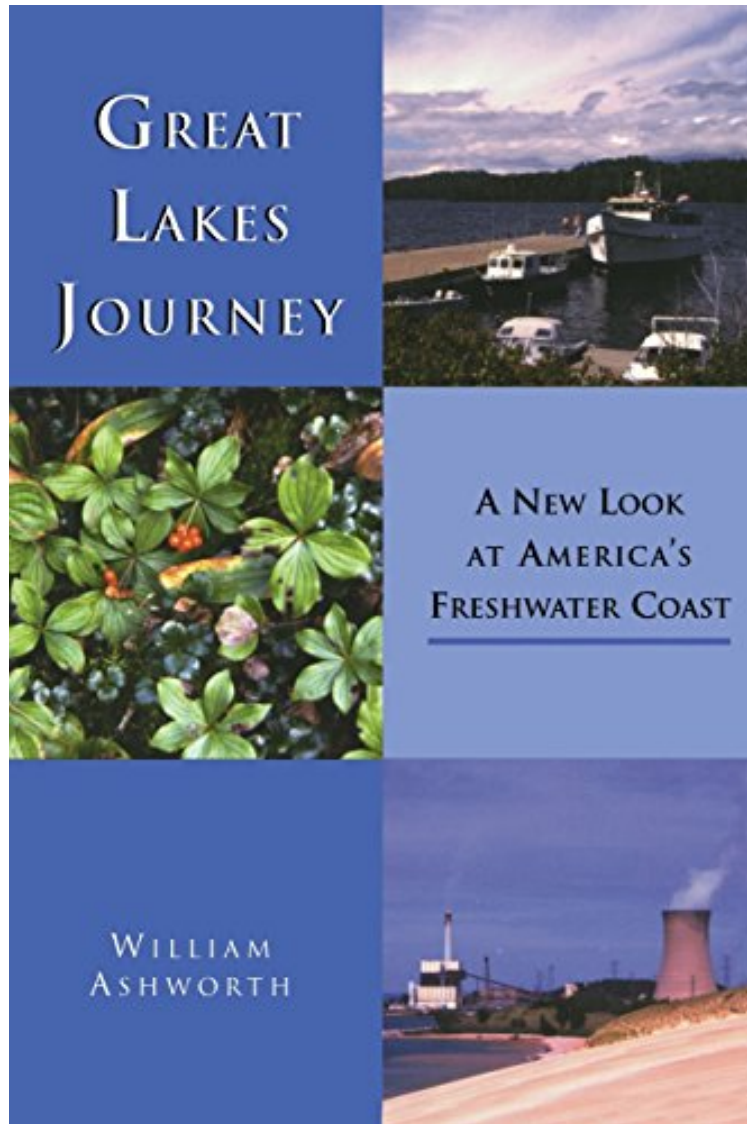


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Great Lakes Journey: A New Look at America's Freshwater Coast (Great Lakes Books Series)

William Ashworth

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William Ashworth : Great Lakes Journey: A New Look at America's Freshwater Coast (Great Lakes Books Series) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Great Lakes Journey: A New Look at America's Freshwater Coast (Great Lakes Books Series):

8 of 8 people found the following review helpful. The Late, Great Lakes are still kicking. By Steve Vorpage 15 years

after his journey around the Great Lakes region, recorded in his almost famous book "The Late, Great Lakes", Ashworth made a return trip to review the state of things. "Great Lakes Journey" is an account of this second visit, during which he explores many of the same issues covered in his first book, visits with many of the same people that he interviewed 15 years prior, and tries to draw a bead on the health of the Great Lakes and the Great Lakes region. There are some success stories---many of the hideously polluted areas have improved---as well as variety of new issues that plague the largest source of fresh water in the world. Urban sprawl and the invasion of 'exotic' species are two of the most significant problems that Ashworth uncovers in this very readable, cold-eyed assesment of the life and health of one of the States most important, and most disregarded, natural resources. Highly recommended for anyone interested in environmental issues, Great Lakes ecology, or for anyone passionate about the incomparable Sweetwater Seas.

Great Lakes Journey is a follow-up to William Ashworth's earlier book *The Late, Great Lakes*, published in 1986. Fifteen years after his first trip, Ashworth journeys to many of the same places and talks to many of the same people to examine the changes that have taken place along the Great Lakes since the 1980s. Through personal observation, research, and numerous interviews with scientists, activists, and government agencies, Ashworth creates a detailed picture of the status of the Great Lakes at the end of the twentieth century. Among the most prominent changes he finds are the arrival of the zebra mussel and other exotic species, the rise and fall of the RAP process for pollution cleanup, a growing public mistrust of government action, a substantial loss of habitat and biodiversity, and an explosion of urban sprawl along the shores of the Lakes. *Great Lakes Journey* is a welcome update on the latest issues affecting the Great Lakes region.

From Library Journal
Ashworth (*Encyclopedia of Environmental Studies*) has toured the Great Lakes twice, once in 1983 with a friend and then again in 1998 with his wife. This book is an account of his travels through the region and a discussion of its geology, geography, hydrology, history, and culture. To put the lakes in proper context and thereby understand the importance of this thoroughly researched account, it helps to understand that the lakes form the largest freshwater system on the planet. They sprawl over nearly 100,000 square miles; their 4000 miles of coastline exceed that of the United States on the Atlantic Ocean and Gulf of Mexico. Describing all the changes he has seen in the environment and the area's increasing urbanization in the past 15 years, Ashworth relates the numerous conversations he had with locals and illustrates his study with black-and-white photographs. Also included is a 200-source bibliography. Recommended for all libraries in the Great Lakes states and for large public and academic libraries in the rest of the country.
DThomas K. Fry, Univ. of Denver Lib. Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc.
"Ashworth's message is clear and worthy. The Great Lakes are in terrible danger, and the greatest single source of that danger is not just mining or erosion or toxic rainfall but the lakes' 'ancient enemy,' complacency and apathy."
From the Publisher
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