



## Maine Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program

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For immediate release

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### MAINE VOLUNTEER LAKE MONITORING PROGRAM RECEIVES GOVERNOR'S AWARD FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EXCELLENCE

The Maine Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program (VLMP) received the Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence at an awards ceremony in Hallowell on Friday November 4. The award, presented by Governor Baldacci, recognizes the VLMP's commitment to environmental stewardship through its mission of training citizen volunteers to monitor and protect Maine's lakes and ponds.

The VLMP, a statewide nonprofit organization, fosters stewardship by training, certifying, and providing support to individuals throughout Maine who monitor the water quality of lakes and ponds, and conduct surveys to detect invasive aquatic plants, such as Milfoil. The VLMP is the oldest, and with over 1,800 volunteers trained, one of the largest citizen lake monitoring programs in the U.S.

Working closely with the Maine Department of Environmental Protection and organizations with similar missions, the VLMP provides credible water quality and aquatic plant data to state and federal agencies, educational institutions, lake associations and others who have an interest in the ecological, aesthetic and economic value of Maine's lakes and ponds.

According to Scott Williams, VLMP's Executive Director, the annual value of the volunteer data to the State of Maine has been estimated at over ½ million dollars. Volunteers also

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provide considerable value to their communities through their roles as lake stewards and advocates. “This form of contribution is priceless.”

“Volunteer lake monitors are at the very core of Maine’s effort to ensure that future generations will be able to enjoy the clear, clean waters of our lakes,” says Williams. “The Governor’s Award is a fitting tribute to their dedication and commitment.”

For more information about the Maine VLMP see their website

[www.MaineVolunteerLakeMonitors.org](http://www.MaineVolunteerLakeMonitors.org) or call them at (207) 783-7733.



Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program staff receive the Governor’s Award for Environmental Excellence from Governor Baldacci and Maine DEP Commissioner Dawn Gallagher.

Left to right: Gov. Baldacci, Scott Williams, *VLMP Executive Director*, Roberta Hill, *VLMP Program Director for the Maine Center for Invasive Aquatic Plants*, Jim Entwood, *VLMP Program Coordinator*, Dawn Gallagher, *Maine DEP Commissioner*

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