



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

To:
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Press Contact: Tania Neuschafer
(207) 783-7733

Photos: Available upon request

The Maine Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program and its Maine Center for Invasive Aquatic Plants are pleased to announce the availability of an important new publication, the *Maine Field Guide to Invasive Aquatic Plants and their common native look alikes*.

Newly updated and expanded, the 160-page Field Guide focuses on the eleven invasive aquatic plants currently listed by Maine law as imminent threats to Maine waters. Also featured are the native aquatic plants commonly confused with these eleven invasive species. Photographs, illustrations and narrative descriptions are presented for each of the featured species, along with a variety of cross-reference tools for easy comparison of similar species.

The new publication has already received significant critical acclaim-

“The guide is an extraordinary improvement over anything that is available as a reference for freshwater invasive plants...it is apparent that this field guide has the potential to become a U.S. standard reference for freshwater invasive species.”
David Littell, Maine Department of Environmental Protection Commissioner

“It is beautifully done and a fantastic field reference. Great job!!!” *Sgt. Mark Warren, Training Sergeant, Maine Warden Service*

“What a gorgeous job...the explanations, botany, descriptions, overall quality and clarity are excellent! It was well worth waiting for.” *Ann K. Williams, VLMP Invasive Plant Patroller, Kezar Lake Watershed Association*

“On behalf of the Cathance Lake Association, and myself, we thank you for the superb Field Guide! From the glorious cover to the expertise inside...truly a stunning effort.” *Peggy Hallee, VLMP Invasive Plant Patroller, and Co-Chair of the Cathance Lake Association*

The publication is distributed free of charge to all volunteers who attend VLMP training workshops, and is sold at a nominal price to others. To order a copy, please contact (207) 783-7733/mciap@mainevlmp.org or order at www.mainevolunteerlakemonitors.org. A preview copy of the publication is available on the VLMP website-
www.mainevolunteerlakemonitors.org.

The impacts of invasive aquatic plants are well known: habitat disruption, loss of native plant and animal communities, reduced property values, impaired fishing and degraded

recreational experiences, and enormous and ongoing control costs. “With over 6000 lakes and thousands of miles of stream habitat in Maine, the task of preventing the spread of invasive aquatic species in Maine waters is one of the greatest environmental challenges of our time,” says Roberta Hill, Program Director of the VLMP’s Maine Center for Invasive Aquatic Plants.

Early detection of invasive aquatic plants is a key component of Maine’s action plan to protect lakes and ponds from the spread of invasive aquatic species. The field guide provides an essential reference for VLMP Invasive Plant Patrollers, natural resource agency personnel, educators and students, conservation groups, lake association members, anglers, and others.

The Maine Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program (VLMP), founded in 1971, is a statewide non-profit conservation organization whose mission is to foster stewardship of Maine’s lakes and their watersheds in order to ensure high water quality and ecological integrity. The VLMP is Maine’s premier organization for training individuals and groups who collect certified lake water quality data and screen waterbodies for invasive aquatic plants. The VLMP is the oldest and one of the largest citizen lake monitoring groups in the United States and the primary provider of lake water quality data in Maine.

The Maine Center for Invasive Aquatic Plants (MCIAP) was established by the Maine Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program (VLMP) in 2003 to provide a citizen-based “front-line” in the battle to protect Maine waters from the threat of invasive aquatic plants. Since formation by the VLMP, the MCIAP has swiftly become a leader in the effort to protect Maine waters from the threat of invasive aquatic plants by promoting prevention, early detection and rapid response at the local level and providing training and technical support across Maine. Through its nationally recognized Invasive Plant Patrol program, MCIAP has now trained over 1600 individuals in Maine to screen waterbodies for the presence of invasive aquatic plants.