

Woodbury Brackett Environmental Center

Maine's only lake-based campus
and training center



Situated on the shoreline of beautiful Lake Auburn, the VLMP's Woodbury Brackett Environmental Center provides the ideal location and facility for a wide range of lake-focused training workshops. The attractive buildings and grounds that are maintained in an environmentally-friendly manner are open to the public throughout the year. Classroom training is only a two minute walk to the water's edge, where a natural laboratory of infinite capacity awaits workshop participants.

Throughout the year, the Brackett Environmental Center hosts a series of workshops on a diverse range of topics pertaining to the natural environment, presented by distinguished and fascinating speakers. Brackett Environmental Center workshops are presented to the public at no charge. Please stop by and visit us when you are in the area.

Contact Us

for more information about our volunteer activities.

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Maine VLMP
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Maine Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program



Did you know
that volunteers have
been monitoring
and protecting
Maine's lakes and
ponds for more than
three decades?



The Maine Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program

Water Quality Monitors

The VLMP is the longest-standing citizen lake monitoring program in the U.S. We provide training, certification, and support to volunteers who collect scientifically credible lake water quality data. This information is used extensively by state and federal agencies, towns, lake associations and businesses.

Invasive Plant Patrollers

Through the Maine Center for Invasive Aquatic Plants (a branch of the VLMP) volunteers receive extensive information and training to help them identify and take action against invasive aquatic plants like Eurasian Milfoil and Hydrilla.

The Woodbury Brackett Environmental Center

Maine's first public resource and learning center that is devoted solely to lakes and ponds, the Brackett Environmental Center is truly "Maine's Lakes Campus". The Center is the primary operation and training facility for the VLMP and MCIAP. It offers a broad range of technical and educational materials for the general public. Water quality, invasive aquatic plant and watershed protection workshops are held throughout the year. Lake protection practices are demonstrated on the extensive grounds of the Center. Visitors are always welcome!

The VLMP is a 501-c-3 nonprofit organization whose volunteers collect lake data that is valued at nearly \$ ½ million annually. The data are used to assist agencies, organizations and towns to understand, and ultimately to protect Maine's nearly 6,000 lakes and ponds.

VOLUNTEERS

Lake Water Quality Monitors



Thousands of individual citizens have been helping to assess the health of Maine's clear, clean lakes since early in the 1970's through the Maine Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program. A remarkable number of these volunteers have been continuously active throughout the program's history.

Much of what is known about our lakes and ponds is through their efforts. This knowledge and improved understanding has ultimately led to more effective efforts to protect Maine lakes.



The VLMP provides free basic training, equipment and technical support to volunteers. Initial training involves attending a ½ day workshop at the Brackett Environmental Center in Auburn, at which volunteers become certified and obtain all of the initial tools to begin monitoring their lake(s) of interest. The VLMP, working closely with the Maine Department of Environmental Protection, maintains a high standard of quality assurance and quality control through all aspects of the collection and management of lake data.

Invasive Plant Patrollers

The critical role that volunteers play in protecting Maine waters from the threat of invasive aquatic plants cannot be overstated.

Thousands of individuals across the state of Maine have joined the prevention effort, working to raise awareness in their communities and inspecting boats for "hitch hiking weeds." Yet no system of prevention is 100% foolproof. The possibility remains that an invader will eventually slip through the cracks.

The Maine Center for Invasive Aquatic Plants (MCIAP), a branch of the VLMP, is leading the effort to create a viable second line of defense by teaching volunteers and others how to detect introduced invasive plants before they become irreversibly established. The Invasive Plant Patrol (IPP), MCIAP's nationally recognized early detection program, supports volunteer efforts by providing training, technical assistance, networking opportunities and access to a wide array of informational resources.

