

Plant Paddle Welcome

(sample script)

Welcome everyone, and thank you for coming to our Plant Paddle. The reason we have invited you all here, is because we are concerned about the spread of invasive aquatic plants such a milfoil and hydrilla. We need all the help we can get if we are to spot these invaders early, before they become irreversibly established in [name of waterbody]. Because these aquatic invaders can be introduced just about anywhere in the waterbody, and spread very quickly once they get a toehold, the more trained eyes we have on the water, the better.

We also want to give you a feel for what we do as trained Invasive Plant Patrollers. Hunting for aquatic invaders is not difficult. In fact if you already enjoy poking around in your canoe or kayak on a lovely summer day, you are more than halfway there with the skill set needed to be a very effective part of our early detection team.

At the end of this event, if you decide you would like to learn more about the threat of aquatic invaders or to become more involved in Maine's Invasive Plant Patrol, additional training is offered free of charge through the Maine Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program. We have some VLMP Workshop brochures available for anyone who is interested.