

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 as 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 may be introduced just about anywhere in the waterbody, and spread very quickly once they get started, 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. You do NOT need to know how to identify every aquatic plant that you see. You only need to be able to recognize a suspicious plant when you see it, and what to do if you do find something suspicious. And that will be our focus today.

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 Lake Stewards of Maine. We have some LSM Workshop brochures available for anyone who is interested.