A new invader to the state of Maine, European frog-bit, was recently discovered in Cobbossee Lake. Floating at the surface, or stranded among the emergent vegetation, European frog-bit's clumps of small, heart-shaped leaves may not exactly 'jump out' to the untrained eye. It's time for a quick refresher on some of this plant's key characteristics!



1. European frog-bit is a small, free-floating aquatic plant. When afloat, it's small, rounded kidney- or heart-shaped leaves (1.5 to 6.5 cm long) are not anchored to the bottom sediments. Once established, the plants multiply rapidly, much like strawberry plants in your garden, each individual plant sending out multiple 'baby' plants on slender runners or stolons.



2. Leaves with unique vein pattern, (each on its own elongated, 4-6 cm long, stalk) occur in bouquet-like rosettes.



3. Small flowers, consisting of three white petals arrayed around a yellow center, may occur during the summer.

## Under the the Hand Lens: Kydrocharis morsus-ranae

This aquatic invader can be tricky to recognize. Here is a quick primer on some of the key characteristics to watch for.



4. When stranded along the shore, the dangling tendrils may anchor into the mud, like roots. *Tip: Binoculars may come in handy if you wish to do a more careful visual inspection of hard-to-reach shoreline areas.* 



5. Root-like tendrils, resembling slender bottle brushes, dangle below the floating rosette.

When in doubt, always rule on the side of caution and treat the plant as a suspected invader, i.e., mark the location of the plant (ideally on a map and with a buoy), collect a specimen, and contact LSM for further instruction.