***Wondering what they look like???***

If you’ve ever wondered what the aquatic invasive plants look like and if maybe that weed near your dock or tangled in your fishing line is one of “***them”*** now is the time to find out. We had a very successful Plant Paddle last summer and many asked about further training so here it is. CALL is hosting an Invasive Plant Patrol 101 training on Aug 22, 2019 from 11:00 am to 5:00 PM at the Liberty Town Office. It will be conducted by Lake Stewards of Maine (formerly VLMP) with slides, handouts, the works!

Formerly known as ‘Introductory IPP’ this comprehensive, 6-hr classroom experience prepares attendees for conducting or leading invasive aquatic plant screening surveys and ***satisfies the quality assurance requirement for IPP certificatio***n. All IPP training sessions are open to the public and FREE to anyone interested in learning more about the threat of invasive aquatic plants in Maine.

The workshop is presented in four parts:

* Overview of invasive species issues in Maine and beyond
* Plant identification fundamentals
* Plant identification hands-on exercise with live plants
* Conducting a screening survey, tools and techniques

All workshop participants receive an “[Invasive Plant Patroller’s Handbook](https://lakestewardsofmaine.org/ipp-handbook/),” and [Maine’s Field Guide to Invasive Aquatic Plants](https://lakestewardsofmaine.org/volunteer-info/invasive-plant-monitors/ipp-resources/#FieldGuide).

Invasive aquatic plants spread quickly and take over a lakes and streams so swimming, boating and fishing are difficult if not impossible. Maine currently has 29 infected lakes, some of them close to Liberty. Damariscotta Lake, the Belgrade Lakes in the Waterville area and some if the lakes in the Augusta area are all potential threats. These plants are easily spread on boats going from one lake to another when plant fragments are attached to a boat, trailer of fishing tackle.

You are not committing yourself to even taking part in our annual survey, (although we would love it if you did) or leading any projects. We only wish to have as many people who live or recreate on the lakes to know what the invasive plants look like so if any do get in the lake, we can remove them early on and even eliminate them.

Come join us for this relaxed day of training. We’ll be taking time for a lunch break. More details will be posted closer to the day of the training. Hope to see you there.

Kerry Black