

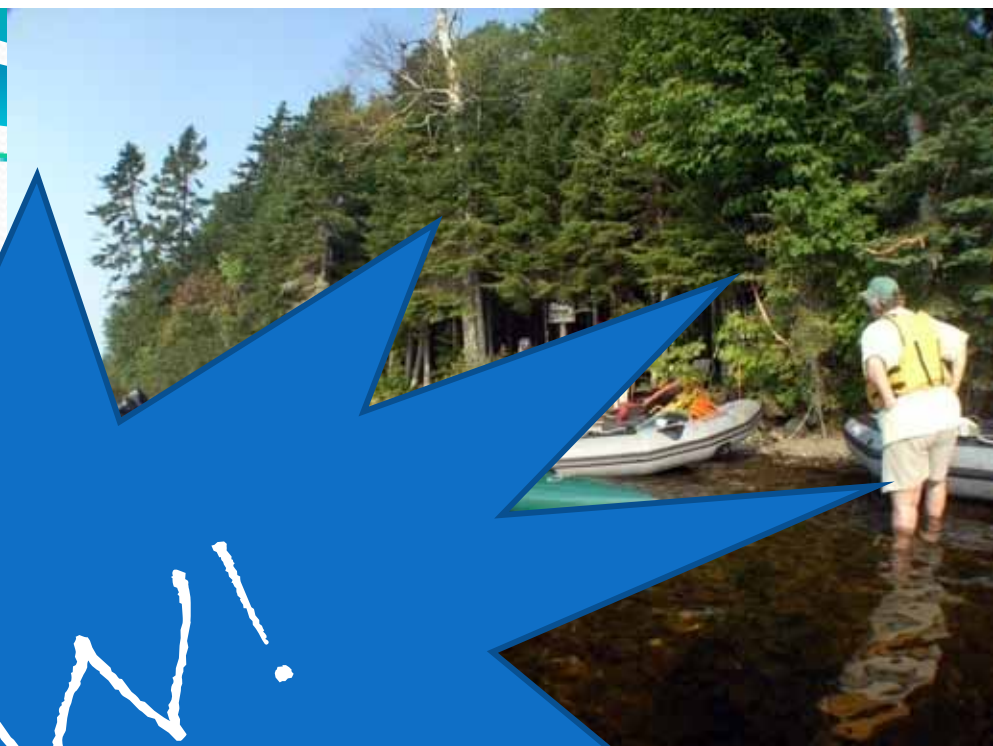
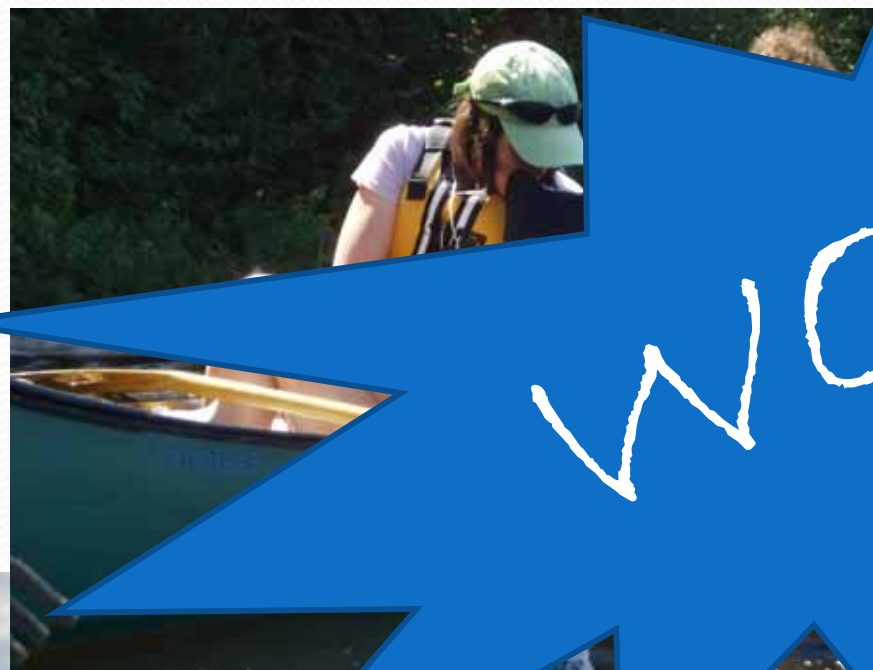
Growing and Sustaining Maine's Invasive Plant Patrol





**IPP PROGRAM IS GROWING BY
LEAPS AND BOUNDS!**

2009 in Review



WOW!

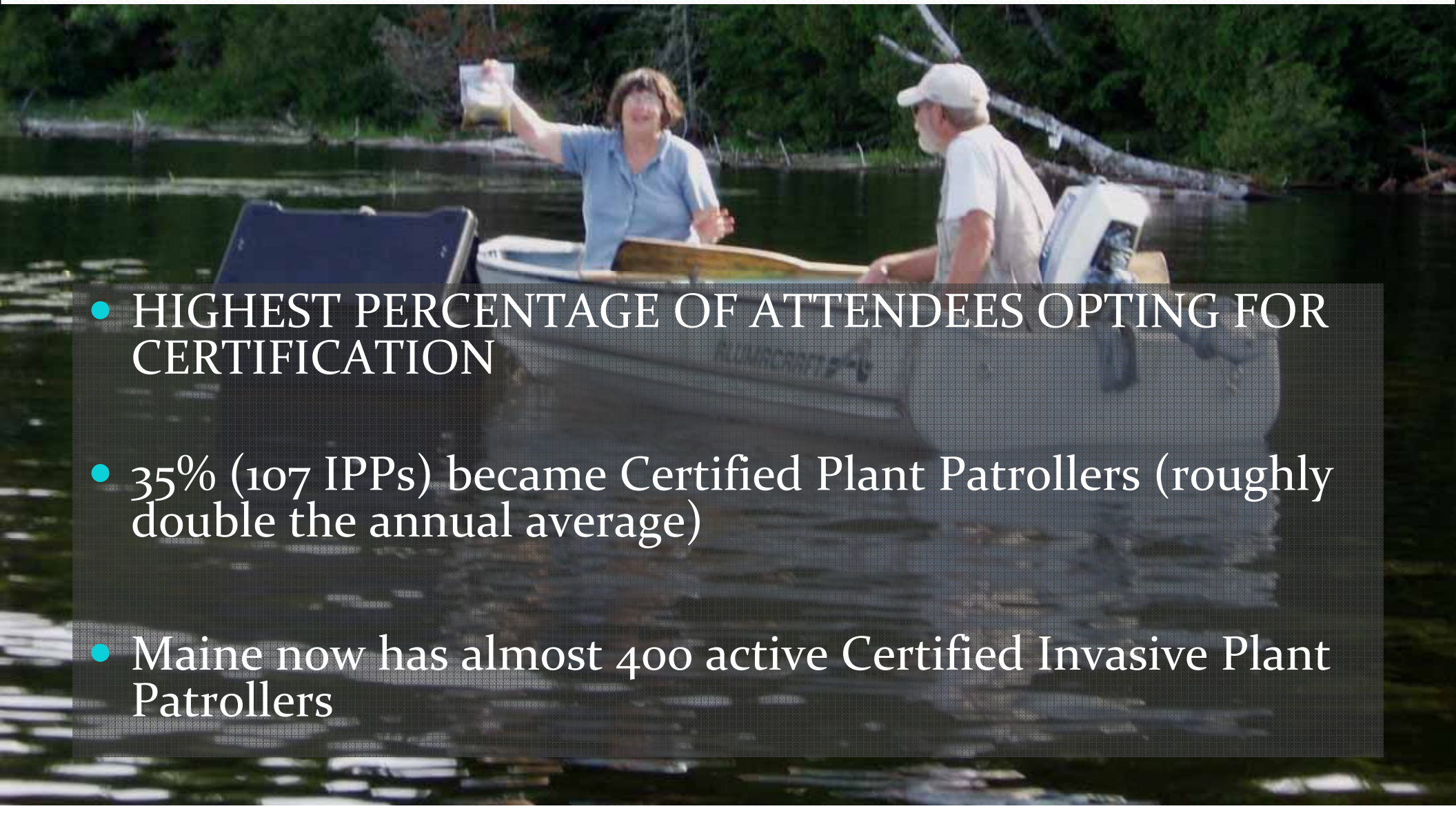


Newly Trained Eyes

A close-up photograph of a person's face, focusing on their eyes. The person has light-colored eyes and is looking directly at the camera. Their hair is dark and appears to be wet, with strands falling over their forehead and eyes. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green, suggesting an outdoor setting.

- HIGHEST NUMBER OF IPP'S TRAINED
- 380 individuals attended one or more workshops in 2009
- To date, the VLMP has trained well over 2000 individuals through the IPP program!

Certification

- 
- HIGHEST PERCENTAGE OF ATTENDEES OPTING FOR CERTIFICATION
 - 35% (107 IPPs) became Certified Plant Patrollers (roughly double the annual average)
 - Maine now has almost 400 active Certified Invasive Plant Patrollers

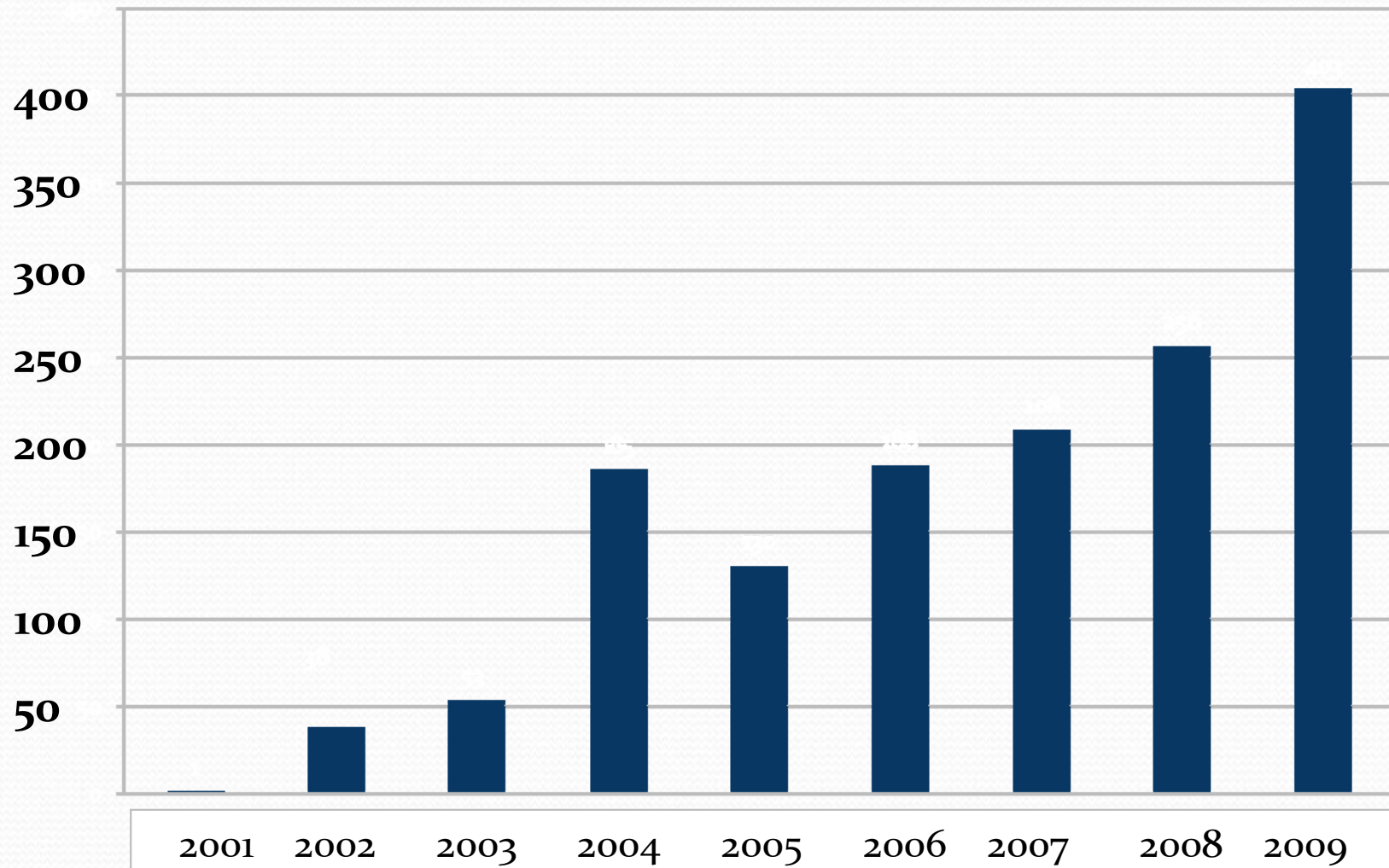
IAP Screening Surveys



MOST SURVEYS REPORTED:

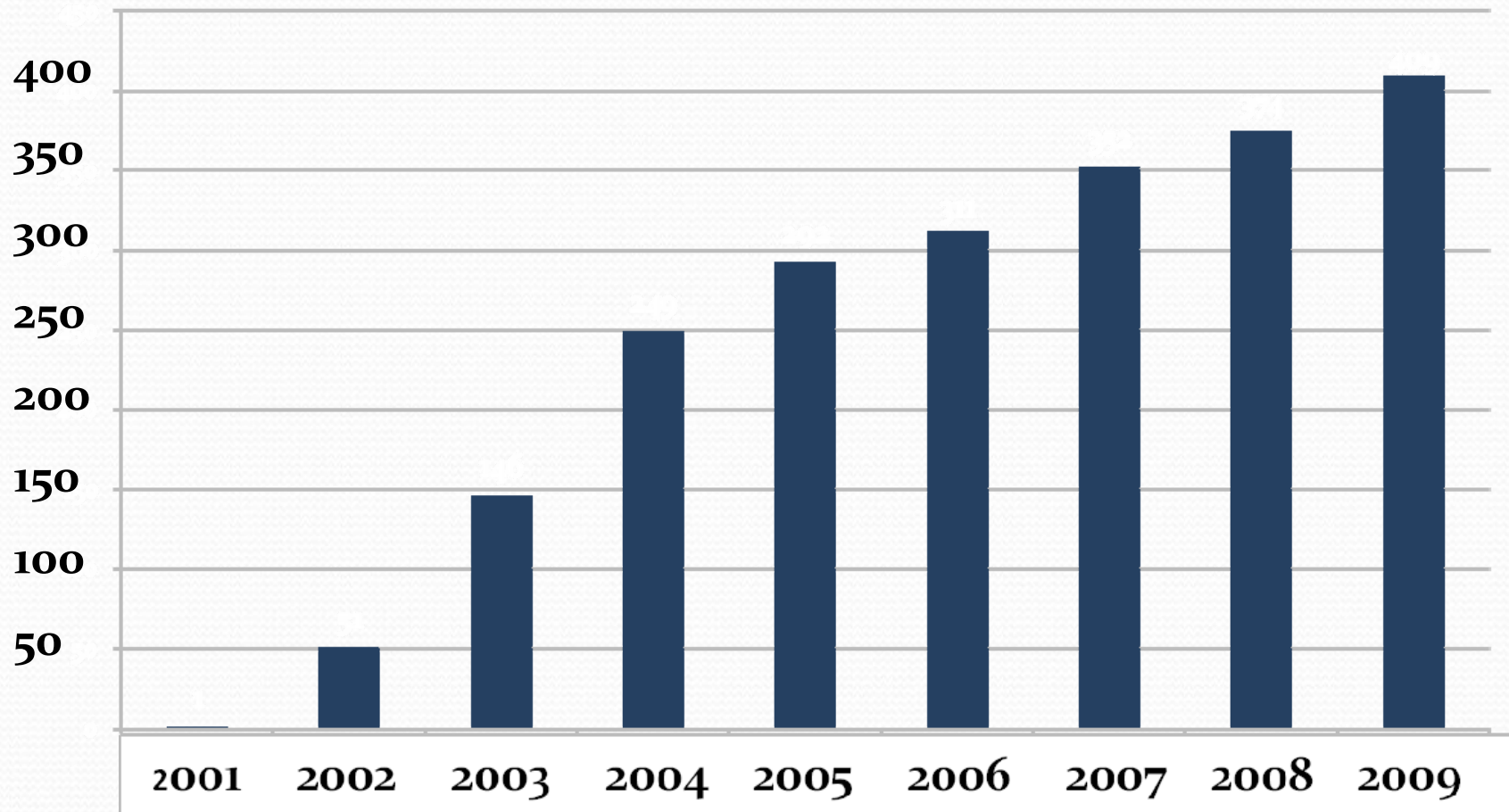
403 surveys reported on 181 waterbodies in 2009!

Annual Number of Reported Surveys



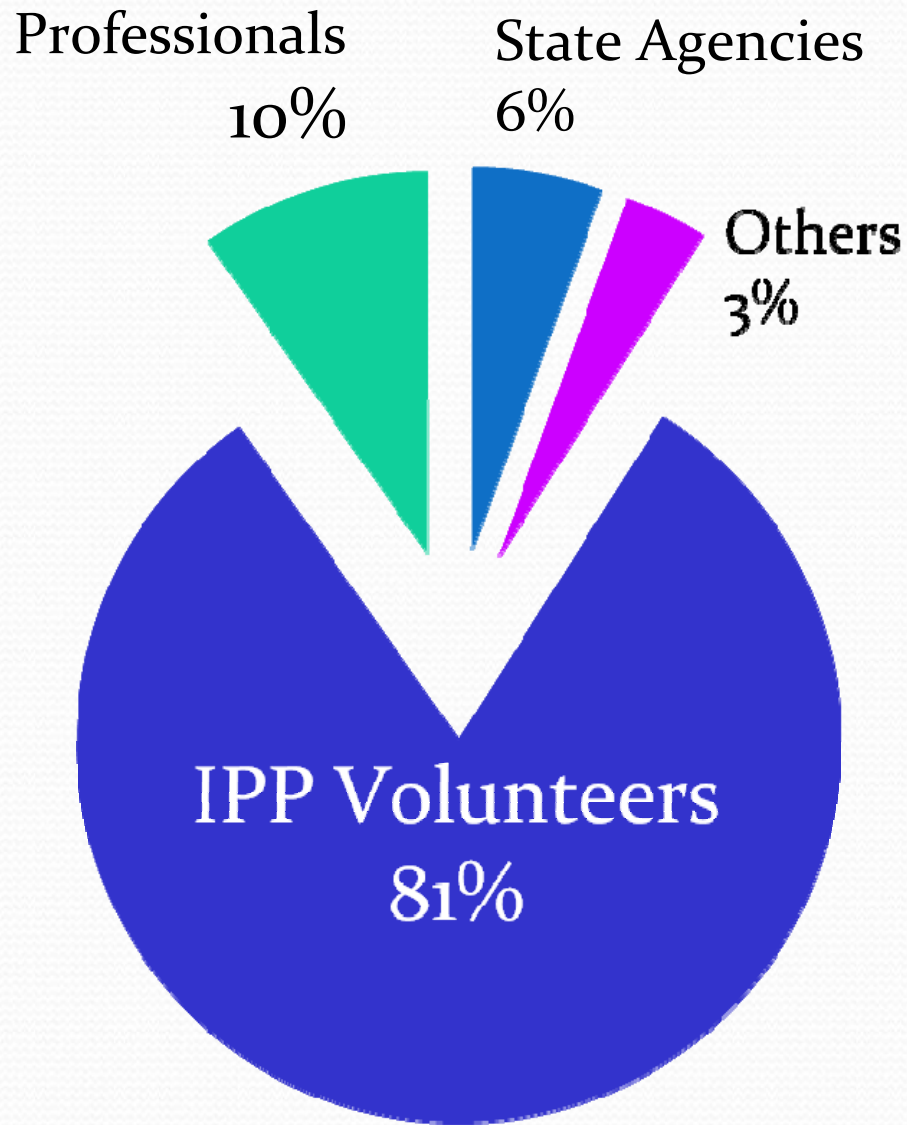
Up from 256 surveys in 2008, greatest annual increase since the first IAP survey was reported in 2001

Waterbodies with Reported IAP Survey Activity in 2009



- 34 new waterbodies were added to the list
- Cumulative total = 409

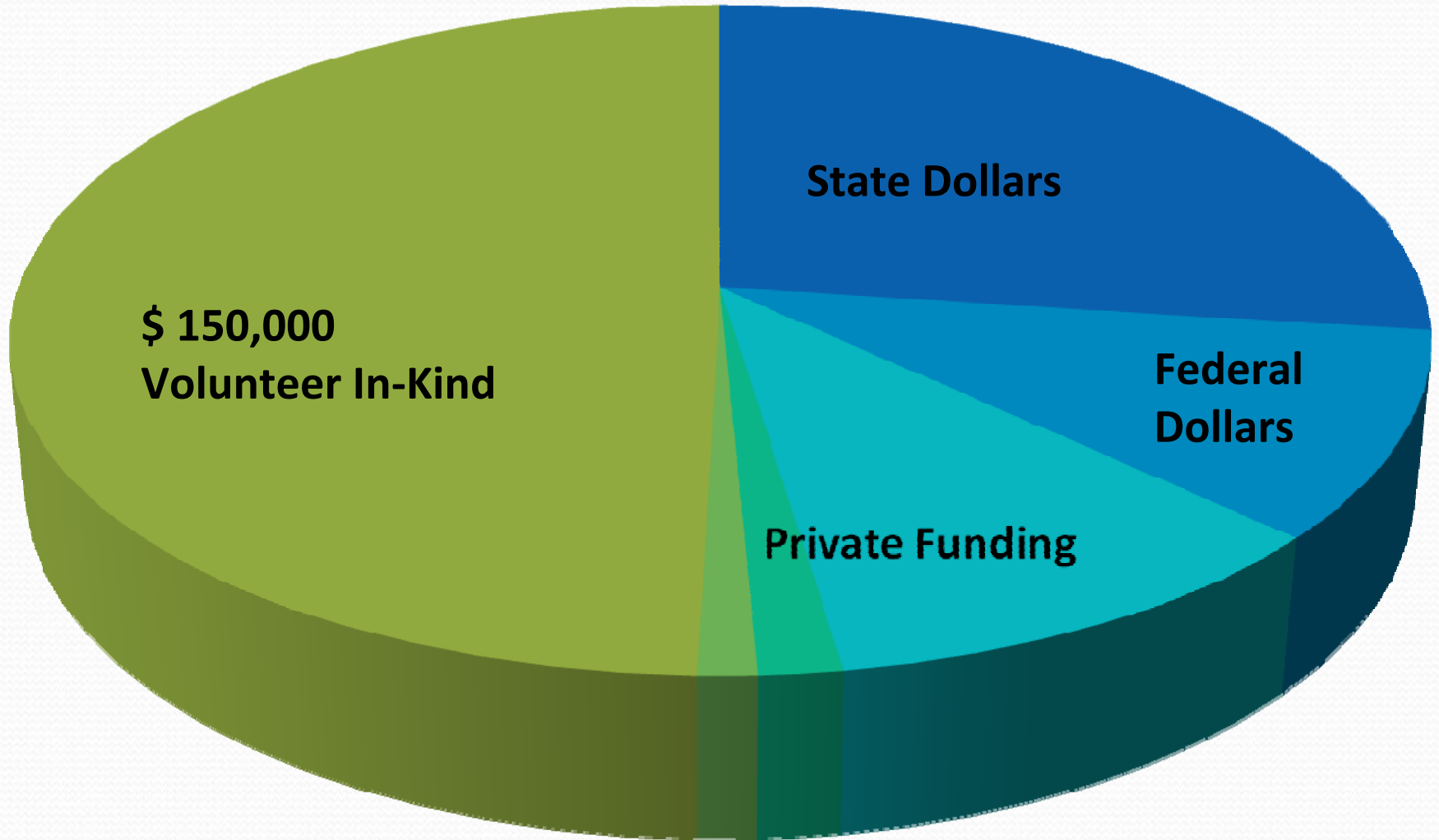
IAP Surveys by Surveyor Type

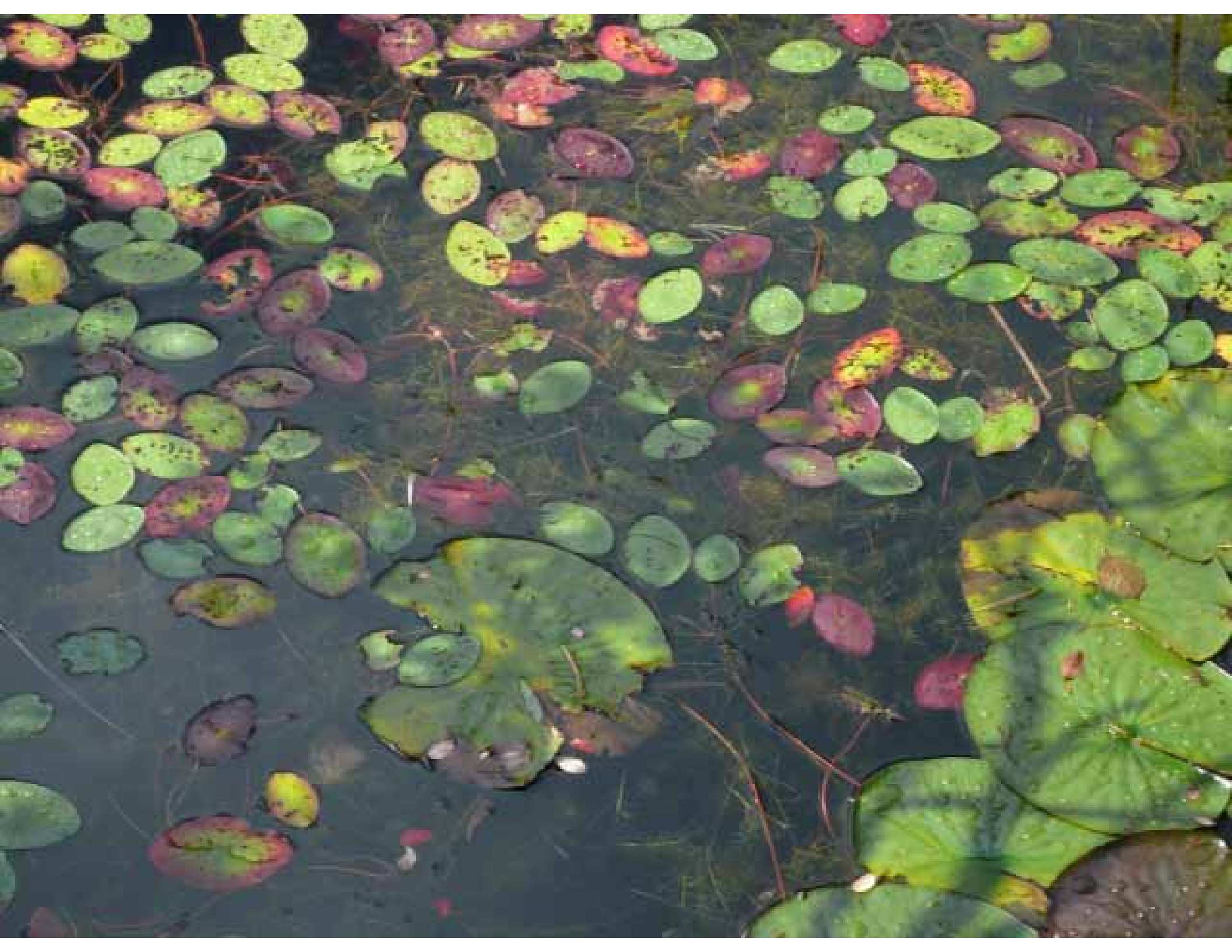


Estimated value of volunteer IPP
contribution in 2009 ~ \$152,000



Volunteer Match







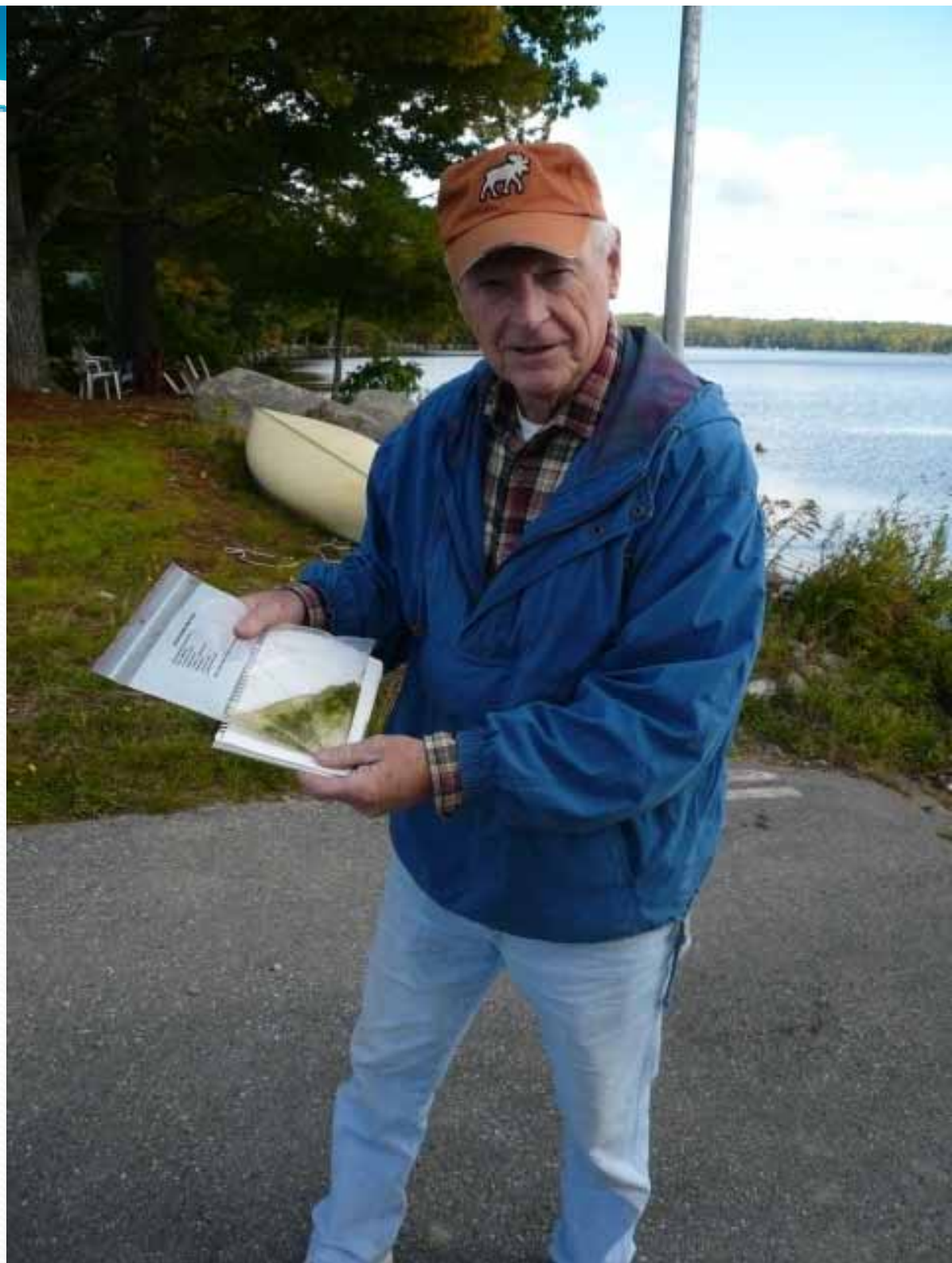
In September 2009, Hydrilla (*Hydrilla verticillata*) was confirmed in Damariscotta Lake

Plants discovered in a small cove along the western shore of Damariscotta Lake



VLMP
Invasive Plant
Patroller

Dick
Butterfield



IPP First Responders

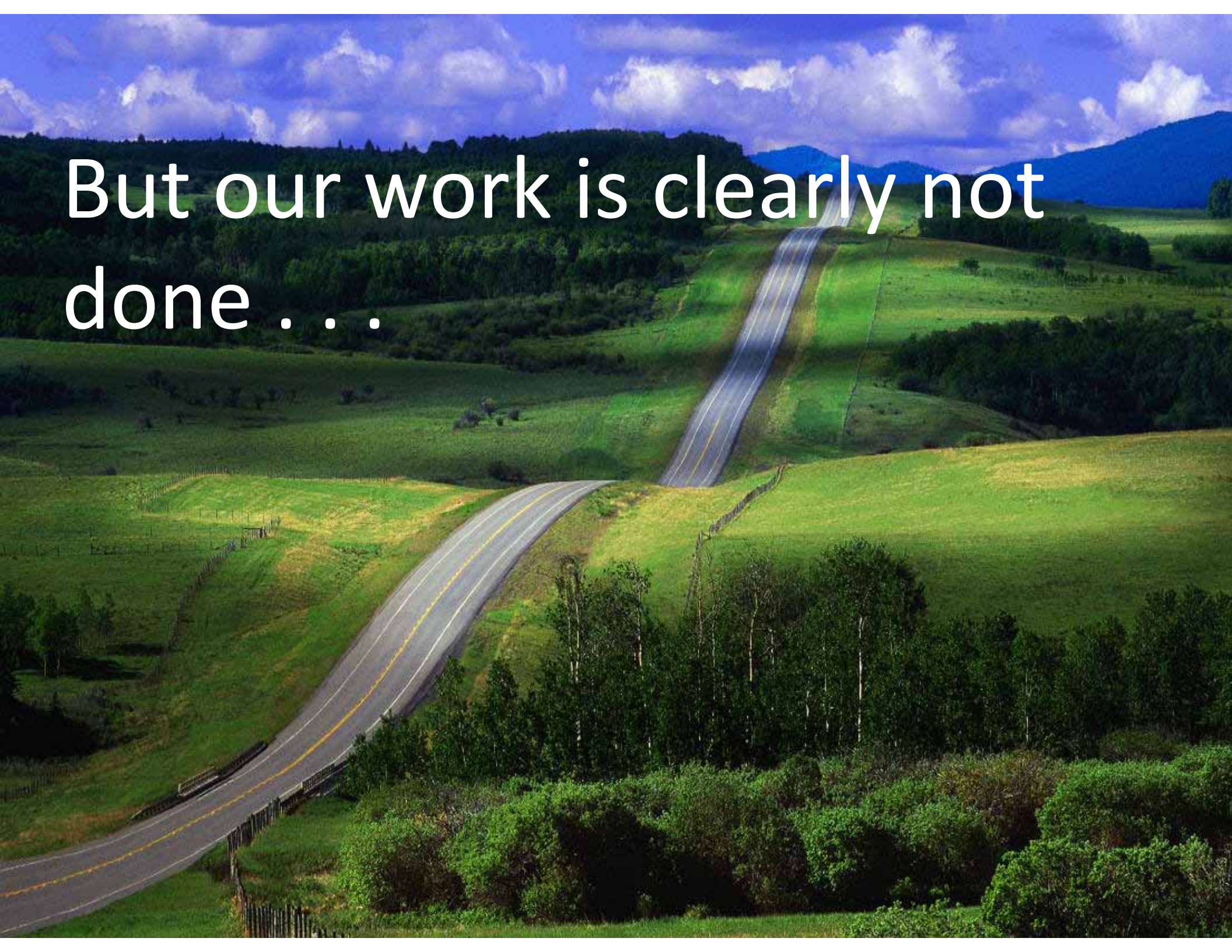
- VLMP and DLWA worked together to organize an “IPP First Responder” survey team
- 27 trained IPPs participated (dozens more already trained in 2010)
- Survey results to date suggest early detection of the pioneer colony



We are making a difference!



But our work is clearly not
done . . .





6000 lakes and ponds
Thousands of miles of stream habitat



INVASIVE AQUATIC PLANTS



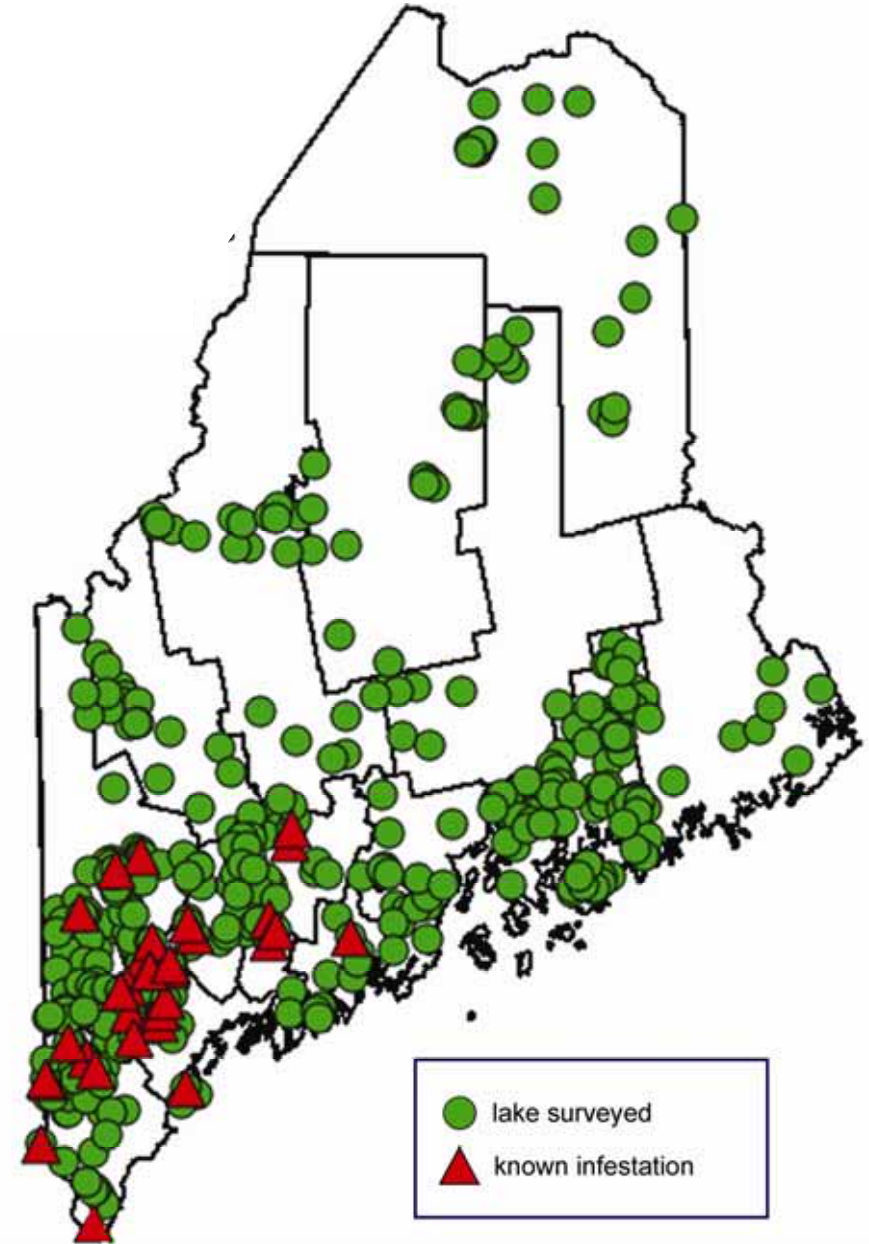
Brazilian elodea
Fanwort
Hydrilla
European frogbit
European naiad
Parrot feather

- Eurasian water-milfoil
- Variable water-milfoil
- Water chestnut
- Yellow floating heart
- Curly leaf

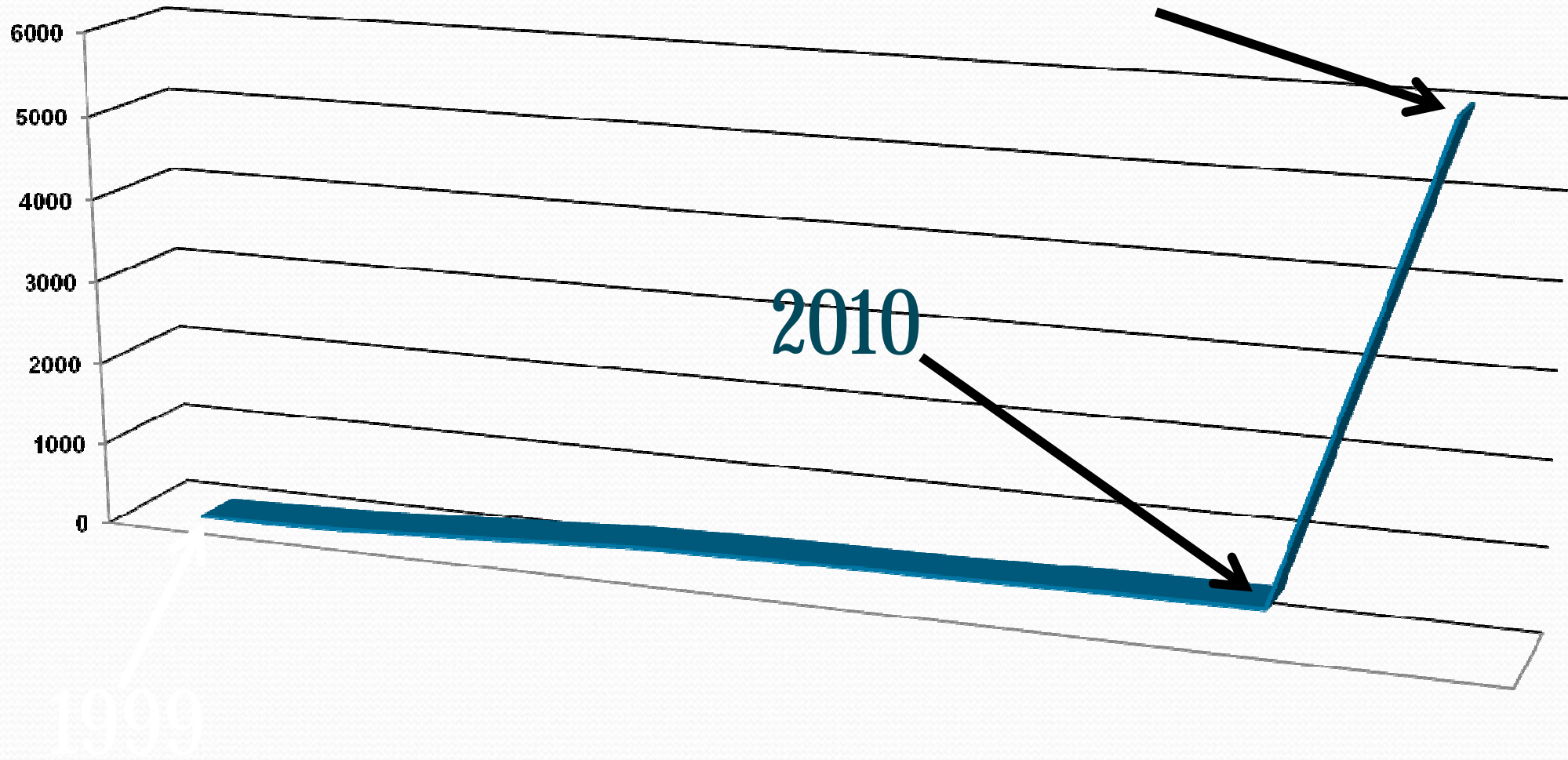


▲ Infested waterbodies,
now up to 34

● Waterbodies reporting
IAP screening survey
activity (2002-2009)



The Ultimate Goal





To get there we need to continue to grow and develop the capacity to sustain the effort over time. Volunteers will play a critical role in all aspects of this process.

Looking Forward . . .

- How do we address current gaps in the system?
- How do we grow and sustain the effort over the next 10, 20, 30 years?



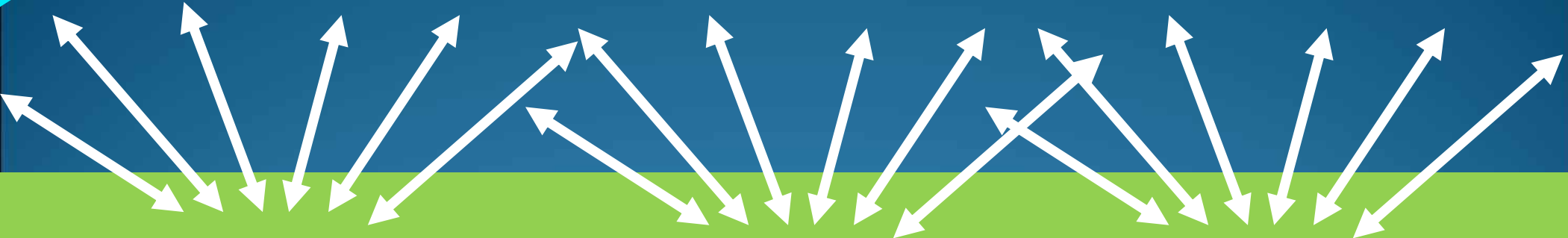
The Challenge!

- 250 to 300 IPPs trained every year; over 2000 trained to date
- Continued growth and sustainability requires a well coordinated, multi-level, organizational structure
- Ideally based on water quality monitoring model; volunteer involvement/leadership at every level

GROWING & SUSTAINING MAINE'S INVASIVE PLANT

INDIVIDUAL / UNIT LEVEL

PATROL
Patrollers/Patrol Units



Lake A Team Leader

Lake B Team Leader

Lake C Team Leader

LAKE TEAM LEVEL



IPP Regional Coordinator

IPP Regional Coordinator

IPP Regional Coordinator

REGIONAL LEVEL

VLMP AND AGENCY PARTNERS
STATE WIDE LEVEL



IPP Sustainability Initiative is supported by grants from

**Casco Bay Estuary Partnership
Maine Community Foundation
The Betterment Fund**





Invasive Plant Patrol Program

Finding Sustainable Solutions for Maine's Lakes



Who are we?

University of Maine graduate students:
Sustainability Science Initiative (SSI) 'Issues in
Sustainability Science' course

Martha Willand, Patrick Lyons,
Bessie Wright, Crista Straub,
Stan Hutchens, Ann Speers



What did we do?

- Partnered with IPP and VLMP
- Contacted IPP participants
- Interviews (in-person and phone)
- Data analysis
- Report and Presentation



Participant Motivation

- Residents at lakes
- Aware of importance of VLMP
- Legacy
- Quality of place
- Environmentalism/ conservation
- Property values
- Job or leadership duties
- Pleasure (e.g., kayaking)
- Identified a need



Assets & Needs

- Successful program model (Water Quality Monitor Program)
- Existing IPP volunteers, regional partners and collaborators
- IPP volunteer interviews and feedback

Influences

- IAP are a pressing issue in Maine
- State and local support for IAP initiatives is strong
- Limited time and financial resources all VLMP / IPP levels
- Current volunteers are committed; willing to share valuable insight

Strategies

- Activate IPP 'Sustainability Initiative'
- Engage IPP volunteer leadership and expertise (e.g., Branch Lake model)
- Share experiences and lessons learned with other Regional Invasive Lake Monitoring Programs
- Consider pay-per-program

Results

- Structural changes
- Enhanced training opportunities
- Enhanced data efficiency
- Build volunteer force
- Regions self-sustain
- Every lake has IPP
- Program sustainability

Outputs

Trainings

- # new regions
- # involved in new support programs
- Active participation rates
- Volunteer demographics
- A monitor forum exists

Outcomes

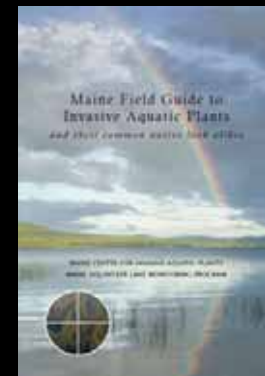
- Chain of command understood by all
- Data transfer efficiency increased
- New volunteer positions created
- Every lake in state has an [active] patroller/IPP team
- Overall program function improved
- Regional IPP networks exist

Impacts

- Local & regional citizen awareness continues to increase
- Lake management networks are strengthened
- Early IAP detection is enhanced
- Other system-level changes

IPP Successes/ Existing Assets

- Increased awareness/ participation
- Increased trainings
 - Multiple levels of training
- Community building
- Prevention/control of invasives
 - Damariscotta *Hydrilla*
- Inter-lake collaboration
- Milfoil stickers well recognized
- Thorough manual



Strategies for Moving Forward

- More training options and opportunities/ more flexible scheduling
- Training program for lake leaders and regional IPP coordinators
- Greater community involvement
- Volunteer leadership at every level



Strategies for Moving Forward

- Work to generate greater public awareness
 - Media releases, presentations at lake group annual meetings
- Develop programs to engage all ages
- Appeal to economics
 - Property values, etc.
- Provide more trainings
 - Some able and willing to pay
- Strengthen Lake Team



Strategies for Moving Forward

- Greater use of internet for collaboration, reporting and networking
- Continue to develop programs, resources and training opportunities to foster Quality Assurance of IPP data
- More lake-wide IPP Teams





#1 Way to Help!

Help us Form an Invasive Plant Patrol Team on Your Lake!



- The more eyes on the water the better
- Better quality assurance
- Long term sustainability
- More fun!!

Recruiting Volunteers



Every Team Needs a Captain!



- Helping to recruit team members
- Organizing the survey team
- Providing local technical support

Role of Lake Association



- Financially supports, helps recruit and organize the team.
- Helps outfit team members with equipment
- Funds to support the team are raised by an optional donation check off in the annual lake association dues appeal
- Appreciation and social events.

VLMP Offers Free IPP Training & Ongoing Technical Support



- 2010 IPP workshop schedule is at display and up on the website at [www. MaineVolunteerLakeMonitors.org](http://www.MaineVolunteerLakeMonitors.org)
- Please pick up a Workshop Flyer at the registration table!



Host an
I P P
Workshop



What will you & your lake gain?

- Active, well trained , fully equipped survey team
- Rule out presence of IAP annually
- Greater level of community awareness & engagement
- Better understanding of native plant communities
- Native plant inventory



WE WELCOME YOUR INPUT!

*Thank you for joining us in this
important endeavor to grow and
sustain Maine's*

Invasive Plant Patrol

