

# Invasive Plant Patrol

## 2016 Training Season In Review

VLMP's Invasive Plant Patrol took yet another quantum leap forward in 2016! Participation was high for a wide array of training sessions, including: six *IPP Plant Paddles*; five *IPP 101* workshops; two *Invasive Aquatic Plant Manual Control* workshops; and one of each of the following: *IPP Field Methods*, *How to Conduct a Plant Paddle* (a train-the-trainer event), *Advanced Aquatic Plant ID* (with optional exam for Advanced Certification), *Courtesy Boat Inspector Training*, and the annual *IPP Leadership Roundtable*. A record breaking, three-hundred-eighty-five people participated in one or more of these eighteen events, which were scattered across the state from York to Aroostook County. Of the 142 individuals who attended *IPP 101* training (the pre-requisite for IPP Certification), 44 (over 30%) opted to become Certified. This brings the total number of active, Certified IPPs statewide to 611! *None of this would have been possible without the generous efforts of our 2016 IPP Hosts. Many thanks to all who contributed to this enormously successful training season!* 🌿



**IPP 101** Workshops provide attendees with everything they need to become effective early detectors, including hands-on plant identification practice with live native and invasive aquatic plants. Attendees of this training qualify for IPP Certification.



**IPP Plant Paddles** are short (3-hour) guided explorations that takes place on shore and on the water. They are a fun, informal way to learn about the threat of invasive aquatic plants and the importance of early detection. Interested attendees who wish to continue their training and become Certified Plant Patrollers are encouraged to attend the 6-hour **IPP 101**.



It was a hale and hearty bunch that turned out in the pouring rain for this year's **IPP Field Methods** Workshop on Portage Lake, Aroostook County. This training (which generally takes place under more favorable conditions!) provides an on-lake opportunity to learn and practice new survey skills.



This year's two-day **IAP Manual Control** Training was held in Gardiner. Twenty-two individuals participated and qualified to become members of Maine's certified IAP manual control team.



The **Advanced Plant ID** Workshop, this year held at the VLMP Maine Lake Monitoring Center in Auburn, was once again a popular event for seasoned plant patrollers, with 20 people in attendance. Of those who opted to take the plant identification exam for certification, four individuals qualified for **Advanced Aquatic Plant Identification Proficiency Certification**. A great job done by all. Congratulations! (The exam may not be easy, but it IS fun!).



The VLMP now offers **Courtesy Boat Inspection** training as an optional add-on to an **IPP Field Methods** workshop. This year's **CBI Training** was held at Branch Lake, Ellsworth.



**IPP Trainings** would not be possible without the collaboration and support of groups willing to help us coordinate workshops at the local level. The host (and co-host) group's primary responsibilities are: 1) helping with the workshop logistics at the local level, e.g. lining up a facility, deciding what to do about food, etc., and 2) publicizing the workshop o help generate local interest. **If your group is interested in hosting an IPP workshop in 2017, NOW is the time to get your request in. Available slots are going quickly!** For more information contact Roberta Hill at [roberta@mainevlmp.org](mailto:roberta@mainevlmp.org) or 207-783-7733.

