



Photo: Martin Neptune

Penobscot Indian Nation

# Pəskehtək<sup>w</sup>ok

## *Joining of the Branches*

Spring 2005 ~ Issue 3

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## *Pretty in Hot Pink?*

Okay, maybe they aren't exactly pretty but the hot pink buoys you see around the Island are very informative. You can see them as you drive over the bridge near the pond and if you are standing on horse's bridge. Attached to these buoys are acoustic tag detectors and data loggers (see picture to right). The University of Maine Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit (CFWRU) is using this technology to record the date, time and depth of specially-tagged Atlantic salmon smolts as they pass by.



way to the ocean each year - sometimes as much as 50%. As you might guess, dams can contribute a great amount to this loss. A National Academy of Sciences report in 2004 determined that dams are known to be a site of impact through increased predation risk and direct injury as well as through delays in migration. However, the extent of the losses and delays from dams needs more study.

This study will help to better understand the success of their downstream migration, the biggest impacts they face and how well dam removal might help their recovery. There are currently 18 acoustic tag detectors and data loggers throughout Penobscot Reservation waters, all of which rely on the fish being implanted with



Smolts are at one of the most critical stages of their life cycle, occurring after 1-3 years of living in the river and then transforming into a migratory juvenile. Although the Penobscot River supports the largest run of Atlantic salmon in the United States, total adult returns have fallen under 800 fish in recent years. This study is monitoring 350 wild and hatchery reared Atlantic salmon smolts that have been tagged and released into the Penobscot River. These fish will be studied for the entire period of time it takes for them to travel to the sea - usually by mid-June.

There never used to be tags small enough to use in fish the size of many Atlantic salmon smolts (13-17 cm) until recent advances from Vemco Inc., a company out of Nova Scotia, Canada.

tags, called pingers, which give off a series of energy pulses. Check out a smolt getting implanted with a pinger in this picture to the right.

You will continue to see the buoys until October because adult salmon will also be tagged and monitored. We will keep you updated on these efforts and describe the findings that this study produces. So look for more articles in future newsletters!

A significant number of both wild- and hatchery reared smolts can die on their

# Maine's Eleven Most Unwanted

This is the time of year when we all start going to a camp on the lake and taking our boats onto the water. In order to maintain the health of the lakes that we all so enjoy, we must be aware of the many impacts that threaten them. One of the greatest challenges of the time is the spread of invasive aquatic plants by hitching a ride on a boat, trailer or other gear that is used in the water, such as fishing gear and anchors. The speed at which a new introduction can explode into an ecologically and economically disastrous infestation is well documented. In order to truly have an effective, early detection system there must swift and vigorous action that has unprecedented commitment to the "long haul." **JUST ONE PLANT CAN PERMANENTLY INFEST AN ENTIRE LAKE AND THEY ARE IMPOSSIBLE TO REMOVE ONCE ESTABLISHED!**

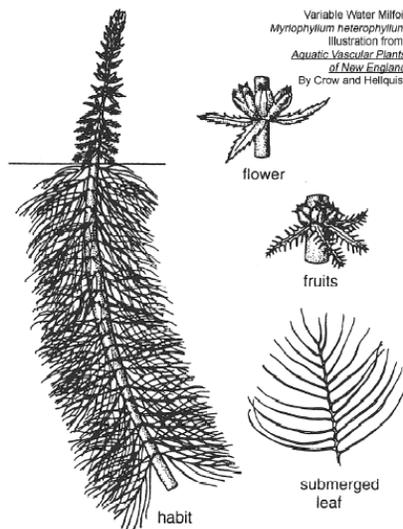
Known infestations of aquatic invaders in Maine, at present, are relatively low, but we must not let that make us think that it will stay that way forever without a watchful eye! Every one of the other lower 48 states has experienced introductions of invasive species and, as a consequence, have also seen the following problems:

- reduced property values,
- significant habitat disruption,
- loss of native plant and animal communities,
- impaired fishing and water recreation opportunities, and
- large public/private expenditures to control these plants.

There are 11 plants currently listed as imminent threats to Maine waters. These are:

- European Frogbit
- Water Chestnut
- Yellow Floating Heart
- Eurasian Water Milfoil
- Variable Water Milfoil\*
- Parrot Feather
- Fanwort
- Hydrilla\*
- Brazilian Elodea
- European Naiad
- Curly-Leaved Pondweed

Plants marked with an asterisk\* have been documented in Maine waters. Variable Water Milfoil has been found in 16 Maine water bodies. Hydrilla, often considered to be the most aggressive plant on the list, was discovered in Pickerel Pond in Limerick in 2002.



Because of the severity of the problems that these plants cause, it is now a **REQUIREMENT FOR ALL WATERS IN MAINE AND PENOBSCOT TERRITORIES** to have a lake and river protection sticker on all registered watercraft. New stickers must be purchased every year. The stickers cost \$10 for residents and \$20 for nonresidents and can be purchased from the Tribal Clerk's office along with boat registration. The proceeds from the sale of these stickers go directly to help with enforcement of the laws, education about invasive plants, training people to identify the plants and inspect boats. Because it is now **ILLEGAL** to:

- transport ANY aquatic plant on the outside of a vehicle, boat, trailer or other equipment,
- launch a watercraft carrying any invasive aquatic plant on inland waters, or
- sell, grow or introduce invasive aquatic plants,

you **CAN BE FINED!** If either a PIN warden or a Maine state warden finds that you don't have one of these stickers they can issue you a summons for a civil violation. This carries with it a fine of not less that \$100 and not more than \$250. In addition, a person who places a watercraft that is contaminated with an invasive aquatic plant commits also civil violation for which a forfeiture of not less than \$500 and not more than \$5,000 per violation may be adjudged.

## EVERY TIME YOU LAUNCH OR TAKE OUT YOUR BOAT, PLEASE DO THE FOLLOWING:

- Remove all plants from boats, motors, trailers, anchors, lines and fishing equipment.
- Place the removed plants in a trash can or on high dry land very far from the water.
- Dispose of engine cooling water and livewell water on high dry land.

If you think that you have an invasive plant growing in your lake or attached to your boat you can report it to the Maine Center for Invasive Aquatic Plants (MCIAP). The process for doing

**FREE WORKSHOP:  
 INVASIVE AQUATIC PLANT  
 IDENTIFICATION**

**DAY:** Wednesday July 6th  
**TIME:** 4:00 - 9:30pm  
**LOCATION:** Deering Hall,  
 University of Maine, Orono Campus  
**REGISTRATION FORM:** Found  
 at [www.mainevlmp.org/mciap/](http://www.mainevlmp.org/mciap/)

that, as well as collecting and submitting a sample of the plant in question, is as follows:

**Contact:**

1. Call MCIAP at 783-7733 or email them at [mciap@mainevlmp.org](mailto:mciap@mainevlmp.org)
2. Be prepared to give a brief description of the plant in question.
3. You may be asked to collect a sample of the plant and send it to MCIAP for identification.

**Collecting a plant specimen:**

1. You must be very careful when collecting a plant specimen. Fragmentation could result in an invasive plant spreading to other areas of the lake.
2. If possible, collect several (3-5) healthy stems of the plant in question. The flower, fruits and winter buds of many aquatic plants are helpful in the identification process. If these structures are present, be sure to include them in your sample. Gently break off stem sections about 6-8" long, from the top portion of the plant. For rooted floating leaved plants, be sure to include as much of the stem as possible.
3. **DO NOT** attempt to pull the plant out by its roots. (This is very important!)
4. Mark the location of the plant with a weighted buoy.
5. If possible, mark the location on a map. A map of the waterbody may be available on the PEARL website [pearl.maine.edu](http://pearl.maine.edu)
6. If the plant is covered with algae or tangled in debris, remove as much of the unwanted material as possible, without damaging the specimens.
7. Keep the specimens alive in a container full of water in the refrigerator until you are ready to ship them.

**Preparing specimens for mailing:**

1. Place wet specimens a water-tight plastic bag, (e.g., Ziploc).  
\* If the plant is delicate and/or flimsy, add enough water to



the bag to cushion the plant and keep it wet.

\* If the plant is relatively sturdy, remove all air from the bag and seal. **DO NOT** wrap the plant in a wet paper towel or other absorbent material.

2. Make sure the bag is sealed tight and place it in a small box with enough packing material to prevent movement. Cardboard mailing envelopes are fine for sturdy specimens that are not packed in water. Padded envelopes do not work well for plant specimens.
3. Fill out and include a Suspicious Plant Form in the box with the specimens. This information is critical to tracking plants sent in for identification, and ensuring a timely response.
4. Mail the specimen on a Monday or Tuesday, to minimize the possibility of weekend delays. Please contact MCIAP at (207) 783-7733 or [mciap@mainevlmp.org](mailto:mciap@mainevlmp.org) to let us know the specimen is on its way. We will be looking for it.

**Send packaged specimens to:**

Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program  
24 Maple Hill Road  
Auburn, Maine 04210

**Response:**

They will contact you within 72 hours of receiving your plant sample. They will identify the plant and confirm whether or not it is an invasive species. If the plant is invasive, the Maine Department of Environmental Protection will be notified, and a rapid response action plan will be initiated.

All of the PIN Water Resources staff and Game Wardens are here to help you if you have general questions, would like a picture key for identifying these plants, or need a copy of the suspicious plant form to submit with a sample. Call us or come by the office. Printed information is also available on the board next to the central DNR office and at the Tribal Clerk's office.

**KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN FOR ANY OF THESE PLANTS!**



**Sugar Ant Hotel**

- 1 cup borax
- 1 cup sugar water
- 4 shallow glass jars with screw tops
- 4 loose wads of toilet paper

**GOT UNWANTED ANTS IN YOUR HOUSE?  
YOU CAN GET RID OF THEM WITHOUT CHEMICALS!**

In a bowl, mix the borax and sugar. Place a loose wad of toilet paper into each of four different screw-top jars. Pour a quarter of the sugar and borax mixture into each of the four jars, over the toilet paper. Fill each jar with water to one inch of the top. Screw the lids on the jars, and with a hammer and nail, make four to eight holes in the lid. Place the jars in areas where you have ants (but keep away from pets and children).

Helpful Hints: This ant trap will catch the workers but not the queen. A more comprehensive solution is to blend 1/4 cup of confectioner's sugar and one tablespoon of borax and sprinkle it in ant traffic areas. There is not enough borax with this method to kill the worker ants immediately, so they take it back to the nest, ultimately eradicating it. (If the worker ants do die at the powder, cut back on the borax.)

*These tips comes from [www.care2.com/channels/lifestyle/home](http://www.care2.com/channels/lifestyle/home)*

**Caution:**  
Keep borax products away from pets and other animals.

# REQUEST FOR BIDS

The Water Resources Program is requesting bids for a river-bank restoration project on Indian Island. The project will involve rip-rapping and shaping approximately 112 feet of river bank.

**For more information or to submit a bid please contact Jason Mitchell at 817-7381**

All contractors must have liability insurance and workman's compensation insurance.



## Why Dandelions Are To Be Loved

While most people enjoy seeing hummingbirds, they don't typically extend that appreciation to dandelions as well. What is the connection you ask? It's all in the nest - materials that is. Come to find out, one of the key materials these beautiful creatures use to make their nests is dandelion down - the fluffy stuff that blows around after their yellow phase.

Ruby-throated hummingbirds are the only species of hummingbirds that breed in eastern North America throughout the eastern deciduous and mixed forests. They spend the winter in Central America, flying nonstop across the Gulf of Mexico to get there. When they return in the spring they come back and



use various materials to make their nest, including:

**Spider silk** - because it is easy to find, very strong, sticky enough to hold lichens and down together,

waterproof, good camouflage and easy for them to manipulate with their tiny beaks. Best of all, it's stretchiness allows the nest to grow with the babies.

**Dandelion and thistle down** - because they are soft, waterproof, good insulation, and easy for them to manipulate. Dandelion down is easy for a hummer to find just about anywhere - as long as we don't feel the need to kill them all with chemicals!

**Lichens** - because they are tiny, strong for their weight, easy for a tiny hummingbird to manipulate, and waterproof. Because they provide good camouflage against branches, lichens are used mostly on the outside of the nest.

**SO LEARN TO LOVE YOUR DANDELIONS!**

Because everything is connected to everything else, there is always a use for things.



# Conservation Camp Coming Soon

Keeping children entertained and educated over the summer can be a challenge. The Piscataquis County Soil and Water Conservation District's "Conservation Camps" make learning fun and give **children ages 7 to 14** an opportunity to explore the natural resources of the region.

**MORNING SESSIONS:**  
9:00 am - noon will be for children age 7 to 10

**AFTERNOON SESSIONS:**  
1:00 - 4:00 pm will be for children age 11 to 14

**Enrollment is limited to 30 children per session**, so age groups may be adjusted to keep session numbers even or to accommodate individual family needs.

## THE FIRST WEEK OF CAMP: JUNE 27 - JULY 1

**GATHERING LOCATION:** Foxcroft Academy Student Center, Dover-Foxcroft

### AGENDA

**Monday:** Dan Kusnierz, Water Resources Program Manager for the Penobscot Indian Nation, will speak about water quality and the kinds of critters that live in and near healthy waters.



**Tuesday:** More hands-on learning when Soil Scientist Ron Olson, of Natural Resources Conservation Service, teaches the kids how to dig a soil pit in the forest.

**Wednesday:** Entomologist Clay Kirby, from University of Maine, will present a slide show about insects and how to capture them, allow the children to handle various specimens, and, weather allowing, take the children outdoors to catch and release insects native to our own backyards.

**Thursday:** Doug Kane, of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, will teach our day campers about wildlife and take them out to explore

**REGISTER NOW!**  
Enrollment limited to 30 per session

habitat.

**Friday:** Gordon Moore, of the Maine Forest Service, will teach the children how to measure trees to estimate their age and how to identify different types of trees.

## THE SECOND WEEK OF CAMP: JULY 11 - JULY 15

**GATHERING LOCATION:** Student Resource Center, Foxcroft Academy

### AGENDA

**Monday:** Fallow Deer & Buffalo at Breakneck Ridge in Blanchard.

**Tuesday:** See cows, calves and the milking process, Gilrock Dairy Farm, Sangerville.

**Wednesday:** Learn about raising game birds at Three Rivers Wing Shoot in Milo.

**Thursday:** Pick new crops at Stutzman's Vegetable Farm, Sangerville

**Friday:** Learn about horse care and equestrian skill at Infinity Farm, Dover-Foxcroft

Enrollment in the district would have been limited to fewer children without the many donations of time, money and supplies from the community including:

- United Way's Keeping Kids on Track program enables the district to provide school bus transportation for our campers.
- Piscataquis Public Health Council is funding the three days of camp that incorporate nutrition education and locally grown food promotion.
- The Milo Garden Club and Palmyra Wal-Mart have donated funds and materials that make it possible for the children to create natural resource-based crafts during camp.
- Save-a-Lot Food Store in Dover-Foxcroft and Horizon Organics are providing snacks.
- The guest speakers who donate their time to put on presentations, farm families willing to open their homes to the children and parents able to help provide supervision.

**COST:** \$25 per child per week (if necessary you can register for individual days at \$5 per child per day) DNR may be able to help with expenses, please call Angie at 817-7360.

**REGISTRATION:** Fill out the form included on the next page and send to the address listed. Call 564-2321, ext. 3 with questions.

Children should wear sturdy shoes that can get muddy - **AVOID OPEN-TOED SHOES!** Water bottles, sun screen and insect repellent from home are welcomed.

# CONSERVATION CAMP REGISTRATION

**Please fill out this form and send it back with a check for \$25 per child, per week, by June 22 to:**

Piscataquis County SWCD  
42 Pine Crest Drive  
Dover-Foxcroft, ME 04426

Parent/Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone#: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Child/Children's Name:	Age
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Does your child have any medical conditions that we should be aware of (i.e. diabetes, asthma, allergies, etc.)?  
Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_  
If yes, please explain:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Parents and friends are welcome to attend.**

**If your child requires a behavioral specialist while in school, please provide adult supervision on the days he or she attends camp.**

**Due to the risk of Hoof & Mouth Disease, students who have been out of the country 2 weeks prior to summer camp will not be able to participate on the Agricultural Tours.**

*The Piscataquis County Soil and Water Conservation District, program presenters and Agricultural Tour farm owners will not be held responsible for injuries or damages.*

*Please do not send your child to camp in open-toed shoes for their own safety. Shoes that can get wet are recommended for Water Quality Day.*

*Discipline policy: Our rules are simple. Be polite to the guest speakers. Don't do anything that could hurt you or somebody else, such as running, throwing rocks, swinging sticks. Any child who cannot follow the rules after verbal warnings will be asked to skip the next day of camp. If they still can't follow the rules upon their return, they will be asked to leave the camp for the week.*

Which week/program would your child be interested in: **Check one or both**

June 27 – July 1      Natural Resources      \_\_\_\_\_

July 11- July 15      Agriculture Tours      \_\_\_\_\_

Would you prefer a.m. or p.m. sessions?      \_\_\_\_\_

Would any adults be attending the tours: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ How Many \_\_\_\_\_

Would you be willing to volunteer on certain days to supervise: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Do we have permission to photograph your child for possible publication in local newspapers event posters and District newsletters: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

For more information, please call 564-2321, ext. 3