Pəskehtək^{w}ok

Joining of the Branches

Photo: Martin Neptune

Spring 2009 ~ Issue 1

Penobscot Indian Nation
Department of Natural Resources
www.penobscotnation.org/DNR/DNR1.htm

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The Story of Stuff - Step #3

Distribution

Annie Leonard asks you "what happens after all these resources are turned into products?" As the story of stuff goes, it moves into the distribution phase. And Annie's simple description of distribution is:

"selling all this toxic contaminated junk as quickly as possible."

Annie goes on to say: "The goal here is to keep the prices down, keep the people buying and keep the inventory moving. How do they keep the prices down? Well, they don't pay the store workers very much and skimp on health insurance every time they can. It's all about externalizing the costs. What that means is the real costs of making stuff aren't captured in the price. In other words, we aren't really paying for the stuff we buy.

I was thinking about this the other day. I was walking to work and I wanted to listen to the news so I popped into this Radio Shack to buy a radio. I found this cute little green radio for 4 dollars and 99 cents. I was standing there in line to buy this radio and I wondering how $4.99 could possibly capture the costs of making this radio and getting it to my hands. The metal was probably mined in South Africa, the petroleum was probably drilled in Iraq, the plastics were probably produced in China, and maybe the whole thing was assembled by some 15 year old in a maquiladora in Mexico. $4.99 wouldn't even pay

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the rent for the shelf space it occupied until I came along, let alone part of the staff guy's salary that helped me pick it out, or the multiple ocean cruises and truck rides pieces of this radio went on. That's how I realized, I didn't pay for the radio.

So, who did pay?

Well. these people paid with the loss of their natural resource base. These people paid with the loss of their clean air, with increasing asthma and cancer rates. Kids in the Congo paid with their future—30% of the kids in parts of the Congo now have had to drop out of school to mine coltan, a metal we need for our disposable electronics. These people even paid, by having to cover their own health insurance. All along this system, people pitched in so I could get this radio for $4.99. And none of these contributions are recorded in any accounts book. That is what I mean by the company owners externalize the true costs of production."

To hear more of the story and get the bigger picture go online to www.storyofstuff.com!

We will also continue to feature more of the information in future newsletters!

Hydrilla

By Jan Paul

In last month's flyer I talked about Variable Water-Milfoil - an aquatic invasive plant that basically resembles various sizes of bottle brushes, green and reddish in color, and can live from shoreline to 17 feet of water. This plant seems to be the common one that is the greatest threat to us, but there are others that we must keep an eye out for. A perfect example is Hydrilla. Hydrilla is the next invasive plant I am going to tell you about because it is the most aggressive non-native plant to North America.

Hydrilla is a native plant from Africa, Australia, and parts of Asia, and was introduced to the states during the aquarium trade of the mid-1900s. Hydrilla has been seen as far south as Connecticut, Massachusettes, and New Jersey. In 2002, Hydrilla was found in Maine at Limerick's 46-acre Pickerel Pond by a volunteer plant patroller. This siting was then confirmed by biologists working for the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). There are two types to this stubborn and fast growing aquatic plant. One is the "monoecious" (pronounced mon-eesh-us) - which just means that male and female flower parts are on one plant. The other is the "dioecious" (pronounced di-eesh-us) - meaning that male and female flower parts are on two separate plants. Monoecious is the only form that has been identified in Maine, and mostly likely has been brought in by trailers and boats from out of state.

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This perfect weed can grow in a variety of conditions such as still or flowing water, water that is low or high in nutrients, and various substrates (bottoms of rivers, lakes, or streams). Hydrilla can also grow in murky waters as well as in clear waters of up to 33 feet deep. It can be found in thick rooted strands or floating large mats. Hydrilla can resemble the bottle brush like that of the Variable Leaf Milfoil but not as thick of a brush. The whorls or leaf segments are spaced further apart than that of the Variable Leaf Milfoil. When Hydrilla flowers in late summer, a small white flower will come up to the surface of the water. Come fall, the plant dies completely leaving only the roots and seeds that live within the ground. These seeds can live dormant (not active) for years, and one seed can produce 5,000 new seeds. The seeds can withstand ice cover, drying up, being eaten by waterfowl, and exposure to herbicides. Waterfowl can cause the spread of this bad boy as well as being chopped up by boaters. A new plant can form from stem fragments as small as two segments of leaves.

I forgot to mention the last time that when you do take an identification workshop from Maine Center for Invasive Aquatic Plants they will give you a field guide to invasive plants and their common native look alikes within Maine. This is a great tool to use but identification can still be complicated! So learning how to get a sample without spreading the invasive is still really important! To learn more, check out these web pages

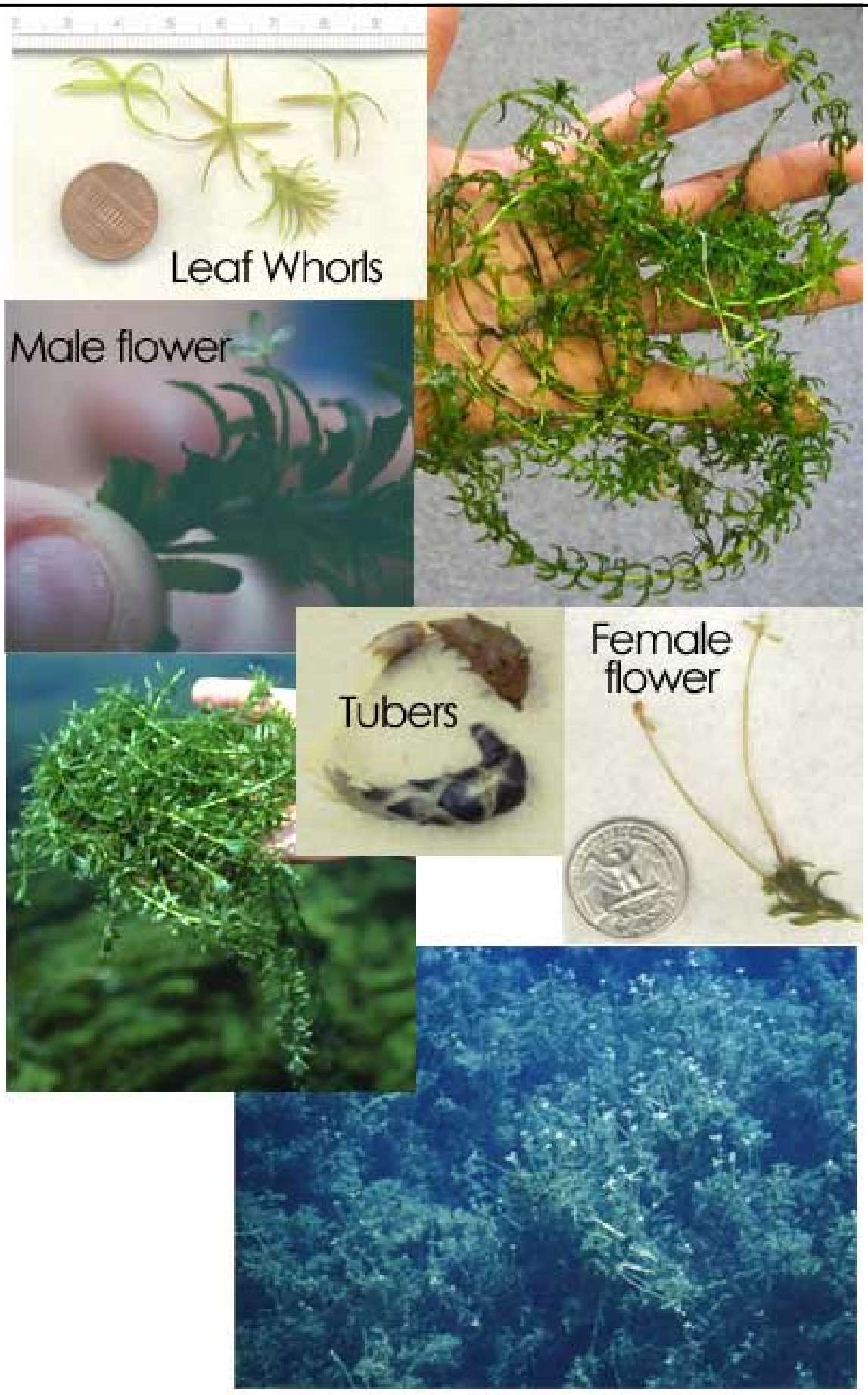
http://www.mainevolunteerlakemonitors.org/mciap/
http://www.maine.gov/dep/blwq/topic/invasives/index.htm.

I am also here to help anyone, but by no means am I an expert!

So my email is Jan.Paul@penobscotnation.org, and my phone number is 817-7382.

Summer is approaching quickly so if I am not there please leave me a message.

A new plant can form from stem fragments as small as two segments of leaves.


Leaf Whorls
Male flower
Tubers
Female flower