



Photo: Martin Neptune

Pəskehtək^wok

Joining of the Branches

Winter 2008 ~ Issue 3

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

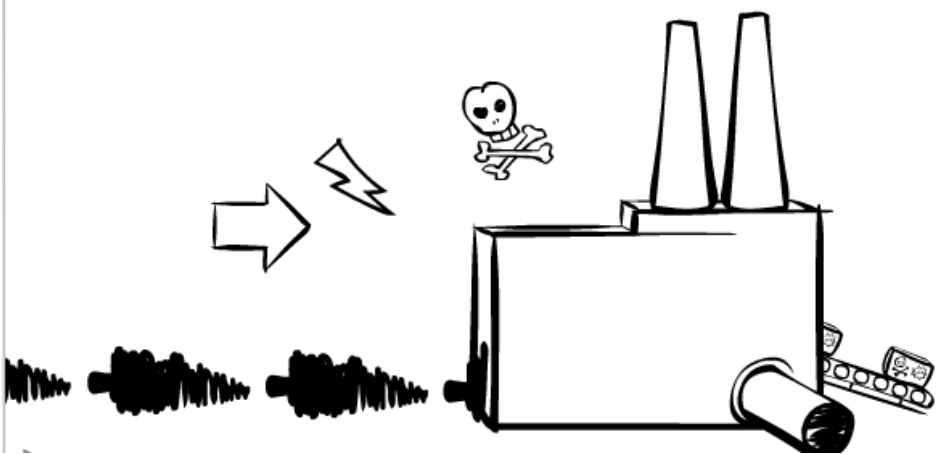
The Story of Stuff - Step #2 Production

Phone Extensions	
David Almenas, <i>Forest Technician</i>	7335
Michelle Attean, <i>Water Resources Trainee</i>	7381
Ron Bear, <i>Forest Technician</i>	7335
John Banks, <i>DNR Director</i>	7330
Rhonda Daigle, <i>Water Quality Monitoring Program Coordinator</i>	7326
Yvonne "Cookie" Francis, <i>Administrative Assistant</i>	7331
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Angie Reed, <i>Water Resources Planner</i>	7360
Russ Roy, <i>Forest Manager</i>	7339
Dennis Stevens, <i>Forester</i>	7337
Bill Thompson, <i>Air Quality Program</i>	7340
Binke Wang, <i>GIS Specialist</i>	7341

After extraction, the next step in "The Story of Stuff" is production. During production, Annie Leonard describes:

"we use energy to mix toxic chemicals in with the natural resources to make toxic contaminated products.

There are over 100,000 synthetic chemicals in commerce today. Only a handful of these have even been tested for human health impacts and NONE of them have been tested for synergistic health impacts, that means when they interact with all the other chemicals we're exposed to every day.



So, we don't know the full impact of these toxics on our health and environment of all these toxic chemicals. But we do know one thing: Toxics in, Toxics Out. As long as we keep putting toxics into our production system, we are going to keep getting toxics in the stuff that we bring into our homes, our workplaces, and schools. And, duh, our bodies."

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

We will also be featuring more of the information in future newsletters!



STORY OF **STUFF**.COM



Protecting Our River

By Jan Paul

When warmer days arrive, so does my favorite time of the year "Sampling Season!" Sampling Season for our Water Resources Program means from early May to the end of October. This is the time we collect water samples from rivers, lakes, and tributaries that are within or have a direct impact on our land and waters.



The areas on the Penobscot that we sample are as far north as Whetstone Falls, T4 R7 WELS on the east branch and to Rte. 11 Bridge T3 Indian Purchase on the west branch, and the most southern site is in Orono. The site farthest to the east is on the Stud Mill Rd. Bridge in Milford, and a tributary to the river. The site to the west is our Snow Mountain Pond in Alder Stream Township. I encourage you to go see just how beautiful our lands and waters truly are, so you will know how I feel about protecting them.

When I first got hired it was my duty to go out and protect our river from pollutants. Now it is my added privilege to keep an eye out for aquatic invasive plants that might infest our waters. I do hope that this article will persuade you in helping me protect our waters. Last year we tried to sponsor a plant patrol on a segment of the river, but there wasn't enough interest. I would like to try again this year.

KNOW WHAT IS ALREADY THERE

The first step to identifying an invasive plant is just to start being aware of your surroundings. For example, notice if the boats that are launching are clear of plant debris from all equipment. Look at the plants around the boat landing as well as the ones that are visible throughout the river. Know what is already there! That way you will be able to identify a plant that is out of the ordinary. Please do not attempt to retrieve the plant until you are qualified to do so because it only takes a small piece of the plant for it to grow another one. To be qualified, all you have to do is sign up for a free identification class with the Maine Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program. Go on-line to: www.mainevolunteerlakemonitors.org/workshops/#IntroIPP. Once the current year's schedule has been set this site will give you dates and types of workshops available throughout the summer. If by chance you do not have access to a computer, just come in and I will help you sign up for one or two.

Invasive plants can be found on land as well as in the water, but for the most part I would like to concentrate on those that might clog tribal waterways and possibly kill them. There are eleven on the most wanted list in Maine, including:



- European Frog-Bit,
- Water Chestnut,
- Yellow Floating Heart,
- Fanwort,
- Eurasian Water-Milfoil,
- Variable Water-Milfoil,**
- Invasive Variable Water-Milfoil Hybrid,
- Parrot Feather,
- Brazilian Waterweed,
- Curly-Leaf Pondweed,
- European Naiad, and
- Hydrilla

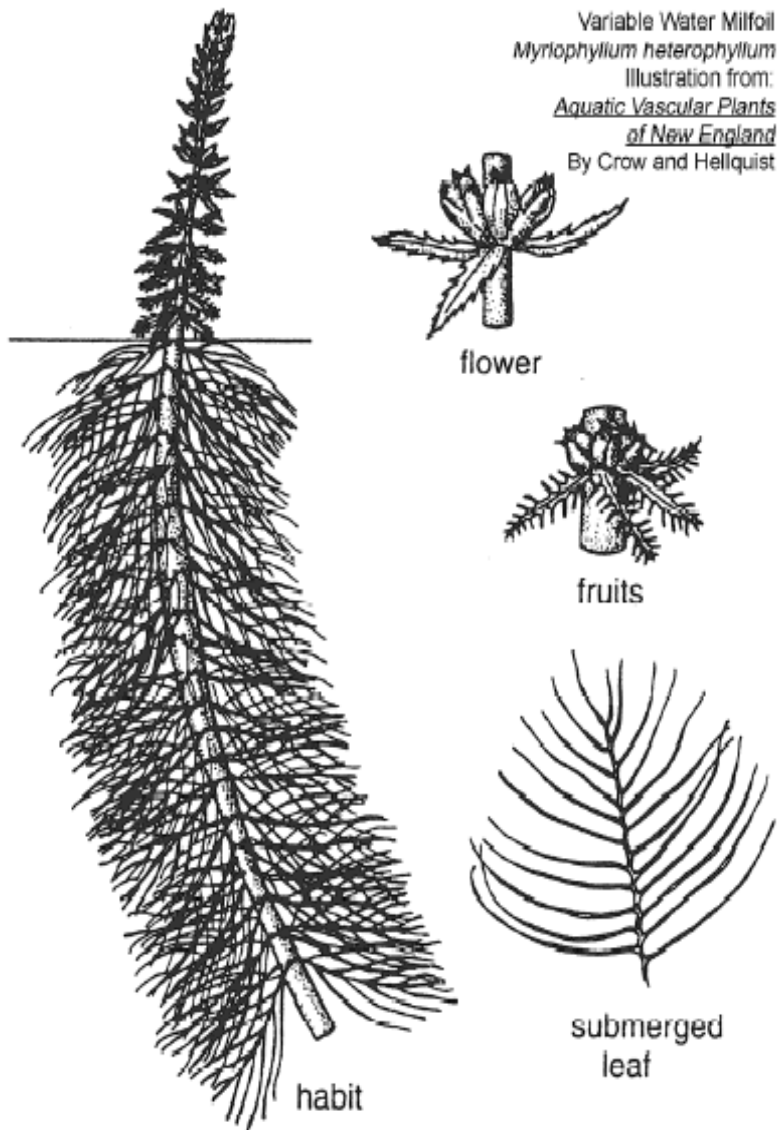


Four of these eleven are already in Maine - check out the map with this article! It is up to us to stop the rest!

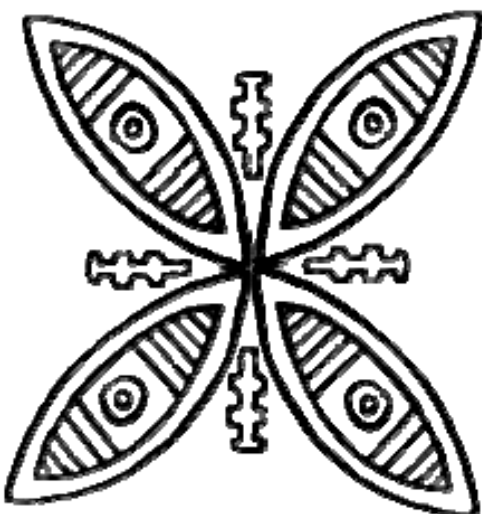
VARIABLE WATER-MILFOIL

So I would like to focus on one at a time, starting with Variable Water-Milfoil because it has already been found just south of Fairfield in Messalonskee Lake and Belgrade Stream. Most of our native aquatic plants are perennials, and the invasive plant only goes dormant in the winter months. This allows the predator to continue to grow in the warmer months instead of starting from scratch - giving it a competitive advantage over our native species. Variable Water-Milfoil is an extremely well adapted plant, able to thrive in a wide variety of environmental conditions. It can clog shorelines and shallow areas of up to 17 feet deep, and can grow on various types of sediment such as organic muck, silt, sand, and gravel. This pretty much describes the entire bottom of our river. If water levels drop enough so that the plants are completely exposed, it will erect spikes that are called "terrestrial morphs." The morphs, resembling miniature pine trees, will remain in this land adapted form until the water returns, at which time they will change (morph) back into a submersed aquatic plant.

Variable Water-Milfoil is an underwater aquatic plant with limbs growing from the trunk or main stem of the plant. The leaves resemble feathers and are arranged in a compact circle around the stem called "whorls." Whorls are circular and resemble the end of an ash bookmark. Although most of the plant is underwater, it does have a flower spike and bracts which are specialized leaves that are above the water. Each whorl usually has 4 to 6 feather-like leaves. Each leaf has 5 to 14 pairs of hair-like petals. The leaf arrangement gives this plant a bottle brush appearance. The part above water have specialized leaves or bracts which are blade-shaped, saw like, and are usually bigger than the flower. Stems maybe green in color and skinny, but mostly they are thick, robust, and reddish in color (even bright red). The flower spikes are located in the angle between the upper sides of the leaf or stem. Winter buds, or turions, are a thick fleshy young shoots that are formed in the fall at the base of the stem or on the roots.



Variable Water Milfoil
Myriophyllum heterophyllum
Illustration from:
*Aquatic Vascular Plants
of New England*
By Crow and Hellquist

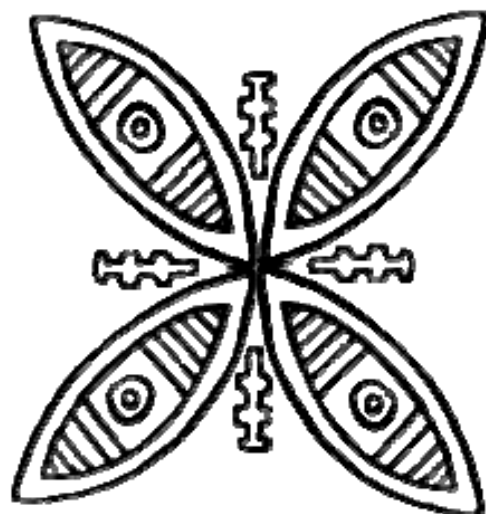


I know that this is a lot to take in, and by no means do I think this will make you an expert at identifying these invasives. I am just hoping that I can help you to love our waters as much as I do and help with keeping an eye out for these bad boys.

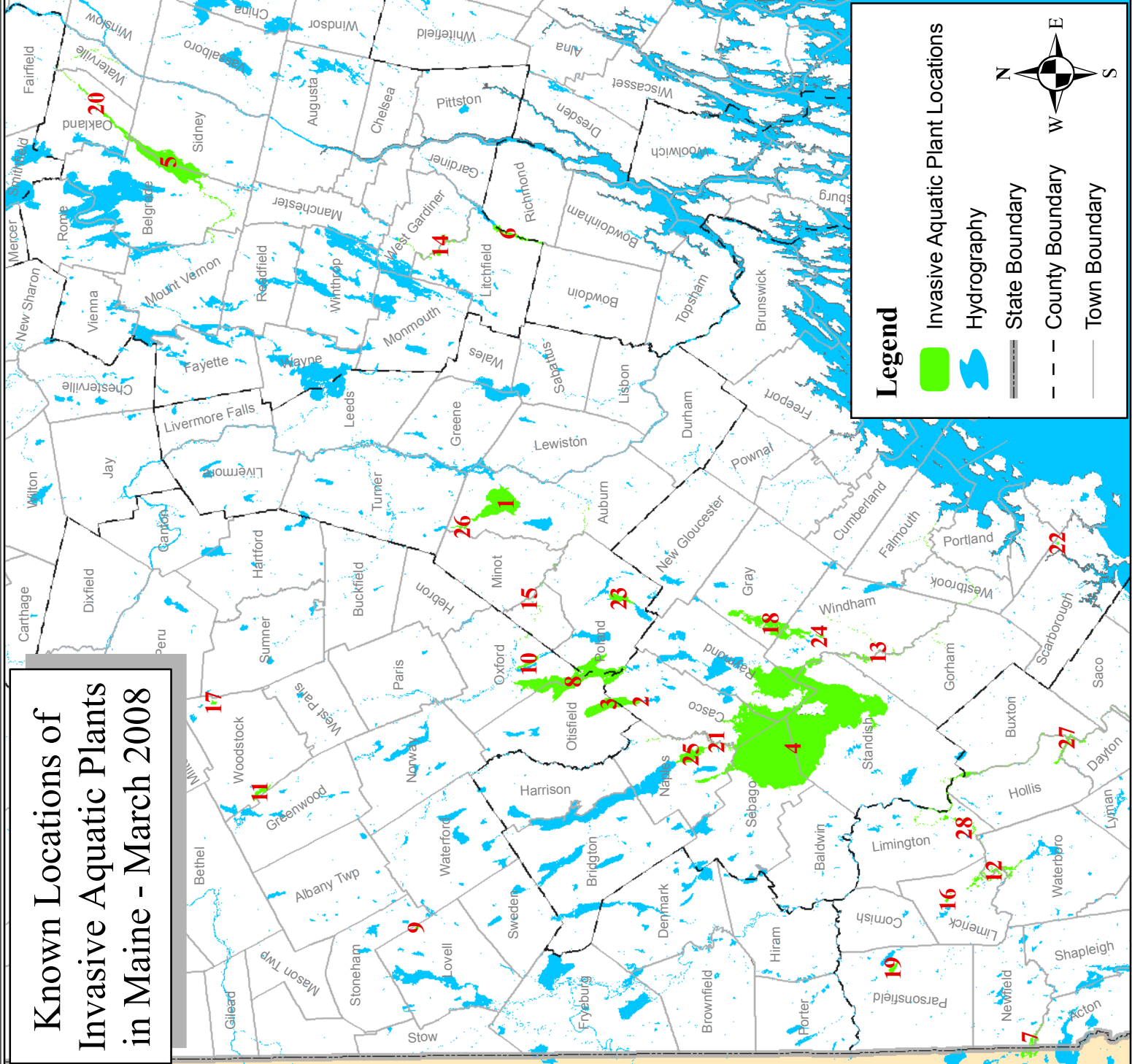
So please feel free to call me at 817-7382

email me at Jan.Paul@penobscotnation.org

or come in and talk with me.

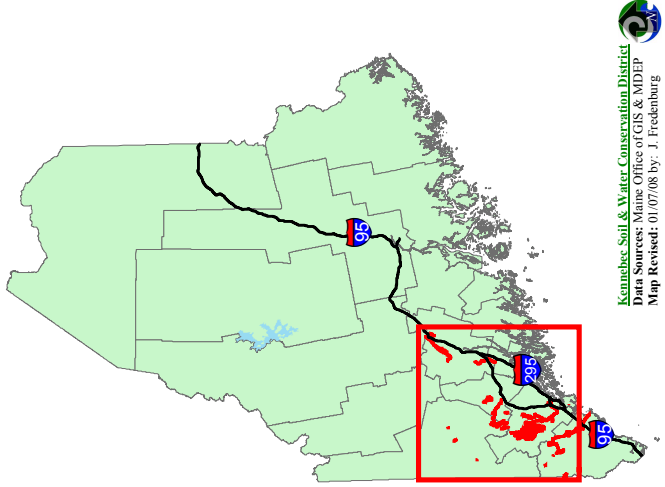


Known Locations of Invasive Aquatic Plants in Maine - March 2008



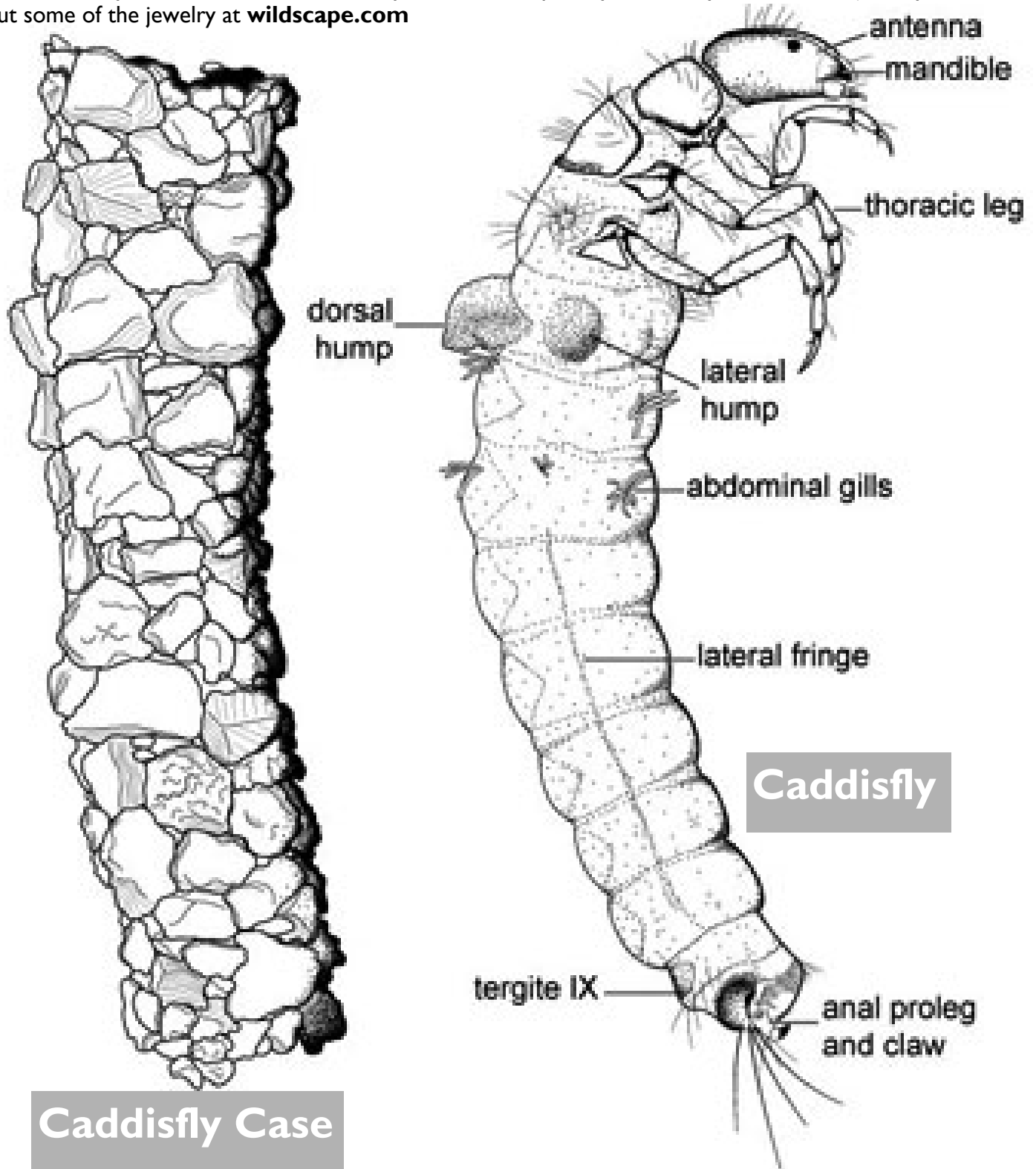
ID	Name	Invasive Aquatic Plant
1	Lake Auburn	Variable Leaf Milfoil
2	Lily Brook	Variable Leaf Milfoil
3	Pleasant Lake	Variable Leaf Milfoil
4	Sebago Lake	Variable Leaf Milfoil
5	Messalonskee Lake/Belgrade Stream	Variable Leaf Milfoil
6	Pleasant Pond	Variable Leaf Milfoil
7	Batch Pond	Variable Leaf Milfoil
8	Thompson Lake	Variable Leaf Milfoil
9	Cushman Pond	Variable Leaf Milfoil
10	Hogan Pond	Variable Leaf Milfoil
11	Bryant Pond	Variable Leaf Milfoil
12	Lake Arrowhead	Variable Leaf Milfoil
13	Presumpscot River including N. Gorham Pond	Variable Leaf Milfoil
14	Cobossee Stream	Variable Leaf Milfoil
15	Little Androscoggin River	Variable Leaf Milfoil
16	Pickerel Pond	Hydrilla
17	Shaag Pond	Variable Leaf Milfoil
18	Little Sebago Lake	Variable Leaf Milfoil Hybrid
19	West Pond	Curly-leaved Pondweed
20	Messalonskee Stream	Variable Leaf Milfoil
21	Songo River	Variable Leaf Milfoil
22	Pleasant Hill Pond	Eurasian Water Milfoil
23	Middle Range Pond	Variable Leaf Milfoil
24	Collins Pond	Variable Leaf Milfoil Hybrid
25	Brandy Pond	Variable Leaf Milfoil
26	The Basin	Variable Leaf Milfoil
27	Skelton Flowage in Saco River	Variable Leaf Milfoil
28	Little Ossipee River	Variable Leaf Milfoil

www.maine.gov/dep/blwq/topic/invasives/index.htm



CADDISFLY COLORING PAGE

These critters often have a fun green shade to them but you could make them any color you want! The cases they build come in a wide variety of shades - especially when they are made for jewelry. Check out some of the jewelry at wildscape.com



CAN YOU SMELL IT?



If anyone detects an odor that they think may be coming from the Juniper Ridge Landfill in West Old Town, please call this number to report it.

394 - 4376

It's important that folks use this complaint line to report odors so that the company knows when and where the odors are being noticed. The state is in the process of rulemaking to establish regulations to address the landfill odor problem. Thanks for your help!

