

"Water Chestnut Pull Workdays" August 4, 2010

The Long Island National Wildlife Refuge Complex, The Nature Conservancy, The Friends of the Bay and the Huntington Audubon Society seek volunteers to help remove Water Chestnut, an invasive aquatic plant, from Mill Pond in Oyster Bay NWR. Water chestnut was detected two summers ago. In order to prevent Water Chestnut from spreading, we need help pulling the plants before they drop their spiky seeds and spread more widely. Volunteers will use canoes to pull up the plants. Volunteers are also needed at the launch site to load the water chestnut into the dump truck.

Project: Hand Pulling Water Chestnut

Dates: Wednesday, Aug 4th (rain date Thursday, Aug 5th)

Time: 9am - 2pm

Location: Mill Pond - Oyster Bay National Wildlife Refuge

(Intersection of W Main St & Lake Ave, Oyster Bay, NY 11771). Parking is available on the street.

Directions: From 495, exit 41N/Oyster Bay (RT 107). Turn right on Jericho E Norwich Rd (RT 106). Follow RT 106 (changes its name to Oyster Bay Rd/Pine Hollow Rd). Make a left on Lexington Ave. Left on W. Main St. Mill Pond is on your left. Meet at the launch site off of Lake Ave.

Provided: Canoes, life vest/jackets (limited), baskets(limited), lunch and refreshments will be provided.

Bring: If you have your own life vest/jacket/basket, please bring it! Volunteers should wear shoes and clothing that can get wet and dirty (shorts recommended), sunscreen, hat, and insect repellent. You may want to bring an extra change of clothing and a towel to protect your car seat.

Background: Water chestnut can form dense, floating mats and choke the waterbody in shallow sections and along the shoreline – severely limiting light (a critical element of aquatic ecosystems) and reducing oxygen levels in the water. It competes with native vegetation and is of little value to wildlife. It also limits boating, fishing, swimming and other recreational activities.

For more information and to register, contact: Susi Ponce at azucena_ponce@fws.gov or 631.286.0485 x 153.

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