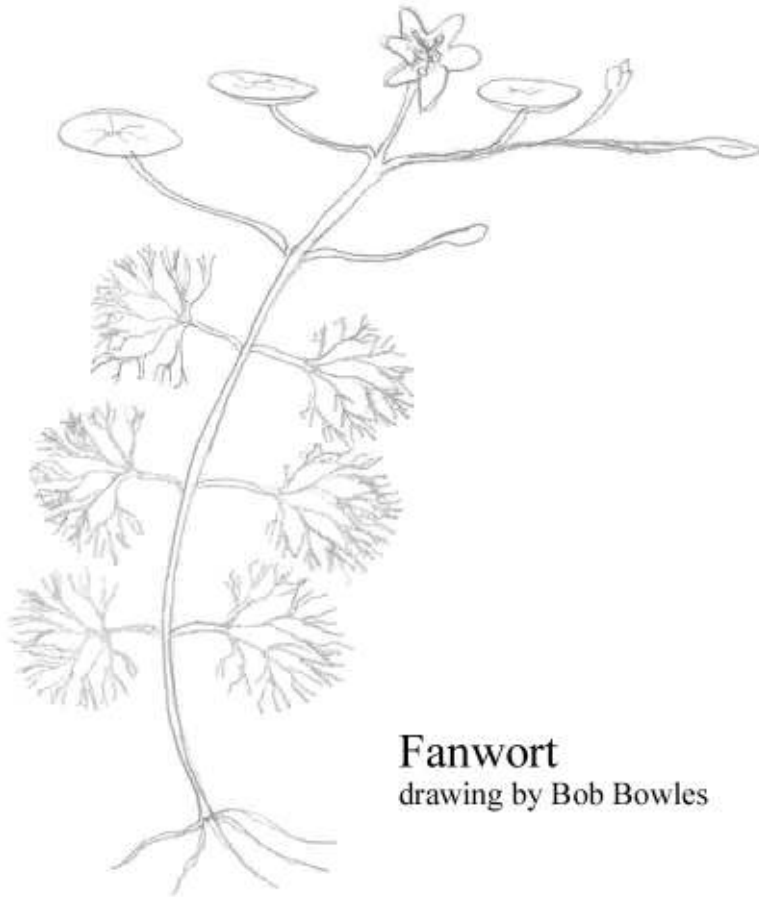




Kids For Turtles Environmental Education Invasive Species by Bob Bowles

**Fanwort  
(*Cabomba caroliniana*)**

Fanwort is a submersed, perennial freshwater plant native to the southeastern temperate climates of North and South America that is commonly sold in pet stores across North America as a common aquarium plant. It is now a serious threat outside its native range due to its very persistent and aggressive nature of forming dense stands in Ontario waters. These are the results of careless disposal of aquarium contents or cultivation in backyard ponds and pools. Once established it is spread vegetatively at the end of the growing season by stem fragmentation from recreational boating and infests new waterways. It was first discovered in Ontario in 1991 in Kasshabog Lake northeast of Peterborough but has since spread to the North River, South River and Big Mountain Lake in that area. Fanwort can be identified by its distinctive grass to olive green, underwater fan-shaped leaves which are finely divided and arranged opposite or in whorls along the stem. The floating leaves arranged alternately on the stem are small and round. These are usually topped by small yellow-centered flowers with five white petals. Similar plants include milfoils, water marigold and white water-buttercup. Watch for fanwort in shallow, stagnant or slow moving water areas with muddy bottoms or in ponds, sloughs and ditches. Some fish and waterfowl eat fanwort in its native range which can add to its dispersal. To learn more about the environment and protecting the world around us join Kids For Turtles Environmental Education. Information can be found at [www.kidsforturtles.com](http://www.kidsforturtles.com) or email [info@kidsforturtles.com](mailto:info@kidsforturtles.com). Family membership for 2008 is only \$15, call 325-3149. Your support is so important to us to continue our environmental education and outreach work.



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drawing by Bob Bowles