

1 July 2011

by Bill Harms on Friday, July 1, 2011 at 6:44pm

Spent 5 hours on the refuge today.



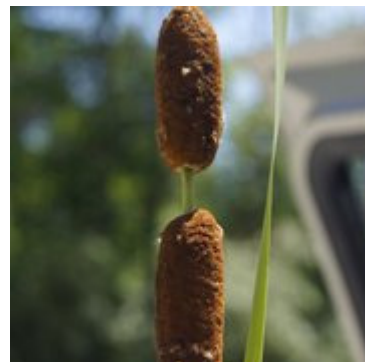
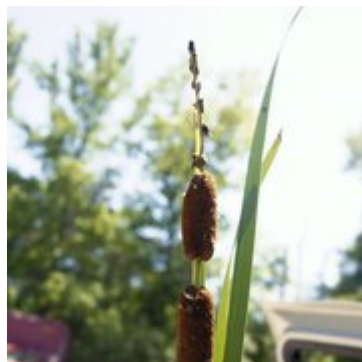
Short's Hedge Hyssop (*Gratiola viscidula* Pennell)

Decided to try something different and went out to the Blue Heron Pond. Along the west shore of the pond spotted some colonies of Short's Hedge Hyssop (*Gratiola viscidula* Pennell). It is listed as a Maryland state endangered (S1) plant. This member of the the Figwort Family (*Scrophulariaceae*) is found in 12 states and DC in Eastern USA and prefers soil that stays wet through the growing season. It was apparently planted because the colonies were fairly evenly spaced apart.



Narrow-leaf Cattail (*Typha angustifolia* L.)

On the south end of Blue Heron Pond, checked out the cattail growing beneath the berm in the swampy area. Spotted some Narrow-leaf Cattail (*Typha angustifolia* L.). This is the first time I have located Narrow-leaf Cattail on the North Tract. According to Hotchkiss, it was collected near the Duvall Bridge on the Central Tract. In addition to the narrower leaves, it is different from the Wide-leaf Cattail by its separation between the male and female flowers on the stalk.



Hybrid Cattail (*Typha* × *glauca* Godr. or *Typha angustifolia* × *latifolia*.)

Right next to the Narrow-leaf Cattail, spotted a colony of Hybrid Cattail (*Typha* × *glauca* Godr. or *Typha angustifolia* × *latifolia*.) This is a cross between the Wide-leaf Cattail and the Narrow-leaf

Cattail. Notice the gap in between the two groups of female flowers.



Drove back to the Contact Station via the South Road from the east end. Along the way decided to take a look at a colony of fern along side the road. I have tentatively identified as Spinulose Woodfern (*Dryopteris carthusiana* (Vill.) H.P. Fuchs). Collected a couple of good specimens and took some good photos, especially of the fern's sori (spore-producing bodies) on the underside of the fronds.



Corn Chamomille (*Anthemis arvensis* L.)

Along Telegraph Road just north of Wood Duck Pond, spotted several plants of Corn Chamomille (*Anthemis arvensis* L.). It is native to Europe, Western Asia, and Northern Africa, and is now naturalized to other parts of the world including North America. A tea can be made from this and other Chamomilles. This species is sometimes used as an ornamental. It is also called Mayweed, Scentless Chamomile, and Field Chamomile.