

## 4 June 2011

by [Bill Harms](#) on Saturday, June 4, 2011 at 8:43pm

Spent 8 hours on the refuge today.

First stop was the gravel pit complex behind New Pond and New Swamp. Ended up walking around Bullfrog Pond and Kingfisher Pond. In the process found some potentially interesting places to look around later.



Cranberry  
(*Vaccinium macrocarpon* L.)

Next to where I parked the truck by the Cranberry Bog on Kingfisher Pond, found some Cranberry (*Vaccinium macrocarpon* L.) in full bloom. The flowers have white petals that are reflexed backwards with the style and anthers exposed. The flowers remind me somewhat of darts. In the fall, the plants will produce the familiar cranberry.

Slogged along the edge of the pond for a bit and came upon some Maleberry (*Lyonia ligustrina* (L.) DC. The flowers are somewhat reminiscent

of blueberry flowers. In fact, they are both in the Heath Family (Ericaceae). However, the Maleberry fruit is dry and obviously inedible. There was a large patch of these shrubs between Kingfisher and Bullfrog Ponds. It is native to North America.



Maleberry  
(*Lyonia ligustrina* (L.) DC



Royal Fern  
(*Osmunda regalis* L.)

On the backside of Kingfisher Pond stumbled (literally) upon a patch of Royal Fern (*Osmunda regalis* L.). This fern likes the edge of ponds and swamps, which is where I found this patch. The spores are borne on fertile leaflets at the end of the fronds.



Royal Fern  
(*Osmunda regalis* L.)



Small Sundrops  
(*Oenothera perennis* L.)

After making my way back to the truck, drove over to the Cattail Pond. On the south end of the pond found some Small Sundrops (*Oenothera perennis* L.). It was in full bloom and was making a showy display. This native to North America is a member of the Evening Primrose Family (Onagraceae).

After lunch, accompanied by Ranger Jeff, visited the Lake Allen-Firing Range area. The Firing Ranges are part of the Refuge, so the plants located there are fair game for the project. The only problem that access is

storage, so the plans posted there are fair game for the project. The only problem with access is limited to the weekends, assuming that there is no hunting or weekend firing practice going on.



Persimmon  
(*Diopyros virginiana* L.)  
Flowers

On the south end of Lake Allen, there are several Persimmon (*Diopyros virginiana* L.) trees growing. There were in bloom when we stopped by. Last fall, I spotted one of the trees full with persimmon fruit.



Persimmon  
(*Diopyros virginiana* L.)  
Tree



Musk thistle or Nodding Thistle  
(*Carduus nutans* L.)

Along the BGE powerline right-of-way which is next to Maryland State Highway 32, spotted a small colony of Musk thistle or Nodding thistle (*Carduus nutans* L.) Its flower heads are rather showy. It is a native to Eurasia and was introduced to North America in the 19th Century. It is considered to be an invasive species in many states, including Maryland.

Before going home, took a quick trip over to the Drop Zone area on the north side of the North Tract. Along side of Wildlife Loop, spotted some Carolina or Pasture Rose (*Rosa carolina* L.) in a hedgerow. This native of North America is also found in several other locations on the North Tract. It prefers open sunny areas on the edge of woods. Its flowers are pink with five petals.



Carolina or Pasture Rose  
(*Rosa carolina* L.)

Good day. Nice weather.