

5 August 2011

by Bill Harms on Friday, August 5, 2011 at 9:02pm

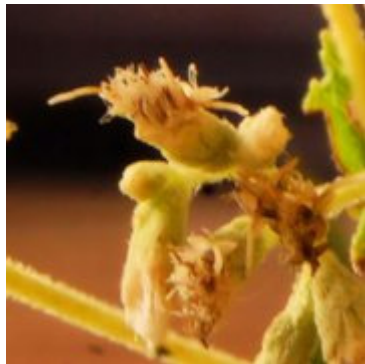
Spent 4 hours on the refuge today.



In the flower bed outside the back door at the Contact Station I have been keeping my eye on a plant called **Strawberry Groundcherry** (*Physalis alkekengi* L.). I was not sure exactly which species it was because it had not yet produced fruit, and the characteristics of the fruits in this group helps to nail down which species it is. Well, today, I took another look and found some immature fruit growing. Yes! I can now figure it out. This species is native in Eurasia from southern Europe all



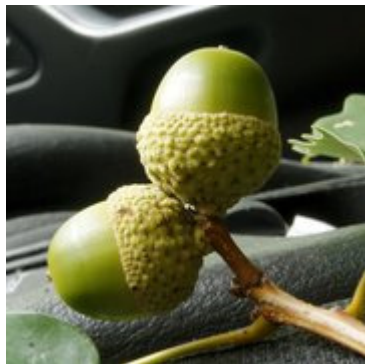
the way to Japan. Gardeners throughout the world grow this plant as an ornamental, and as a result it has become naturalized in North America. In the fall it will produce a small cherry-sized fruit (similar to a little tomato). It is also called **Bladder Cherry**, **Chinese Lantern**, **Japanese Lantern**, or **Winter Cherry**. This species will be a new record for the refuge.



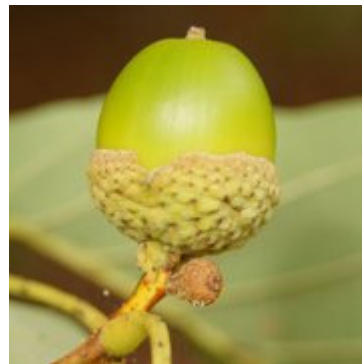
Along the Wildlife Loop in the BGE power line area, found some **Lesser Snakeroot** (*Ageratina aromatica* (L.) Spach.) in bloom. This member of the **Sunflower Flower Family** (*Asteraceae*) is native to much of the Eastern USA from New York and Massachusetts along the Coastal Plain to Florida and Louisiana and north to Ohio. It is similar to the **White Snakeroot** (*Ageratina altissima* (L.) King & H. Rob) which is also found on the North Tract and with which it sometimes hybridizes. The nedicel (leaf stem)



is shorter on the **Lesser Snakeroot**, The **Lesser Snakeroot** is usually found in open areas, while the **White Snakeroot** is usually found in woods. Previously, White Snakeroot was called *Eupatorium aromaticum* L.



Along South Road on the west end of the North Tract, saw some **Chestnut Oak** (*Quercus prinus* L.) trees with immature acorns. The **Chestnut Oak** is a white oak that is native to the Eastern USA from Maine to Georgia and from Louisiana to Michigan. It prefers growing on ridge tops throughout its range and that is where you can find it on the North Tract. It is a common canopy tree in Oak-Heath woods. The leaves are similar in shape to the **Chestnut Tree** (*Castanea* sp.) and



hence the name **Chestnut Oak**. Its acorns appear doubly or singly. In the case of single acorns, there is usually a small aborted acorn next to it.



Goldenrod (*Solidago* sp.)

