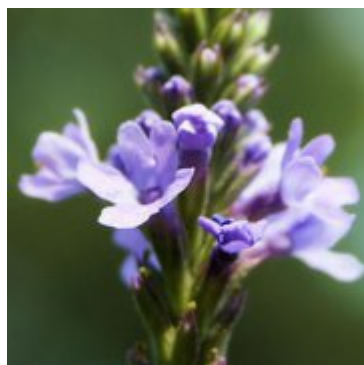


7 July 2011

by [Bill Harms](#) on Thursday, July 7, 2011 at 6:53pm

Spent 2 hours on the Refuge today.



Swamp Verbena
(*Verbena hastata* L.)

Today went directly to New Marsh. On the backside, found some **Swamp Verbena** (*Verbena hastata* L.). This plant likes to grow on the shores of lakes and ponds. It is an annual that can attain height of over 6 feet. Nurseries sometimes sell it, but it requires a fair amount of moisture to do well. There are three color forms of this species, purple which are pictured here, and pink and white which are rare. It is native to the 48 contiguous states and the lower tier of Canadian provinces, as well as Mexico.



Taperleaf Water Horehound
(*Lycopus rubellus* Moench) - Maybe

Nearby, spotted some Water Horehound (*Lycopus* spp.) just starting to bloom. It is difficult to key species out in this genus especially when they are blooming. It is usually best to wait until they produce seed. Even so, I have tentatively identified these plants as **Taperleaf Water Horehound** (*Lycopus rubellus* Moench) based on the shape of some of the flower parts and the shape of the leaves.



Green Bristle Grass

(*Setaria viridis* (L.) P. Beauv.) - Maybe

Stopped off at South Road Range, and spotted some grass plants that I have tentatively identified as **Green Bristle Grass** (*Setaria viridis* (L.) P. Beauv.). I will wait for confirmation before staking claim to this identification.



Christmas Fern

(*Polystichum acrostichoides* (Michx.) Schott)

Before heading back to the Contact Station, went down Wild Turkey Way to look for some **Christmas Fern** (*Polystichum acrostichoides* (Michx.) Schott), a plant that I had not yet collected for the survey. Got some good photos and specimens. This is an evergreen fern, one of the few in this area. The original settlers took advantage of the evergreen characteristic and used the fronds as holiday decorations. That is why it is called Christmas Fern. It is native to Eastern North American except for Newfoundland and occurs as far west as Texas, Kansas, and Minnesota. A related species, the **Western Sword Fern** (*Polystichum munitum* (Kaulf.) C. Presl) is sometimes called the **Christmas Fern's** Western Counterpart.

Temps in the low to mid-90's. Should be cooler and drier tomorrow after the passing of the cold front tonight.

Successful day with four species collected.