

9 July 2011

by Bill Harms on Saturday, July 9, 2011 at 7:37pm

Spent 5 hours on the Refuge today.



Swamp Loosestrife (*Decodon verticillatus* (L.) Elliott)

First stop was the Millrace Swamp. Spotted some **Swamp Loosestrife** (*Decodon verticillatus* (L.) Elliott) blooming offshore. After donning my wading boots, waded out a bit into the water, took some nice photos, and collected a specimen. **Swamp Loosestrife** is common in swamps in



Swamp Loosestrife (*Decodon verticillatus* (L.) Elliott)

the Eastern third of the USA and Canada, as well as Texas. There are several outlying populations in the Midwest. This attractive shrub grows in standing water and in mud with a high water table. It is sometimes called **Water Willow** or **Wild Oleander**.



Indian Pipe (*Monotropa uniflora* L.)

Continued on the road past the Millrace Swamp. Discovered some **Indian Pipe** (*Monotropa uniflora* L.) on the bluff forest. The problem was that the plants were on the other side of the fence. So, I had to look for an opening in the fence. I found one where a tree had fallen



Indian Pipe (*Monotropa uniflora* L.)

over the fence. After crossing the fence discovered that the **Indian Pipe** was all over! Unfortunately, there were the deer flies which seemed to find every place that I did not apply DEET; a couple of them even succeeded in biting me through my clothes! They are blood suckers and their bites can be painful.

Indian Pipe is found in Asia, North America, and Northern South America. There are large gaps in its distribution. It contains no chlorophyll, but is parasitic on certain fungi which in turn have a symbiotic relationship with trees. Since it contains no chlorophyll, these plants can be found in the darkest parts of woods. The plants are normally white, but occasionally they are pink or even rarely red. The plants do not retain their color but turn black when pressed for specimens.



Next decided to search along South Road for newly blooming plants. Spotted some **Creeping Lespedeza** (*Lespedeza repens* (L.) W. Bartram) blooming just east of the BGE Powerline Right-of-way. This member of the Pea Family



Creeping Lespedeza (*Lespedeza repens* (L.) W. Bartram)

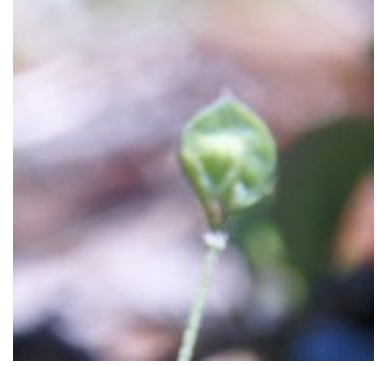


Creeping Lespedeza (*Lespedeza repens* (L.) W. Bartram)

of the Fabaceae family (**Fabaceae**) is found throughout the Eastern Half of the USA. It is distinguished from the similar **Trailing Lespedeza** (*Lespedeza procumbens* Michx.) by the appressed (flat laying) hairs on the plant's stem.

It is also called the **Smooth Trailing Bush Clover** or **Creeping Bush Clover**.

Creeping Lespedeza (*Lespedeza repens* (L.) W. Bartram)



Creeping Lespedeza (*Lespedeza repens* (L.) W. Bartram)



Poor Joe (*Diodia teres* Walter)

Further down the road spotted a colony of **Poor Joe** (*Diodia teres* Walter). This member of the **Madder** Family (*Rubiaceae*) is found from Southern California east to Florida to north to parts of New England and then west to Michigan and



Poor Joe (*Diodia teres* Walter)

Wisconsin. It is absent in the Northwest USA and Northern Great Plains. It prefers dry well-drained areas with poor soil and hence is commonly found in sand dunes and disturbed areas. It can tolerate moister conditions, but is easily crowded out by other plants. This little plant is not very showy and easily overlooked because the flowers bloom in the leaf axils next to the stems. It is sometimes called **Rough Buttonweed**.