

## **Survey of Understory Plant Diversity in Mature Bottomland Hardwood Tracts in the Mississippi Delta**

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Report

05 December 2012

[ [corrections to Appendix 1; 10 October 2014](#) ]

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05 December 2012 [Appendix 1 corrected 10/20/14]

### **Background:**

The landscape of the Lower Mississippi Alluvial Valley (LMAV) has been altered drastically by flood-control levees and conversion of ~74% of the former bottomland forests to agricultural croplands, with significant loss of important ecosystem services. In the past few decades, large-scale efforts have sought to restore bottomland hardwood forest on marginal croplands across the LMAV. Previous research has evaluated reforestation methods with respect to tree-planting success, rate of forest overstory development, and natural colonization by non-planted tree species. However, the extent to which restoration approaches have recovered ecosystem functions more broadly has not been well studied.

As part of the Natural Resources Conservation Service's "Conservation Effects Assessment Project" (CEAP)<sup>1</sup>, a recent study by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) evaluated Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) sites in comparison to cropland sites and natural bottomland forest sites in Arkansas and Louisiana to determine if the conservation program is achieving gains in ecosystem services such as sediment and nutrient retention, carbon storage, wildlife habitat, and tree biodiversity<sup>2</sup>. Additional work will continue these analyses to focus on understory plant communities. As part of a collaborative study with the USGS, a 2012 study of MS forest sites was conducted to augment the existing datasets and allow for comparisons of understory plant composition between WRP sites and remnant bottomland hardwood forests across a multi-state area.

### **Purpose of Survey:**

This research was designed to collect data on the understory plant composition of remnant bottomland hardwood forest tracts on accessible public lands in the LMAV region of Mississippi. Data from this survey will be analyzed with other existing data to achieve a regional comparison of understory vegetation in restored WRP sites and remnant bottomland forests of the LMAV.

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<sup>1</sup> CEAP is an ongoing, multi-component national assessment of environmental benefits of Farm Bill conservation programs. [www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/technical/nra/ceap](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/technical/nra/ceap)

<sup>2</sup> Faulkner, S. et al. 2010. *Regional Estimates of Ecological Services Derived from U.S. Department of Agriculture Conservation Programs in the Mississippi Alluvial Valley*. Final Report. US Geological Survey, National Wetlands Research Center, Lafayette, LA. 97 pp.  
[http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE\\_DOCUMENTS/nrcs143\\_013599.pdf](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/nrcs143_013599.pdf)

## **Methods:**

Potential remnant forest sites across the MS Delta were screened for accessibility, size (>40 ha (100 ac)), stand age ( $\geq$ 60-70 yrs), and being relatively intact with no large-scale or recent disturbance. Ten sites on public lands within the National Forest, National Wildlife Refuges (NWR), and State Wildlife Management Areas (WMA) were selected based on these criteria (Table 1 and Appendix 1).

**Table 1. Sampled Sites (County), by Delta Area**

North Delta area	South Delta area
Dahomey NWR (Bolivar) [2 sites]	Morgan Brake NWR (Holmes)
O'Keefe WMA (Quitman)	Yazoo NWR (Washington)
Malmaison WMA (Grenada)	Delta Natl. Forest (Sharkey) [2 sites]
	LeRoy Percy WMA (Washington)
	Mahannah WMA (Issaquena)

Sites were surveyed during July-August 2012. Vegetation sampling was conducted along two 300-m transects per site (except for 1 site where 3 transects [300-m plus two 150-m] were used). Understory plant composition was sampled at points spaced 30 m apart on each transect, up to a total of 20 points per site. At each point, two 1-m<sup>2</sup> quadrats were placed at random directions and distances from the transect line, giving a total of 40 quadrats per site. All herbaceous species, ground-layer woody vines, and woody shrub/tree stems < 30 cm tall were recorded in each quadrat, along with their respective cover-classes (Daubenmire scale).

For consistency with AR and LA data, overstory and midstory vegetation was sampled at 5 points per MS site, with 2 or 3 points per transect and a distance of  $\geq$  90 m between points. Overstory tree species (dbh  $\geq$  10 cm) were tallied in a 400-m<sup>2</sup> circular plot at each point. Mid-story trees and shrubs (dbh 2.5–10 cm) were tallied in two 20-m<sup>2</sup> circular subplots nested within each large plot. Any occurrences of rivercane (*Arundinaria gigantea*) and palmetto (*Sabal minor*) were also tallied in the midstory subplots.

Species lists were developed for each site and are included as Appendix 1 (pp. 6–15). A combined species list with common names is in Appendix 2 (pp. 16–18).

## **Preliminary Findings:**

The MS surveys of understory vegetation yielded a total of 107 plant species, consisting of 60 herbaceous species and 47 woody species. This probably underestimated understory diversity in these forests, since the late-summer survey likely missed some early-spring herbaceous flora. Of the total species, there were 42% forbs, 18% graminoids (grasses and sedges), 18% woody vines, and 27% tree and shrub species. In AR and LA, an average of 72 understory species per state had been recorded (from 8 sites per state), with a similar compositional profile of 31% forbs, 14% graminoids, 19% vines, 35% tree and shrub species, plus 1% aquatic species.

The MS surveys detected a total of 30 tree species in the overstory and midstory; 90% of these also occurred in the previously sampled AR/LA forest sites (Table 2). On average, the tree species similarity (based on Coefficient of Community) between MS vs. AR/LA samples was 72%. This verifies that the surveyed MS bottomland forest tracts are generally comparable to the AR/LA sites sampled previously.

#### **Future Analyses:**

The previous LMAV dataset encompassed natural bottomland forests in AR and LA, plus WRP sites in all three states (AR, LA, MS). The present study of MS forests has successfully augmented the LMAV dataset to allow a comprehensive analysis across the 3-state area. Forest sites and WRP sites will be compared to determine if the restorations are developing toward an understory composition similar to that of natural bottomland sites. Species will be classed by wetland indicator category (wetland, facultative, upland), growth forms (forb, graminoid, woody vine, etc.), or other traits. Quantitative vegetation descriptors for each site (e.g., species richness, percentages and relative abundances of hydrophytic species, wetland species, and growth forms) will be analyzed for effects of treatment (restored vs. natural) as well as river basin (state). Floristic data (species-by-site matrix) will be further analyzed using multivariate techniques (e.g., ordination, indicator species analysis) to test for more detailed compositional differences between restored and natural sites. The study findings will support the national goals of NRCS-CEAP to assess the ecological outcomes of Farm Bill conservation programs.

#### **Acknowledgements:**

For their assistance in site selection and access, we thank David Linden, Lamar Dorris, and Mike Rich of the Theodore Roosevelt NWR Complex, Eva Kristofik and Becky Rosamond of Dahomey NWR, Brad Holder and Jackie Fleeman of the MDWFP, and Ralph Pearce of the Delta NF. We also thank Carl Smith and Ben Maddox of the USFS Center for Bottomland Hardwoods Research for assistance in field surveys.

**Table 2. Tree species found in the overstory and midstory of natural bottomland forest sites in AR, LA, and MS.**

Species	Overstory Stratum			Midstory Stratum		
	AR	LA	MS	AR	LA	MS
<i>Acer negundo</i>	X	X	X	X	X	
<i>Acer rubrum</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X
<i>Acer saccharum</i>	X			X		
<i>Asimina triloba</i>				X		X
<i>Betula nigra</i>	X			X		
<i>Carpinus caroliniana</i>	X			X		
<i>Carya aquatica</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X
<i>Carya cordiformis</i>				X		
<i>Carya illinoinensis</i>	X		X	X		
<i>Carya laciniosa</i>	X			X		
<i>Carya ovata</i>	X		X	X		X
<i>Celtis laevigata</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X
<i>Cercis canadensis</i>			X			
<i>Cornus drummondii</i>			X			X
<i>Cornus foemina (C. stricta)</i>			X	X	X	X
<i>Crataegus spp. (viridis, marshallii, sp.)</i>	X	X	X	X	X	
<i>Diospyros virginiana</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X
<i>Forestiera acuminata</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X
<i>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X
<i>Fraxinus profunda</i>	X	X		X	X	
<i>Gleditsia aquatica</i>	X	X		X	X	
<i>Gleditsia triacanthos</i>	X	X		X	X	
<i>Ilex decidua</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X
<i>Ligustrum sinense</i>				X		
<i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X
<i>Morus rubra</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X
<i>Nyssa aquatica</i>	X		X	X		X
<i>Planera aquatica</i>	X		X	X		
<i>Platanus occidentalis</i>	X	X	X	X	X	
<i>Populus deltoides</i>			X			
<i>Prunus serotina</i>				X		
<i>Quercus falcata</i>	X	X		X	X	
<i>Quercus laurifolia</i>	X	X		X	X	
<i>Quercus lyrata</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X
<i>Quercus michauxii</i>			X	X		X
<i>Quercus nigra</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X
<i>Quercus pagoda</i>		X	X		X	
<i>Quercus phellos</i>	X	X	X	X	X	
<i>Quercus shumardii</i>		X			X	
<i>Quercus texana (Q. nuttallii)</i>	X	X	X	X	X	
<i>Quercus velutina</i>		X			X	
<i>Salix nigra</i>			X			
<i>Sassafras albidum</i>	X	X		X	X	
<i>Taxodium distichum</i>	X	X	X	X	X	
<i>Tilia americana</i>		X			X	
<i>Ulmus alata</i>				X		
<i>Ulmus americana</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X
<i>Ulmus crassifolia</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X

Note: Nine shrub species are not included. AR/LA data are from Faulkner et al. 2010 (see footnote 2).

## **Appendix 1**

**Site-specific location, sampling information,  
and plant species encountered during survey**

[ corrections on pp. 5–7, 9, 11]

<u>Site</u>	<u>Page</u>
Dahomey NWR ( <a href="#">NW</a> )*	6
Dahomey NWR ( <a href="#">N</a> )*	7
Delta National Forest (N)	8
Delta National Forest (S)	9
Leroy Percy WMA	10
Mahannah WMA	11
Malmaison WMA	12
Morgan Brake NWR	13
O'Keefe WMA	14
Yazoo NWR	15

\* labels corrected

Site: Dahomey National Wildlife Refuge (NW) [corrected]

Location Sampled: Compartment 1

Surveyed: 20 August 2012

Locations of transect starting points (Easting, Northing) {WGS84 UTM15N} and directions traveled:

1- 690004E 3736866N 180°  
2- 689956E 3736495N 90°

Understory species found:

<i>Asimina triloba</i>	<i>Gleditsia triacanthos</i>	<i>Rubus trivialis</i>
<i>Bignonia capreolata</i>	<i>Justicia ovata</i>	<i>Ruellia strepens</i>
<i>Boehmeria cylindrica</i>	<i>Lactuca floridana</i>	<i>Smilax rotundifolia</i>
<i>Campsis radicans</i>	<i>Leersia virginica</i>	<i>Teucrium canadense</i>
<i>Carex frankii</i>	<i>Lonicera japonica</i>	<i>Toxicodendron radicans</i>
<i>Carex tribuloides</i>	<i>Ludwigia glandulosa</i>	<i>Trachelospermum difforme</i>
<i>Celtis laevigata</i>	<i>Parthenocissus quinquefolia</i>	<i>Ulmus americana</i>
<i>Diospyros virginiana</i>	<i>Polygonum virginianum</i>	<i>Ulmus crassifolia</i>
<i>Erechtites hieracifolia</i>	<i>Quercus michauxii</i>	Unknown Poaceae species
<i>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</i>	<i>Quercus nuttallii (Q. texana)</i>	
<i>Geum canadense</i>	<i>Quercus phellos</i>	

Overstory and midstory species [corrected]:

*Arundinaria gigantea*  
*Asimina triloba*  
*Carya illinoiensis*  
*Celtis laevigata*  
*Cornus foemina (stricta)*  
*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*  
*Liquidambar styraciflua*  
*Quercus lyrata*  
*Quercus michauxii*  
*Quercus nigra*  
*Quercus nuttallii (Q. texana)*  
*Quercus pagoda*  
*Quercus phellos*  
*Ulmus americana*  
*Ulmus crassifolia*

Site: Dahomey National Wildlife Refuge (N) [corrected]

Location sampled: Compartment 3

Surveyed: 17 July 2012

Locations of transect starting points (Easting, Northing) {WGS84 UTM15N} and directions traveled:

1- 693585E 3733506N 270°  
2- 693452E 3733798N 270°

Understory species found:

<i>Ambrosia trifida</i>	<i>Cocculus carolinus</i>	<i>Sanicula canadensis</i>
<i>Ampelopsis arborea</i>	<i>Dichanthelium commutatum</i>	<i>Smilax bona-nox</i>
<i>Aristolochia serpentaria</i>	<i>Elymus virginicus</i>	<i>Smilax rotundifolia</i>
<i>Berchemia scandens</i>	<i>Erechtites hieracifolia</i>	<i>Toxicodendron radicans</i>
<i>Bignonia capreolata</i>	<i>Ilex decidua</i>	<i>Trachelospermum difforme</i>
<i>Brunnichia ovata</i>	<i>Justicia ovata</i>	<i>Ulmus crassifolia</i>
<i>Campsis radicans</i>	<i>Leersia lenticularis</i>	Unknown moss species 2
<i>Carex cherokeensis</i>	<i>Lonicera japonica</i>	Unknown herb species
<i>Carex crus-corvi</i>	<i>Morus rubra</i>	Unknown Poaceae species
<i>Carex frankii</i>	<i>Parthenocissus quinquefolia</i>	<i>Vernonia gigantea</i>
<i>Carex tribuloides</i>	<i>Polygonum virginianum</i>	<i>Viola</i> species
<i>Celtis laevigata</i>	<i>Quercus phellos</i>	<i>Vitis rotundifolia</i>

Overstory and midstory species [corrected]:

*Carya aquatica*  
*Celtis laevigata*  
*Cercis canadensis*  
*Cornus foemina (stricta)*  
*Crataegus viridis*  
*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*  
*Ilex decidua*  
*Quercus lyrata*  
*Quercus nigra*  
*Quercus nuttallii (Q. texana)*  
*Quercus pagoda*  
*Quercus phellos*  
*Ulmus americana*  
*Ulmus crassifolia*

**Site: Delta National Forest (N)**

Location sampled: Compartment 11, Green Ash Natural Area                      Surveyed: 28 August 2012

Locations of transect starting points (Easting, Northing) {WGS84 UTM15N} and directions traveled:

1- 709571E 3640316N 90°  
2- 709549E 3640726N 90°

Understory species found:

<i>Acer negundo</i>	<i>Celtis laevigata</i>	<i>Smilax rotundifolia</i>
<i>Acer rubrum</i>	<i>Cocculus carolinus</i>	<i>Smilax tamnoides (hispida)</i>
<i>Ampelopsis arborea</i>	<i>Cornus foemina (stricta)</i>	<i>Styrax americanus</i>
<i>Aristolochia serpentaria</i>	<i>Ilex decidua</i>	<i>Toxicodendron radicans</i>
<i>Berchemia scandens</i>	<i>Leersia lenticularis</i>	<i>Trachelospermum difforme</i>
<i>Brunnichia ovata</i>	<i>Quercus nuttallii (Q. texana)</i>	<i>Ulmus americana</i>
<i>Campsis radicans</i>	<i>Rubus trivialis</i>	<i>Vitis cinerea</i>
<i>Carex frankii</i>	<i>Smilax bona-nox</i>	<i>Wisteria frutescens</i>

Overstory and midstory species:

*Acer negundo*  
*Carya aquatica*  
*Celtis laevigata*  
*Crataegus viridis*  
*Diospyros virginiana*  
*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*  
*Ilex decidua*  
*Quercus nuttallii (Q. texana)*  
*Taxodium distichum*  
*Ulmus americana*

Site: Delta National Forest (S)

Location sampled: Compartment 36

Surveyed: 14 August 2012

Locations of transect starting points (Easting, Northing) {WGS84 UTM15N} and directions traveled:

- 1- 706103E 3623718N    270° [corrected]  
2- 706677E 3623282N    270° [corrected]

Understory species found:

<i>Acalypha</i> sp. ( <i>virginica</i> )	<i>Desmodium</i> species 2	<i>Rubus trivialis</i>
<i>Ampelopsis arborea</i>	<i>Dioclea multiflora</i>	<i>Smilax bona-nox</i>
<i>Aristolochia serpentaria</i>	<i>Diospyros virginiana</i>	<i>Smilax rotundifolia</i>
<i>Berchemia scandens</i>	<i>Galium</i> species 2	<i>Smilax tamnoides (hispida)</i>
<i>Boehmeria cylindrica</i>	<i>Ilex decidua</i>	<i>Spermacoce glabra</i>
<i>Brunnichia ovata</i>	<i>Leersia lenticularis</i>	<i>Styrax americanus</i>
<i>Campsis radicans</i>	<i>Ludwigia glandulosa</i>	<i>Toxicodendron radicans</i>
<i>Carex</i> species2	<i>Penthorum sedoides</i>	<i>Trachelospermum difforme</i>
<i>Celtis laevigata</i>	<i>Plantago rugelii</i>	<i>Trepocarpus aethusae</i>
<i>Clematis crispa</i>	<i>Polygonum cespitosum</i>	<i>Ulmus americana</i>
<i>Coccus carolinus</i>	<i>Polygonum hydropiperoides</i>	Unknown lactuca-like herb
<i>Crataegus viridis</i>	<i>Quercus nuttallii (Q. texana)</i>	<i>Vitis cinerea</i>

Overstory and midstory species:

<i>Celtis laevigata</i>
<i>Crataegus viridis</i>
<i>Diospyros virginiana</i>
<i>Forestiera acuminata</i>
<i>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</i>
<i>Ilex decidua</i>
<i>Planera aquatica</i>
<i>Quercus lyrata</i>
<i>Quercus nuttallii (Q. texana)</i>
<i>Taxodium distichum</i>
<i>Ulmus americana</i>

Site: **Leroy Percy Wildlife Management Area**

Locations sampled: South of MS Hwy 12

Surveyed: 25 July 2012

Locations of transect starting points (Easting, Northing) {WGS84 UTM15N} and directions traveled:

- |    |         |          |      |
|----|---------|----------|------|
| 1- | 691778E | 3669995N | 90°  |
| 2- | 692525E | 3670585N | 180° |

Understory species found:

<i>Ampelopsis arborea</i>	<i>Diospyros virginiana</i>	<i>Rubus argutus</i>
<i>Amsonia tabernaemontana</i>	<i>Elymus virginicus</i>	<i>Rubus trivialis</i>
<i>Berchemia scandens</i>	<i>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</i>	<i>Sanicula canadensis</i>
<i>Bignonia capreolata</i>	<i>Ilex decidua</i>	<i>Smilax rotundifolia</i>
<i>Brunnichia ovata</i>	<i>Justicia ovata</i>	<i>Styrax americanus</i>
<i>Campsis radicans</i>	<i>Lactuca floridana</i>	<i>Toxicodendron radicans</i>
<i>Carex tribuloides</i>	<i>Leersia lenticularis</i>	<i>Trachelospermum difforme</i>
<i>Celtis laevigata</i>	<i>Oxalis florida (dillenii)</i>	<i>Viola species</i>
<i>Dichanthelium commutatum</i>	<i>Quercus nuttallii (Q. texana)</i>	<i>Vitis rotundifolia</i>

Overstory and midstory species:

<i>Carya aquatica</i>
<i>Celtis laevigata</i>
<i>Cornus foemina (stricta)</i>
<i>Diospyros virginiana</i>
<i>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</i>
<i>Ilex decidua</i>
<i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i>
<i>Morus rubra</i>
<i>Quercus lyrata</i>
<i>Quercus nuttallii (Q. texana)</i>
<i>Quercus phellos</i>
<i>Ulmus americana</i>
<i>Ulmus crassifolia</i>

Site: **Mahannah Wildlife Management Area**

Locations sampled: West refuge north and south of Anderson Tully Road. Surveyed: 15 August 2012

Locations of transect starting points (Easting, Northing) {WGS84 UTM15N} and directions traveled:

- 1- 693346E 3603256N 0° [corrected]  
2- 692971E 3602563N 90° [corrected]

Understory species found:

<i>Brunnichia ovata</i>	<i>Forestiera acuminata</i>	<i>Quercus nuttallii (Q. texana)</i>
<i>Campsis radicans</i>	<i>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</i>	<i>Rhynchospora corniculata</i>
<i>Carex</i> species	<i>Gleditsia aquatica</i>	<i>Toxicodendron radicans</i>
<i>Carya aquatica</i>	<i>Ilex decidua</i>	<i>Trachelospermum difforme</i>
<i>Celtis laevigata</i>	<i>Leersia lenticularis</i>	<i>Vitis palmate</i>
<i>Clematis crispa</i>	<i>Polygonum punctatum</i>	
<i>Diospyros virginiana</i>	<i>Quercus lyrata</i>	

Overstory and midstory species:

<i>Carya aquatica</i>
<i>Celtis laevigata</i>
<i>Diospyros virginiana</i>
<i>Forestiera acuminata</i>
<i>Quercus lyrata</i>
<i>Quercus nuttallii (Q. texana)</i>

Site: **Malmaison Wildlife Management Area**

Locations sampled: Compartments 2 and 4

Surveyed: 1 & 7 August 2012

Locations of transect starting points (Easting, Northing) {WGS84 UTM15N} and directions traveled:

1- 768787E 3732183N 90°  
2- 771406E 3733585N 0°

Understory species found:

<i>Arisaema dracontium</i>	<i>Elymus virginicus</i>	<i>Sambucus canadensis</i>
<i>Bignonia capreolata</i>	<i>Erechtites hieracifolia</i>	<i>Sanicula canadensis</i>
<i>Boehmeria cylindrica</i>	<i>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</i>	<i>Saururus cernuus</i>
<i>Brunnichia ovata</i>	<i>Ilex decidua</i>	<i>Smilax bona-nox</i>
<i>Campsis radicans</i>	<i>Justicia ovata</i>	<i>Smilax rotundifolia</i>
<i>Carex cherokeensis</i>	<i>Leersia lenticularis</i>	<i>Smilax tamnoides (hispida)</i>
<i>Carex crus-corvi</i>	<i>Lysimachia radicans</i>	<i>Taxodium distichum</i>
<i>Carex intumescens</i>	<i>Onoclea sensibilis</i>	<i>Toxicodendron radicans</i>
<i>Carex tribuloides</i>	<i>Phanopyrum gymnocarpon</i>	<i>Trachelospermum difforme</i>
<i>Celtis laevigata</i>	<i>Polygonum virginianum</i>	<i>Ulmus americana</i>
<i>Cersis canadensis</i>	<i>Quercus michauxii</i>	Unknown Poaceae species2
<i>Chasmanthium latifolium</i>	<i>Quercus nigra</i>	<i>Viola species</i>
<i>Commelina virginica</i>	<i>Quercus phellos</i>	<i>Vitis rotundifolia</i>
<i>Dioeclea multiflora</i>	<i>Rubus argutus</i>	
<i>Diospyros virginiana</i>	<i>Rubus trivialis</i>	

Overstory and midstory species:

*Acer negundo*  
*Acer rubrum*  
*Carya aquatica*  
*Celtis laevigata*  
*Forestiera acuminata*  
*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*  
*Ilex decidua*  
*Liquidambar styraciflua*  
*Nyssa aquatica*  
*Planera aquatica*  
*Platanus occidentalis*  
*Quercus lyrata*  
*Quercus phellos*  
*Taxodium distichum*  
*Ulmus americana*  
*Ulmus crassifolia*

Site: **Morgan Brake National Wildlife Refuge**

Location sampled: North refuge east of US Hwy 49

Surveyed: 24 July 2012

Locations of transect starting points (Easting, Northing) {WGS84 UTM15N} and directions traveled :

1- 758497E 3682645N 90°  
2- 758600E 3681228N 50°

Understory species found:

<i>Arisaema dracontium</i>	<i>Cocculus carolinus</i>	<i>Smilax rotundifolia</i>
<i>Berchemia scandens</i>	<i>Dichanthelium commutatum</i>	<i>Styrax americanus</i>
<i>Bignonia capreolata</i>	<i>Dioctria multiflora</i>	<i>Toxicodendron radicans</i>
<i>Boehmeria cylindrica</i>	<i>Erechtites hieracifolia</i>	<i>Trachelospermum difforme</i>
<i>Botrychium biternatum</i>	<i>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</i>	<i>Ulmus americana</i>
<i>Brunnichia ovata</i>	<i>Ilex decidua</i>	<i>Ulmus crassifolia</i>
<i>Campsis radicans</i>	<i>Ipomea species</i>	<i>Viola species</i>
<i>Carex frankii</i>	<i>Quercus phellos</i>	<i>Vitis rotundifolia</i>
<i>Carex tribuloides</i>	<i>Rubus argutus</i>	
<i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i>	<i>Sanicula canadensis</i>	

Overstory and midstory species:

*Acer rubrum*  
*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*  
*Ilex decidua*  
*Liquidambar styraciflua*  
*Morus rubra*  
*Nyssa aquatica*  
*Quercus lyrata*  
*Quercus nuttallii (Q. texana)*  
*Quercus phellos*  
*Taxodium distichum*  
*Ulmus americana*  
*Ulmus crassifolia*

**Site: O'Keefe Wildlife Management Area**

Location sampled: Compartment 2

Surveyed: 31 July 2012

Locations of transect starting points (Easting, Northing) {WGS84 UTM15N} and directions traveled:

1- 749970E 3780317N 180°  
2- 750427E 3779085N 270°

Understory species found:

<i>Acer rubrum</i>	<i>Diospyros virginiana</i>	<i>Styrax americanus</i>
<i>Bignonia capreolata</i>	<i>Justicia ovata</i>	<i>Toxicodendron radicans</i>
<i>Campsis radicans</i>	<i>Leersia lenticularis</i>	<i>Trachelospermum difforme</i>
<i>Carex crus-corvi</i>	<i>Polygonum virginianum</i>	<i>Ulmus crassifolia</i>
<i>Carex intumescens</i>	<i>Quercus nuttallii (Q. texana)</i>	<i>Viola species</i>
<i>Carex tribuloides</i>	<i>Quercus phellos</i>	<i>Vitis palmata</i>
<i>Celtis laevigata</i>	<i>Smilax rotundifolia</i>	

Overstory and midstory species:

*Acer rubrum*  
*Carya aquatica*  
*Carya ovata*  
*Celtis laevigata*  
*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*  
*Liquidambar styraciflua*  
*Populus deltoides*  
*Quercus lyrata*  
*Quercus nigra*  
*Quercus nuttallii (Q. texana)*  
*Quercus phellos*  
*Ulmus americana*  
*Ulmus crassifolia*

Site: **Yazoo National Wildlife Refuge**

Location sampled: Lizard Lake

Surveyed: 8 August 2012

Locations of transect starting points (Easting, Northing) {WGS84 UTM15N} and directions traveled:

1-	688683E	3661270N	335°
2-	688882E	3662119N	320°
3-	689028E	3662100N	55°

Understory species found:

<i>Acalypha virginica</i>	<i>Forestiera acuminata</i>	<i>Polygonum virginianum</i>
<i>Acer negundo</i>	<i>Geum canadense</i>	<i>Quercus nuttallii (Q. texana)</i>
<i>Ampelopsis arborea</i>	<i>Gleditsia aquatica</i>	<i>Quercus phellos</i>
<i>Aristolochia serpentaria</i>	<i>Ilex decidua</i>	<i>Rubus argutus</i>
<i>Bignonia capreolata</i>	<i>Justicia ovata</i>	<i>Sanicula canadensis</i>
<i>Boehmeria cylindrica</i>	<i>Leersia lenticularis</i>	<i>Sassafras albidum</i>
<i>Brunnichia ovata</i>	<i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i>	<i>Smilax bona-nox</i>
<i>Carex crus-corvi</i>	<i>Lycopus virginicus</i>	<i>Smilax rotundifolia</i>
<i>Carex frankii</i>	<i>Microstegium vimineum</i>	<i>Styrax americanus</i>
<i>Carex tribuloides</i>	<i>Morus rubra</i>	<i>Toxicodendron radicans</i>
<i>Carya aquatica</i>	<i>Parthenocissus quinquefolia</i>	<i>Ulmus americana</i>
<i>Celtis laevigata</i>	<i>Phytolacca americana</i>	<i>Ulmus crassifolia</i>
<i>Coccus carolinus</i>	<i>Pilea pumila</i>	<i>Vitis aestivalis</i>
<i>Diospyros virginiana</i>	<i>Polygonum setaceum</i>	<i>Vitis rotundifolia</i>

Overstory and midstory species:

*Acer negundo*  
*Carya aquatica*  
*Celtis laevigata*  
*Diospyros virginiana*  
*Forestiera acuminata*  
*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*  
*Liquidambar styraciflua*  
*Quercus nuttallii (Q. texana)*  
*Salix nigra*  
*Styrax americanus*  
*Taxodium distichum*  
*Ulmus americana*  
*Ulmus crassifolia*

**Appendix 2**  
**Scientific and Common Names of Plants Found in Survey. (E) = exotic species**

Species Name	Common Name	Reg. 2 Wetland Indicator
<i>Acalypha</i> sp.	Threeseed Mercury	FACU-
<i>Acer negundo</i>	Box Elder	FACW
<i>Acer rubrum</i>	Red Maple	OBL
<i>Ambrosia trifida</i>	Great Ragweed	FAC
<i>Ampelopsis arborea</i>	Pepper Vine	FAC+
<i>Amsonia tabernaemontana</i>	Eastern Bluestar	FACW
<i>Arisaema dracontium</i>	Green Dragon	FACW
<i>Aristolochia serpentaria</i>	Virginia Snakeroot	FACU
<i>Arundinaria gigantea</i>	Rivercane	FACW
<i>Asimina triloba</i>	Pawpaw	FAC
<i>Berchemia scandens</i>	Alabama Supplejack	FACW
<i>Bignonia capreolata</i>	Crossvine	FAC
<i>Boehmeria cylindrica</i>	Smallspike False Nettle	FACW+
<i>Botrychium biternatum</i>	Grape Fern	FAC
<i>Brunnichia ovata</i>	Red Vine	FACW
<i>Campsis radicans</i>	Trumpet Creeper	FAC
<i>Carex cherokeensis</i>	Cherokee Sedge	FACW-
<i>Carex crus-corvi</i>	Ravenfoot Sedge	OBL
<i>Carex frankii</i>	Frank's Sedge	OBL
<i>Carex intumescens</i>	Greater Bladder Sedge	FACW
<i>Carex</i> sp.	Sedge	.
<i>Carex tribuloides</i>	Blunt Broomsedge	FACW+
<i>Carya aquatica</i>	Bitternut Hickory	OBL
<i>Carya illinoiensis</i>	Sweet Pecan	FAC+
<i>Carya ovata</i>	Shagbark Hickory	FACU
<i>Celtis laevigata</i>	Sugarberry	FACW
<i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i>	Buttonbush	OBL
<i>Cercis canadensis</i>	Redbud	FACU
<i>Chasmanthium latifolium</i>	Indian Woodoats	FAC-
<i>Clematis crispa</i>	Swamp Leather Flower	FACW+
<i>Cocculus carolinus</i>	Carolina Coralbead	FAC
<i>Commelinia virginica</i>	Virginia Dayflower	FACW
<i>Cornus foemina (C. stricta)</i>	Swamp Dogwood	FACW-
<i>Crataegus viridis</i>	Green Hawthorn	FACW
<i>Desmodium</i> sp.	Ticktrefoil	FACU
<i>Dichanthelium commutatum</i>	Variable Panicgrass	FAC
<i>Dioclea multiflora</i>	Hog Peanut	FAC+
<i>Diospyros virginiana</i>	Common Persimmon	FAC
<i>Elymus virginicus</i>	Virginia Wildrye	FAC

**Appendix 2 (cont.)**

Species Name	Common Name	Reg. 2 Wetland Indicator
<i>Erechtites hieracifolia</i>	American Burnweed	FAC-
<i>Forestiera acuminata</i>	Swamp Privet	OBL
<i>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</i>	Green Ash	FACW
<i>Galium</i> sp.	Bedstraw	.
<i>Geum canadense</i>	White Avens	FAC
<i>Gleditsia aquatica</i>	Water Locust	OBL
<i>Gleditsia triacanthos</i>	Honey Locust	FAC
<i>Ilex decidua</i>	Deciduous Holly	FACW-
<i>Ipomoea</i> sp.	Morning-glory	.
<i>Justicia ovata</i>	Looseflower Water-Willow	OBL
<i>Lactuca floridana</i>	Woodland lettuce	FACU
<i>Leersia lenticularis</i>	Catchfly Grass	OBL
<i>Leersia virginica</i>	Whitegrass	FACW
<i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i>	Sweetgum	FAC+
<i>Lonicera japonica</i> (E)	Honeysuckle	FAC-
<i>Ludwigia glandulosa</i>	Cylindricfruit Primrose-willow	OBL
<i>Lycopus virginicus</i>	Virginia Water Horehound	OBL
<i>Lysimachia radicans</i>	Trailing Yellow Loosestrife	OBL
<i>Microstegium vimineum</i> (E)	Nepalese Browntop	FAC+
<i>Morus rubra</i>	Red Mulberry	FAC
<i>Nyssa aquatica</i>	Water Tupelo	OBL
<i>Onoclea sensibilis</i>	Sensitive Fern	FACW
<i>Oxalis florida</i> ( <i>O. dillenii</i> )	Slender Yellow Woodsorrel	FACU
<i>Parthenocissus quinquefolia</i>	Virginia Creeper	FAC
<i>Penthorum sedoides</i>	Ditch Stonecrop	OBL
<i>Phanopyrum gymnocarpon</i>	Savannah Panicgrass	OBL
<i>Phytolacca americana</i>	Polk Weed	FACU+
<i>Pilea pumila</i>	Canadian Clearweed	FACW
<i>Planera aquatica</i>	Water Elm	OBL
<i>Plantago rugelii</i>	Blackseed Plantain	FAC
<i>Platanus occidentalis</i>	Sycamore	FACW-
<i>Polygonum cespitosum</i>	Oriental Lady's Thumb	FACW-
<i>Polygonum hydropiperoides</i>	Swamp Smartweed	OBL
<i>Polygonum punctatum</i>	Dotted Smartweed	FACW+
<i>Polygonum setaceum</i>	Bog Smartweed	FACW
<i>Polygonum virginianum</i>	Jumpseed	FAC
<i>Populus deltoides</i>	Eastern Cottonwood	FAC+
<i>Quercus lyrata</i>	Overcup Oak	OBL
<i>Quercus michauxii</i>	Swamp Chestnut Oak	FACW-
<i>Quercus nigra</i>	Water Oak	FAC

**Appendix 2 (cont.)**

Species Name	Common Name	Reg. 2 Wetland Indicator
<i>Quercus nuttallii</i> ( <i>Q. texana</i> )	Nuttall Oak	OBL
<i>Quercus pagoda</i>	Cherrybark Oak	FAC+
<i>Quercus phellos</i>	Willow Oak	FACW-
<i>Rhynchospora corniculata</i>	Shortbristle Horned Beaksedge	OBL
<i>Rubus argutus</i>	Blackberry	FAC
<i>Rubus trivialis</i>	Dewberry	FAC
<i>Ruellia strepens</i>	Limestone Wild Petunia	FAC-
<i>Salix nigra</i>	Blackwillow	OBL
<i>Sambucus canadensis</i>	Elderberry	FACW-
<i>Sanicula canadensis</i>	Canadian Blacksnakeroot	FACU
<i>Sassafras albidum</i>	Sassafras	FACU
<i>Saururus cernuus</i>	Lizard Tail	OBL
<i>Smilax bona-nox</i>	Saw Greenbrier	FAC
<i>Smilax rotundifolia</i>	Roundleaf Greenbrier	FAC
<i>Smilax tamnoides</i> ( <i>S. hispida</i> )	Bristly Greenbrier	FAC+
<i>Spermacoce glabra</i>	Smooth False Buttonweed	FACW
<i>Styrax americanus</i>	American Snowbell	FACW
<i>Taxodium distichum</i>	Bald Cypress	OBL
<i>Teucrium canadense</i>	Canada Germander	FACW-
<i>Toxicodendron radicans</i>	Poison Ivy	FAC
<i>Trachelospermum difforme</i>	Climbing Dogbane	FACW
<i>Trepocarpus aethusae</i>	Whitenymph	FACW
<i>Ulmus americana</i>	American Elm	FACW
<i>Ulmus crassifolia</i>	Cedar Elm	FAC
<i>Vernonia gigantea</i>	Giant Ironweed	FAC+
<i>Viola</i> sp.	Violet	.
<i>Vitis aestivalis</i>	Summer Grape	FAC-
<i>Vitis cinerea</i>	Graybark Grape	FAC+
<i>Vitis palmata</i>	Catbird Grape	FACW-
<i>Vitis rotundifolia</i>	Muscadine	FAC
<i>Wisteria frutescens</i>	American Wisteria	FACW