

Dry Land Hill Pools

This site consists of two large vernal pools in a matrix of typical dry, acid, oak-heath forest. The substrate is hemic/sapric sedge peat. A plant species of concern **few-seeded sedge** (*Carex oligosperma*) is the dominant plant in the larger pool and is also present in the second pool. No open water was present in thesevere drought year of the survey. It is likely that the center of the pools is inundated during the growing season. The site has probably burned in the past. A butterfly species of concern, the **bog copper** (*Lycaena epixanthe*) was documented in 1999. This inconspicuous invertebrate animal species uses cranberry as its larval host plant. The spraying of pesticides or herbicides is a potential threat for the bog copper.

The associated plant species in decreasing order of abundance include three-way sedge (*Dulichium arundinaceum*), marsh St. John's wort (*Triadenum sp.*), loosestrife (*Lysimachia terrestris*), iris (*Iris versicolor*), large cranberry (*Vaccinium macrocarpon*), and Canada rush (*Juncus canadensis*). Additional species in wetland habitat between and along the margin of the pools include a sedge (*Carex stricta*), fowl mannagrass (*Glyceria canadensis*), royal fern (*Osmunda regalis*), wool-grass (*Scirpus cyperinus*), chain fern (*Woodwardia virginica*), winterberry (*Ilex verticillata*), highbush blueberry (*Vaccinium corymbosum*), and red maple (*Acer rubrum*).

A deer trail runs through the site, but no browse was seen on the plant species of concern. Recently, the woods to the south were heavily logged. The long term threats to the pools include succession of the shrub-thicket margins, and human disturbance by draining or dumping of logging slash into pools. Buffering the pools from logging would protect both species of concern from harmful disturbance.