

Eleocharis species

April 2011

Eleocharis species

- Large or distinct species that can be identified in field
- Species with mature spikes and achenes (seedheads) that can be identified in the lab
- Completely submersed and vegetatively reproducing species that are very difficult to ID to species

(this presentation covers items 1 and 3)

Fuirena scirpoidea



- Southern umbrella sedge
- Round stem
- Leafless sheaths along stem
- Single or multiple seed heads
- Dark green above water, light below water



Fuirena scirpoidea, Lake Jackson, Leon Co. 8/2009

Species with spike same width as stem:

- *Partitions in Stem*
 - *E. montana* – partitions less than 8 mm apart
 - *E. interstincta* – partitions closer together near top, smooth stem
 - *E. equisitoides* – partitions equal distance apart, can feel partitions along stem
- *E. cellulosa* – no partitions, similar in size to above
- *E. robbinsii*
- *E. elongata*
- *E. quadrangulata* (not common)

E. cellulosa*, *equisitoides*, *interstincta all are large species with the spike same width as stem



Eleocharis cellulosa
Photo by Shirley Denton



Eleocharis equisetoides
Photo by Shirley Denton

***E. equisetoides*
& *E. interstincta***
have nodose-septate stems



Eleocharis interstincta
Photo by Paul L. Redfearn, Jr.

***Eleocharis*
equisitoides vs.
*interstincta***



Larger achene, shorter bristles



Smaller achene, longer bristles

E. equisitoides



**Partitions crowded
near spike**



E. interstincta

E. robbinsii and *E. elongata*

- *E. robbinsii*
 - Restricted to panhandle
 - Triangular stems
 - Spike same color as stem, very papery
 - Can have submersed hair-like sterile stems
- *E. elongata*
 - Very similar in growth form to *E. robbinsii*, but stems not triangular
 - Often no spikes present
 - Can have submersed hair-like sterile stems

Eleocharis robbinsii

- Triangular stem tips
- Fleshy stems, easy to crush
- Can grow in very deep water (2 m)
- Green above surface, orange below surface
- Fruiting tip not wider than stem





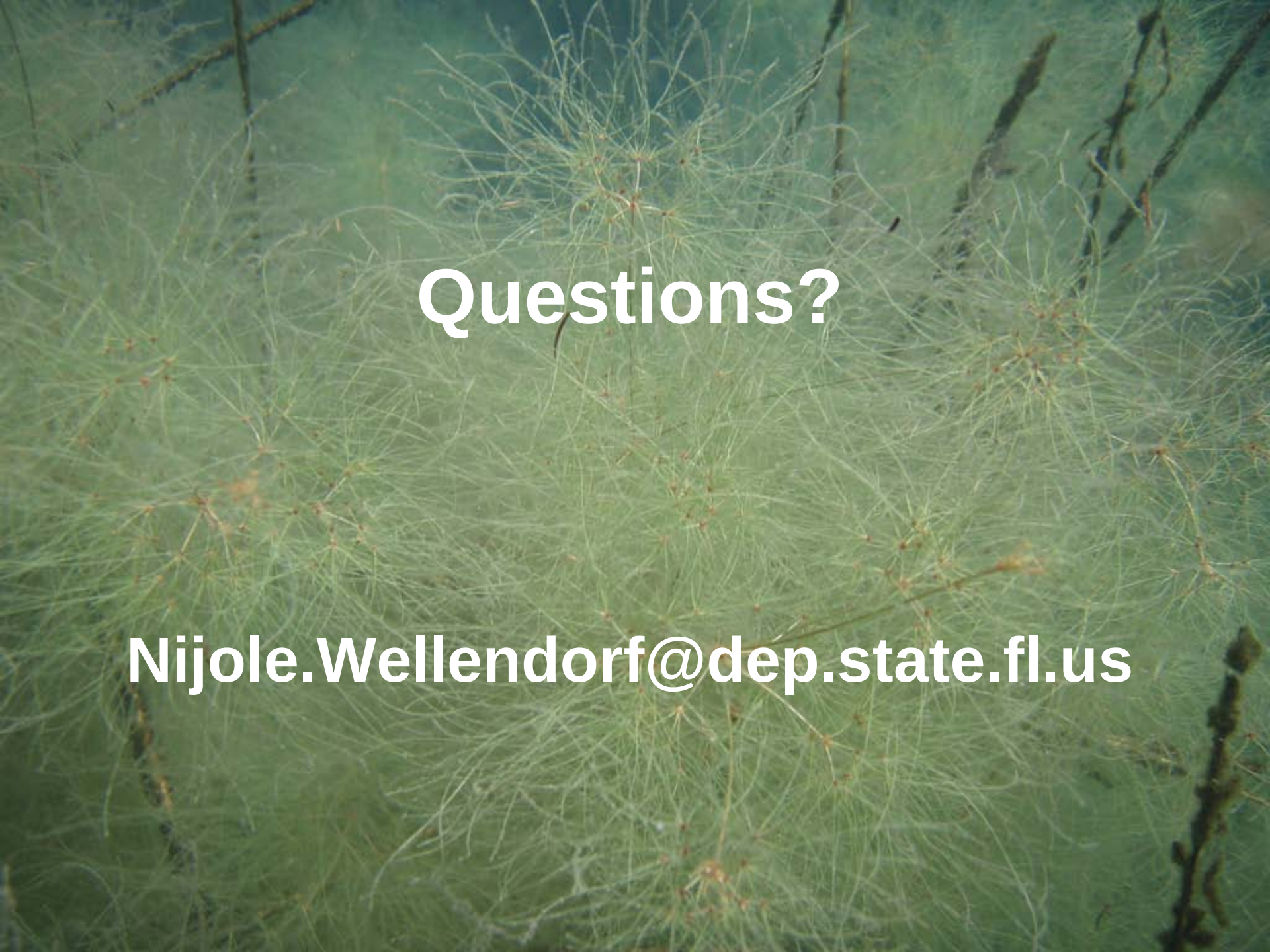
St. Marks NWR lake: *Rhynchospora tracyi*, *Eleocharis elongata*, *Fuirena scirpoidea*



Eleocharis elongata and *Nymphaea odorata*

Submersed non-fruiting

- Key to species in Ward and Hodges paper
- *E. elongata* has stolons, others caespitose
- *E. acicularis* not very abundant
- *E. vivipara* has red spots on sheaths
- *E. baldwinii* – no red spots



Questions?

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