



Wetland Spotlight

Centaury

During a plant survey in September of 1999, botanist Jackie Krindle discovered some tiny plants with pink flowers growing at the edge of a pond at Oak Hammock Marsh. Unfamiliar with the species, a sample was taken to the Manitoba Museum for identification.

The plant turned out to be a Gentian called Centaury (*Centaureum pulchellum*). This is the first time this species – introduced to North America from Eurasia - has ever been recorded in Manitoba. How did it get to Oak Hammock Marsh? Its seeds may have hitchhiked in mud stuck to the feet of a migrating duck or goose.

