

Common Bur-Reed

Sparganium eurycarpum

-There are a number of Bur-Reeds in Wisconsin, but the Common Bur-Reed is by far the most common. That is what is commonly referred to as rocket science.

-Common Bur-Reed has emergent leaves that are rather spongy and look like compressed triangle in cross-section.

-The zigzag flower stalk has spherical blooms spaced like sinkers on a fishing line. The upper male flowers are the size of small gumballs, while the lower female flowers are the size of jawbreakers. When the fruits mature, they have a prickly appearance created by the beaks on the fruits.

-Colonies of Common Bur-Reed help anchor sediment and provide nesting sites for loons. The fruit is eaten by a variety of waterfowl including mallards and tundra swans.

-Bur-Reed has been used for medicinal purposes over the centuries. The Greek physician Dioscorides recommended a potion containing the seed and root of Bur-Reed to be taken with wine for a treatment for snakebites.



We can be ethical only in relation to something we can see, feel, understand, love, or otherwise have faith in.

-Aldo Leopold