

Newport Forest

August 26/00

2:30 - 6:30 pm

Weather: sunny (later turning cloudy), 26 C, calm

Purpose: to look for more mussels in river

Participants: Pat, Kee, Jennifer McIntyre

As we drove in over the Upper Meadow, a pair of Redtail Hawks took flight from the OCF and circled the Hogsback. We carried paddles, life-jackets, drinks, etc. down to the Landing where I put the minnow trap in just upstream from the Landing. We checked all new tracks on the clay/gravel "shore:" Great Blue Heron, White-tailed Deer, Raccoon, ducks (unknown species), Canid tracks*, sandpiper (probably Spotted Sandpiper).

Along the shore we found many new clams exposed by the gradually lowering river, including two good finds by Jennifer of a large ribbed clam and a smaller, almost round one. There were many individual valves of *Anodonta grandis* around, as well as at least two new species of large river clam (see below).

We put the canoe in the water and paddled upstream about half a kilometer, as far as a large ravine on the south bank. We then drifted down, paying a visit to a gravel-bar island with some bushes growing on it. The island proved to be a treasure-trove of clams, including many fine Papershells.

Back at the landing, I decided to walk the trail, Jennifer begging off because of the mosquitoes. It took 20 minutes to complete the circuit at a brisk pace (5 km/hr would make the circuit about 1.5 km long), stopping to photograph the Spotted Touch-me-nots with their large yellow flowers with yellow Helianthus blooms all about. By the time I got back, Pat and Jennifer had built a fire on the shore and had broken out the marshmallows. I went to check the minnow trap: nothing! The bread was still there.

After six pm, we came out, noticing a Turtlehead growing right beside Edgar's Road.

* These turned out to have been made by "Pooch," Edgar's dog, who came with him to the river that morning.

New Species:

Spike Clam	<i>Elliptio dilatata</i>	TRS (Goodrich, 88) calls it "E. dilatatus." S5
[Round] Hickorynut	<i>Obovaria [subrotunda, lens]</i>	TRS (Goodrich, 103) (Thorp & Covich, 382) NHIC S1
Three-ridge Clam	<i>Amblema plicata</i>	TRS (Thorp and Covich, 380) NHIC S4 specimen quadrate/elongate and rather large (length 16 cm)
Creek Heelsplitter	<i>Lasmigona compressa</i>	TRS (Goodrich, 96) NHIC S5
"Bent Mussel"	<i>[Margaritifera margaritifera]</i>	TRS (Thorp and Covich, 380)

Note: we also found several valves of *Amblema costata* (no plications), also rather large, varying from 13 to 14.5 cm in length.