

Newport Forest Monday August 28 2006 2:45 - 7:00 pm

Weather: prec. 34mm; RH 95%; calm; ovcst; LM 21C; FCF 20C

Purpose: to collect fungi

Participants: Kee

What a rainy day! - with 34mm in the gauge when I arrived. It was dry then, but the air felt heavy. I called for the girls. The Murrays arrived by surprise and, shortly after that, the girls trotted up from the creek, their underparts wet from a crossing. Ken went off to look for Sonny for the umpteenth time and Nancy stayed in the Nook, where she quite enjoyed the after-meal play of the sisters. She thought it was an ideal way to release raccoons. Poor Ken wandered the RSF, his trousers increasingly wetter from an earlier rain that clung to the vegetation. .

He saw no Sonny, but three skunks still hung around the release area.

After the Murrays left, I decided on a dual-purpose walk: trail grooming AND fungus collecting. The girls, of course, begged to come so I set out with brush hook and field pack and notebook, Thelma and Louise bounding faithfully behind. I was looking forward to letting the sister's loose in the skunk release area, but they hung a sudden left into the exit part of the TRT, so I felt compelled to walk it in the reverse direction. I have never seen the (herb) vegetation so thick as these days, with now approximately 1000 mm of precipitation having fallen, already well over the annual average for any part of SW Ontario. Of course, there were lots of fungi about. I tried to spot those specimens that I might shy away from otherwise.

Near the BCF bench I found a new type of stalked polypore (S) and further on, a troop of slimy brown trumpets (S) blowing out of a BH log. I went to collect a smaller mushroom, but Thelma ate it before I could pick it. (Psathyrella?) On the trail up the HB, I encountered a BH deadfall, a tangle of branches blocking the trail completely.

On the HB, I found a small, rubbery snow-white polypore on a log (S), a slimy brown, earlike mushroom on a log (S), and a small Crinipellis-type mushroom on the descent into the RSF (BM section) (S). By the bench I collected a red-crust polypore (S) and further along the trail found a small white bracket with the appearance and structural integrity of a doily. (S)

At the skunk release area, no skunks were in evidence as the girls systematically explored every nook and cranny of the drift pile, sticking their heads into the release boxes as far as they could. By this time a steady light rain

was slowly turning into a heavy rain and my jacket was rapidly becoming soaked. I walked the rest of the trail briskly, the girls galloping behind.

The rain kept us all in the trailer, so we rested until supper. I had wieners and beans while the sisters slept. Thelma came out to see what I was eating, but Louise was dead to the world. By 7:00 pm both kits were out in the dining area looking quite contented. How sad to put them out (under the trailer) when I finally had to leave.

Note: Calculations based on the number of tree crashes divided by total lengths of site visits over a one-month period tell us that the average frequency of tree loss is about one tree every 25 hours or about 29 trees for the period - most of them undoubtedly Bitternut Hickories.

New species:

“White Plant Hopper”	<i>Anormenis chloris</i>	BCG/ET PD
Grape Petiole Gall	[<i>Neolasioptera vitinea</i>]	LM KD
“Brown Jelly Crep”	<i>Crepidotus mollis</i>	HB kd/GT
“White Doily Bracket”	<i>Trametes conchifer</i>	RSF/Bnch kd/GT
“Two-toned Polypore”	<i>Gloeoporus dichrous</i>	HB kd/GT

Note: GT is Greg Thorn, a mycologist at UWO, who helped me with the difficult specimens. He’s still not sure about the red crust or the stalked polypore.