

Newport Forest Saturday August 31 2008

2:15 - 7:15 pm

Weather: 5 mm; RH 59%; BP 100.43 kPa; sn/cld; calm; T 30° C

Purpose: visit Clam Island

Participants: Pat, Kee

The trees at the gate (6 of them) looked a bit peaky, so we gave each a jug of water. Edgar kindly drove our canoe from his garage down to the trailer.

Pat conducted a series of kick-samples at the lower rapids, netting six crayfish (early instars) and one (female) Darter, probably a Rainbow Darter. In one of her netsful I found what looked like a water scavenger beetle. More significantly, Pat found an oft-overlooked plant that we had neglected to add to our database earlier, Virginia Bugleweed.

We took the canoe down to the river and set out for Clam Island, our first visit this year. On a previous visit, it was nearly devoid of mussels but on a visit one year earlier, the island and shoal around it were literally thick with mussels, all of them alive. On this occasion, we counted about 50 individuals in the shallows and about 200 disaggregated valves lying about the land. At one spot, by an attractive row of Purple Loosestrife, we found a probable site of raccoon predation. Valves from 40-50 mm in length were concentrated in what was probably a feeding area. There were many Raccoon tracks about the island's surface.

Pat collected about 20 valves that appeared interesting or possibly new for later examination at home. We could ID immediately one new mussel, however, the rather distinctive Threehorn Wartyback.

New species:

Threehorn Wartyback *Obliquaria reflexa* TR/CI PD Au31/08
(one or more new species of Mussel may "emerge" next week when Pat completes her inspection of the samples)

Virginia Bugleweed *Lycopus virginicus* FC/LR PD Au31/08

Phenology:

Shagbark Hickory nutfall started last week & continuing today, Common Grackles continuing flock formation