

## The Trail to Sandbar!

Newport Forest Tuesday September 22 2009 2:05 - 6:25 pm

weather: prec. 17mm; RH 75%; BP 99.7 kPa; ; calm; ovcast; T 28° C  
purpose: trail maintenance  
participants: Kee, Brian, Joe

Brian & Joe set to work cutting the deadfall by the creek (lower) rapids so that we again have an easy trail to the creek. Later, we went into the Riverside Forest (RSF) to clear the trail to the Sandbar (SB), where I finally located my planting area (Pawpaws, American Hazel, etc.). The soil here is incredibly fertile, with many plants reaching record heights (seemingly) and mounds of Wild Cucumber piled above bushes, Giant Ragweed 12-15' high and Stinging Nettle up to my eyes. The luxuriant vegetation at the SB is undoubtedly related to the high levels of silt and sand buildup (with many trapped nutrients) during floods. Only one little hillock of open sand remains, the rest being heavily colonized. Later I will come back to check the trees. While browsing the area, I found the same giant polypore that I photographed last year, a possible variant of *P. squamosus*, as well as a Banded Tussock Moth caterpillar. (P)

Walking back we took the rest of the TRT out, stopping only to admire fresh fungal growths and occasional caterpillars. (2P)

The bee protocol (See below) showed an expected decline in counts, due mainly to the goldenrod now being about 3/4 into seed and with a much reduced pollen supply.

The new (advanced) trail cam has arrived and I wasted little time installing it at The Hole. This one prints the time & date on imagery, fires multiple bursts of photos and/or video and takes (not surprisingly) EIGHT C-cells!! We'll see how it performs as we come into the deer season. Watch this space. . .

bee protocol:

HB BB OB SW LW SF LF

61 9 0 0 2 16 3

The number of honeybees (HB) is down 74% from the previous count.

new species

NOTE 1: correction to previous entry for Red-gilled Psathyrella; this appears to be mistaken. There was, at the time, only one other candidate for the ID, but I was misled by the yellow flush in the middle of the caps. I was so confident, I delayed the spore analysis for later. Ooops! The print turned out not to be red or dark brown, as in most spp. of Psathyrella, but white, and spores had the right size & shape for the the following:

Fused Marasmius Marasmius cohaerens BCF/E KD Sp13/09

NOTE 2: On the previous visit I took a picture of a stink bug nymph that turns out to be

The Green Stink Bug *Acrosternum hilare*

a very common stink bug in our area and already logged. Here is a clearer image from Tom Murray's pbase.com insect pages. (Steve Marshall agrees -- it's among the better web resources!)

Tom Murray's image:

Meanwhile, I had another stink bug nymph image to deal with, photographed on the Nook table (see below). I can't ID this on the basis of available materials, but there is a possibility that this is also a Green Stink Bug nymph -- but an earlier instar. Note the orange "shoulders," a feature shared with the nymph above, as well as the position of the two orange marks which correspond closely to the yellow marks on the specimen above, a homologous pattern. (In general, there is little enough similarity in the markings of late-instar Pentatomid nymphs with each other or with the adult animal.)

(drag image to full screen for close-up view of nymph)

Today I discovered how to photograph spiders in webs, by inserting a background object right behind the spider, so the autofocus doesn't zoom off to distant vegetation, blurring the image. Here is a beautiful Spined *Micrathena* (lateral view), one of the most common orb-weavers on site. The abdomen has a tetrahedral shape and the dorsal surface is armoured with ten nasty-looking spines.

drag image to desktop for a better view and discover that the abdomen is actually a bizarre ceramic teapot!

### IMAGES:

(click on image to enlarge)



green stink bug

(click on image to enlarge)



stink bug nymph

(click on image to enlarge)



nymph

(click on image to enlarge)



banded tussock moth

(click on image to enlarge)



banded tussock moth