

Bulletin No.691

Newport Forest Sunday July 25 2010 2:15 - 5:50 pm

weather: prec. 21 mm; RH 65%; BP 101.7 kPa; N 5-10 km/h; sn/cld; T 28° C

purpose: trails & fungi

participants: Kee, Jonathan*, Will

Arriving at the camp, I was delighted to find a whole troop of new mushrooms that were also a new species, sprouting from the grass near the Gallery Forest (where we used to do a lot of our woodwork). (5P) We had a quick lunch in the Nook as we girded our loins for a sojourn among some of the friendliest mosquitoes in the world.

Almost as soon as we had assembled our trail tools for a visit to the Sandbar we heard them: gunshots from nearby (within 200 m) across the river that sounded like a 22 cal. rifle. The shots came about once every 2-5 minutes and were obviously not from a serious hunter, being more consistent with a trigger-happy teenager. As we passed the River Landing, we yelled "Hey!" across the river, just to let the shooter know there were other people around and to exercise due caution. The shots continued until we came to the Sandbar Trail and had begun the scraping operation. Then the "kid" switched to somewhat heavier artillery, sounding like a 30-06. After a dozen or so rounds from this rifle I lost patience and phoned the incident in to the OPP.

Along the bluffs trail we found a number of recent mushrooms, a Lactarius, more Russulas and a possible Hygrophorus with a very slimy purple cap, still in the button stage. We completed scraping the Sandbar trail and headed back to camp, where we met the attending OPP officer. I gave him the names of landowners across the river, as he now had to coordinate with the Middlesex Co OPP, this being the West Elgin Co. jurisdiction. Nothing much came of the incident, as officers tried to catch the shooter in the woods from the other side of the river, but he sneaked out, apparently. At least we showed the flag, as they say. Hopefully, Thames Talbot would approve of the way we handled the situation. Imagine a visiting biologist downed by a stray bullet . . . just what we need!

Anyway, we lost a good hour of working time. After the police left, Jonathan busied himself photographing insects, while Will cut about 35 thorn trees in the Regeneration Zone, completing our abortive afternoon of work.

*on a visit home from Los Angeles

New species:

Velvet Shield *Pluteus umbrosus* Tr wc/KD J125

Drought watch: precipitation shortfall = 24% [baseline 900 mm ann precip.]

Anyone following this particular statistic will note a steadily declining shortfall, even though the total precipitation to this point is much the same as that of three other drought years. Bottom line: we still don't have to water in the Regen Zone.

IMAGES:

(click on image to enlarge)



A new mushroom for the fungal list: *Pluteus umbrosus* - specimen on left well past it, others deliquescing fast.

(click on image to enlarge)



Const. Kulwartian "attends the incident"

(click on image to enlarge)



Stealth Cam 07/24/2010 08:33:16 ● 74F

Trail cam catches Eastern Cottontail out foraging Saturday morning.

