

Date and time: Monday July 29 2013 2:35 - 9:15 pm

Weather: Pr 3 mm ; RH 74%; BP 101.9 kPa; overcast; SW 0 -10 kmh; T 21° C

Activity: Collecting galls and plants amid gloomy weather and gloomy news

The purpose of today's visit was to collect a representative set of plants for Pat to work on. Unfortunately, she will no longer have Jane Bowles to help her. (See below.) I was quickly diverted to plant galls, however, by the many examples I saw, once I started looking at leaves. Two of the gall-making species, including



the one that made the galls above, are new to the list, in particular, the elongated ones with dark red tips. The ones with hairy, swollen bases may not be the same species -- or else they are a later growth form of the same gall.

Altogether, I ended up with four species of gall, all appearing on the undersides of Hickory leaves. The unidentified gall resembles small green doughnuts, rather like

the galls that one species of *Phylloxera* (an Aphid) makes on other plants. Speaking of other plants, I was fooled for a while by the spots of Cedar Apple Rust (a fungus - not new) on Hawthorn leaves. Both this fungus and yet another species of gall-making insect produce target-shaped spots ringed with red and yellow. But then I found the alternate form of the fungus growing as tiny red spikes on the “apple” of a Hawthorn. The bountiful rains of June and July have not only led to a riot of vegetation and the insects that feed on them, but a riot of fungi.

Back to the main business of the day -- plants. I went about the Lower Meadow, looking for every daisy-like composite I could find. What appeared to be Black-eyed Susans grew along the eastern margin of the meadow, then another yellow flowered composite, then a rather tall (2.5 m) “sunflower”. Finally I picked up a tall clover that I thought we had, but couldn’t be sure.

I visited the creek to see what I could find along the bank. Along the trail going down I had to dodge web after web of Spined Micrathena orbweavers. At the creek landing I found an unidentifiable treehopper resembling a miniature pig, but no daisies. Damselflies were everywhere, including the usual Jewelwings and Blue-fronted Dancers. The females of the latter species seemed all to be up on the trailer deck, sunning themselves!

I wandered up the road (a former farm track) to the power lines that cross the property just below the Upper Meadow. Although there wasn’t a single goldenrod yet in bloom in the Lower Meadow, I found two species under the power lines with a few individuals already in bloom. By now it was 5:30 pm and the sun had begun to emerge, dispelling the cool gloom of the day.

In the Nook two Chipmunks ran their birdseed shuttle from tray to burrow, while my attention was distracted by a nymphal Northern Walkingstick crawling across the cedar table. (See IMAGES below.) Then a Gray Catbird flew into the Nook to perch on the Old Log and inspect my person for a moment. Perhaps that was my signal to get back on my feet and head for the river. What would I find there?

Along Edgar’s Trail I passed a rather bedraggled-looking sunflower. On the River Bluffs I found another Black-eyed Susan that was only half the size of the one collected earlier in the meadow. Could it be a different species? On the way back I dug up the Bedraggled sunflower. Back at the trailer, I happened to spot some diminutive white flowers peeping out from under the steps. This made a total of eight specimens, enough to keep Pat busy for a while. Later in the evening, I was visited in the Nook by the Cottontail that Pat calls “Peter Rabbit”, without being

entirely sure it's the same individual every time.

Hey! It was getting dark. Time to leave.

Sad Note: we have been dismayed to lose an accomplished scientist and good friend with the death of botanist Jane Bowles last Saturday to cancer. "The good", as they say, "die young." Jane ran the herbarium at Western University and had an international reputation as an ecologist. A more lengthy *In Memoriam* will be sent out to the list shortly. (Jane found 121 of our 474 plant species as listed.)

Plant list: As a tribute to Jane, who contributed greatly to Pat's training, Pat has resumed her work on a key to the "River Daisies" as Jane suggested she call them. These are daisy-like plants belonging to the family Asteraceae and including the following genera: Helianthus, Heliopsis, Helenium, Rudbeckia, Silphium, and Verbesina, among others. She practiced on the plants gathered today, finding among my collection, the Jerusalem Artichoke (*Helianthus tuberosus*), False Sunflower (*Heliopsis helianthoides*), and the Black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta* (syn. *R. serotina*)). The tall clover-like plant beside the road turned out to be Alfalfa, an agricultural remnant and new to the list. (A species is a species!)

Birds:(16)

American Crow (UM/Rd); American Robin (BCF); Blue Jay (GF/E); Canada Goose (TR); Common Flicker (EW); Common Grackle (GF); Common Yellowthroat (LM); Gray Catbird (Nk); Mourning Dove (FCF); Northern Cardinal (BCF); Red-bellied Woodpecker (GF); Rose-breasted Grosbeak (Tr); Song Sparrow (LM); Wood Thrush (BCF); Field Sparrow (HBF); White-breasted Nuthatch (RB)

Phenology: Tall sunflower in full bloom, Milkweed seedpods now half-grown

New Species:

Helmeted Squash Bug *Euthocta galeator* RL KD J129/13

Hickory Leaf Galls *Caryomyia* spp GF KD J129/13

Best guesses:

Hickory Awl-shaped Gall Midge *C. [sublata]*

'Fuzzy Orange Gall Midge' *C. [purpurea]*

Hickory Sticky Globe Gall *C. [caryae]*

Alfalfa

Medicago sativa

LM/GF kd/PD J129/13

Species Note: All galls were found on the *undersurfaces* of Hickory leaves. The third species is not new, but I include it for the sake of completeness.

READERS WRITE: Steve Palero, an entomology grad student at Guelph University suggested that the *Zatrephina* tortoise beetle reported in the July 16 Bulletin was actually the Bergamot Tortoise Beetle. He continues,

“Oddly enough the same image pops up for both species (the first one for *Physonota* is also found later on in *Zatrephina lineata*. Any idea what plant it was on? Seems that *Physonota* is usually found on Monarda. Here is another link that gives a bit of information on the species.

<http://cumuseum.colorado.edu/exhibits/objects/one-spotted-tortoise-beetle-physonota-unipunctata> The white markings on the beetles seem to be a bit variable. If you surf the bugguide images, you will see some variations, including larger white spots on the pronotum.”

Old Butterfly Business:

Here are the counts made by the Butterfly experts who visited Skunks' Misery, including Newport Forest, on July 7 as part of the North America wide Annual Butterfly Count:

| | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Common Wood-Nymph 54 | Little Wood Satyr 17 |
| Great Spangled Fritillary 20 | European Skipper 38 |
| Cabbage White 8 | Eastern Tailed Blue 13 |
| American Lady 1 | Northern Broken Dash 3 |
| Coral Hairstreak 10 | Silver-spotted Skipper 1 |
| Summer Azure 2 | Red Admiral 1 |
| Delaware Skipper 2 | Question Mark 1 |
| Little Glassywing 1 | Silvery Checkerspot 1 |
| Clouded Sulphur 3 | Monarch 1 |
| orthern Crescent 1 | Orange Sulphur 1 |

IMAGES:



Helmeted Squash Bug (*Euthocta galeator*) sits on a leaf at the River Landing. Somewhat atypical as a member of the Leaf-footed Bug family, the tibia of Leg 3 is not widened, but the femur looks quite muscular! This species can be mistaken for *Acanthocephala terminalis*.



Nymphal form of the Northern Walkingstick (*Diaperomera femorata*) crawls across the cedar table in the Nook. Denoting the legs as R1 to R3 and L1 to L3, the walkingstick used the gait R1, L2, R3, L1, R2, L3, a common order in insects, but much easier to see in walkingsticks. The two antennae are held straight ahead, perhaps to enhance the appearance of a stick! The adult form is not green, but brown and much larger.