

Date and time: Sunday June 21 2015 3:30 - 5:55 pm

Weather: Pr 5 mm; RH 71%; BP 101.0; sun/cloud; SW 5-10 kmh; T 26°C

Activity: Trail Jam at Moraviantown and a quiet visit to Newport Forest.

I arrived in Moraviantown at 1:30, late for the next trail walk, but not feeling very energetic in any case. I joined a crowd of about 30 people sitting in the shade and listening to a 5-piece blues band or trying to carry on a conversation over the twin amplifiers flanking the stage. Another dozen or so people had taken the walk. The image below shows the beginning of the trail (extreme left) and its relation to the river (right). The trail is now about 3 km long and enhanced by new signage.



In spite of not walking the trail, I had the opportunity of renewing my acquaintance with several old friends on the occasion of Darren Jacobs' "Trail Jam". One of these was Darryl Stonefish, the Rez librarian. We discussed local history, the state of the library and other topics. I met Darryl's brother Bruce for the first time. Bruce has an MA in linguistics from Harvard and heads the ICCT (Indigenous Institute for Cross-cultural Training).

Darren looked a bit harried as he oversaw the River Jam going on. But I got in a few chats. In one of these he told me of a recent spirit fire held by a few of the traditionalists. The fire burns all night as participants sit around it, contemplating

the spirit world. Around 3 am, according to Darren, everyone heard a nearby scream ending in a growl, “just like the one you heard a while ago,” said Darren.

Presently Pete Chapman, expert naturalist and TTLT member, emerged from the walk, butterfly net in hand and accompanied by several children. He was a bit disappointed with his finds, having hoped to see more butterflies (and other insects) than he had actually come across.

When the band ended their performance, I stayed a little while longer, then left for Newport Forest, a mere 10 km to the north. Far from being cloudy, with the threat of predicted severe weather, the property was gorgeous, warm and lush. I luxuriated in the Nook for a while, then set out to beat the bushes (literally) for more arthropods. Very few fell on my white ground sheet. Next I searched leaf litter along the trail down to the creek, finding only sow bugs and a (new) Julid milliped. At the creek I found evidence that a recent flood had risen to a good three metres above normal levels, judging from clay deposits on leaves at this height. I was intrigued by a plant with showy, drooping blossoms that I thought might be new. (See images below.) Pat would identify it later as Tall Meadow Rue, first found by her in the year 2000.

Speaking of plants, every time I encountered a plant in flower, I would take a picture of the bloom for our photo galleries. I ended by photographing some 10 plants in this fashion. As well as plants, I photographed what I thought was a 12-spotted Skimmer, as well as a Pearl Crescent. On my way to change Cam #2 at the Hole, I found a platform web on some dead plants (last year's) adjacent to the trail. A platform spider rested on top of its snare where, after several attempts, I finally got a useable shot of our first *Microlinyphia* Dwarf Spider.

After all this I relaxed in the Nook enjoying the sight of a father Rose-breasted Grosbeak minding two young Grosbeaks, a male and a female., visiting the feeder by turns. Then three young Eastern Chipmunks began to chase each other around the Nook. One of them even ran across my shoes in its excitement. Meanwhile, I had been noticing a higher frequency of mosquitoes, heavier in the forest lighter out in the meadow. With a sigh I closed up camp, noting that the trailer weasel had left no further gifts on the table or seat cushions.

Birds (5 - a typical number when I bird alone.):

American Robin (GF); Blue Jay (GF); Northern Cardinal (EW); Rose-breasted Grosbeak (GF); Turkey Vulture (HBF).

New Species:

'Cylindrical Julid'	<i>Cylindroiulus</i> sp.	FCB KD Je21/15
'Three-striped Theridiid'	[<i>Enoplognatha</i>] sp.	LM jaKD Je17/15
'Yellow-sided Mirid'	<i>Polymerus venaticus</i>	LM KD Je21/15
'Flat-tailed Syrphid'	<i>Sphaerophoria</i> [<i>philanthus</i>]	LM KD Je21/15

Species Notes: The Theridiid spider is almost certainly *Enoplognatha*, owing to the presence of the same pattern of boundaries of the folium of the specimen, but expressed by wider flanking stripes and a stronger central stripe, the former not red, but black, as can be seen in occasional specimens of this genus. The 12-spotted Skimmer turned out to be a female Common Whitetail. Checking our records, I was surprised to discover that no one had seen (or bother to record) a Twelve-spotted Skimmer on the property yet, despite their abundance.

Catching up: Readers who would like to read past issues of the *Bulletin* are welcome to visit the archive at <<http://www.csd.uwo.ca/~akd/newport-forest/>> Scroll to the very bottom to find nearly 1000 site visits archived.

IMAGES:



A female Common Whitetail suns itself on the ramp of the trailer deck.



Tall Meadow Rue sports these showy blossoms at the base of the Fleming Creek Bluffs. Vines of Wild Cucumber, River Grape, and Clematis add to the lush effect of this oft-flooded environment.



06-19-2015 05:49:29

Ho hum, time for bed. Barely visible in the light of early sunrise, these six (or seven) very young Raccoons scramble up the old Black Maple by the Nook, caught by Trail Cam #2, which is portable. This is a large litter, but may be an amalgamated troop of two litters if the mothers are sisters. Some of these youngsters also appeared in imagery taken by Trail Cam #1 at the Hole.

