

**Date and time:** Saturday August 15 2015 1:55 - 6:10 pm.

**Weather:** Prec. 27 mm; RH 61%; BP 102.2; sun/cloud; calm; T 30°C

**Activity:** We visit the creek, meadow, and river in search of arthropods.

Arriving just before 2 pm, we were dismayed by the sight of large burned-over areas in the Upper Meadow. Pat and I, accompanied by our assistant, Laura Hyung-seo, drove down to the camp area, trying not to look at the totally blackened areas as we passed them. The “cure” seemed worse than the disease!



The goldenrod plants at Newport Forest are now more than halfway into their bloom, with Honeybees (as above) showing up more frequently. We have never seen goldenrod grow so high in the Lower Meadow, many of them two meters

We visited Fleming Creek to set a minnow trap for the third time. Back in the Nook, Laura and I set out to follow the trail through the Regeneration Zone, with Laura carefully watching for caterpillars. She was determined to find at least one. We were somewhat hampered in our search for arthropods by the extreme height of the goldenrod, now coming into bloom. In the first few sweeps we picked up yet another Pisaurid spider, *Pisaurina mira* (drug on the market, those), a Rose-winged Damselfly, *Nabis roseipennis*, and a faint green leafhopper, *Chlorotetrix* sp. (new). On the next few sweeps we picked up only a Tarnished Plant Bug, *Lygus lineolaris*. At about that time a bothersome little black wasp began to land on my hand, despite my attempts to brush it away. Looking at it closely, I realized it was not a wasp, but a bee, busily licking off drops of perspiration from my hand. A

Sweat Bee no less, *Lassioglossum* sp., going for the salt! Some of the new species simply come to you! Further along we happened upon a plant with ample leaves. “Don’t look, Laura.” Five or six Japanese Beetles, *Popilla japonica*, appeared to be having some kind of sex party under a leaf. Near the end of the trail, we came upon a nice opportunity for a Honeybee image, *Apis mellifera*. Then, right at the end of the trail, I spotted an unusual butterfly that we don’t often see: the American Snout, *Libytheana carinenta*, with 1/3 of its body length taken up by a “snout”.

Butterflies were out in force today, to the point where we decided to keep a list, something we do only occasionally. Following a break in the Nook, we all made our way to the river. Laura, being young and nimble, arrived first, just in time to flush a gaggle of Canada Geese, all sounding their bicycle horns as they rose to flap noisily downriver. Pat was very happy to be out on the beach once more.

We decided to have a spider hunt, the beach being a haven for Wolf Spiders and Nursery Web spiders, among other families. I caught two *Arctosa* spiders on my sd card after a merry chase up the bank. Then Pat called out, “There’s a blue spider over here!” This proved an elusive quarry, small and running like the dickens, with only a few images being discernible. The spider wasn’t blue, but carried a blue egg sac. Pat also found a long-jawed Orb Weaver, *Tetragnatha elongata*, busying itself among some shoreline reeds.

After a final break at the Nook, Laura and I descended to the creek, dodging webs of the ‘Teapot Spiders’ (*Micrathena*) on the way. The minnow trap was still empty, so we searched a small pool isolated from the current, finding several snails (*Physa?*) and a Water Boatman resting on the bottom. We’ll call it the Northern Boatman, thanks to its name, *Arctocorixa*, a new genus anyway. Just before we left, Laura ran up to us holding a caterpillar, perhaps the one she was destined to find, the larva of the Hickory Tussock Moth, looking like a badly used toothbrush.

### **Birds: (10)**

American Crow (BCF); Blue Jay (GF); Canada Goose (RL); Common Grackle (LM); Eastern Towhee (GF); Gray Catbird (BCF); Red-bellied Woodpecker (GF); Song Sparrow (FC); Yellow-billed Cuckoo (FCF); Northern Flicker (GF).

### **Leps: (8)**

American Snout (LM); Eastern Comma (GF); Great Spangled Fritillary (LM); Hairstreak sp. (Rd); Hickory Tussock Moth (larva) (LM); Least Skipper (MB); Red-spotted Purple (LM & MB); Summer Azure (LM).

**Phenology:** Monarda remains in bloom, Goldenrod now 50% in bloom, Wingstem, a relatively uncommon (locally abundant) plant, now almost in full bloom.

**New Species:**

‘Shoreline Spider’	<i>Arctosa littoralis</i>	MB pdKD Au15/15
‘Faded Plant Hopper’	<i>Chlorotettix [spatulatus]</i> sp.	RZ lhlKD Au15/15
‘Northern Boatman’	<i>Arctocorixa [sutilis]</i>	FC KD Au15/15
‘Rhino Tree Hopper’	<i>Campylenchia latipes</i>	RZ lhlKD Au15/15
‘Black Sweat Bee’	<i>Lassioglossum [quebecensis]</i>	RZ lhlKD Au15/15

**Nature Nuggets:**

Allen Woodliffe is a prominent local naturalist with a background in the Ministry of Natural Resources. His website, *Nature Nuggets*, is well worth a visit. With a focus on the Rondeau area of Lake Erie, Woodliffe entertains and informs with a lively writing style and wonderful photographs. He also includes important information about Lyme Disease, of which he has some experience:

<http://pawsnaturenuggets.blogspot.ca>

**Readers Write:**

Patty Frank, a conservation-minded citizen of San Diego has sent a link to the video on Peacock Spiders: “Here’s a dandy little fellow that I thought you’d enjoy.”

[http://news.nationalgeographic.com/2015/08/150803-peacock-spiders-animals-science-new-species/?utm\\_source=Facebook&utm\\_medium=Social&utm\\_content=link\\_fb20150804news-peacockspider&utm\\_campaign=Content&sf11682865=1#](http://news.nationalgeographic.com/2015/08/150803-peacock-spiders-animals-science-new-species/?utm_source=Facebook&utm_medium=Social&utm_content=link_fb20150804news-peacockspider&utm_campaign=Content&sf11682865=1#)

Jonathan Dewdney, son and photography expert, has sent links to two advisory videos on how to take closeups: Macrophotography of arthropods, especially spiders @ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wqRn3at0H60> and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qmMcCjEU68Y>

**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 bottom.

**IMAGES:**



The “snout” of this American Snout butterfly can be seen clearly in the image above. It is composed of the paired labial palps, along with its antennae. Snout butterflies lay their eggs singly on the Hackberry, a very common tree at Newport Forest.



This *Arctosa littoralis* Wolf Spider is well-camouflaged for life on the pebbles and clay of Mussel Beach. One can be staring right at one and not see it all! Even in this unusually clear view, the abdomen appears to be twice as large as it actually is, thanks to a pebble beneath it.