

Date and time: Thursday September 10 2015 12:40 - 5:10 pm.

Weather: Prec. 3 mm; RH 57%; BP 102.1; clear; calm; T 23°C

Activity: ATBI: Searching logs, bushes, plants, and overhanging branches.

It was a beautiful day with a cool north wind and a bright, cloudless sky, perfect weather for our 1000th site visit. Driving into the property, I was surprised to find someone already there. Kaitlin Richardson, Assistant to Property Manager Daria Koscinski, stood amid a patch of Teasels with a pair of clippers in hand. She was busily cutting off the heads of this year's generation of Teasels, a native plant that grows abundantly in the Upper Meadow. This would be one way of reducing the population of these plants, but I forgot to warn her about the seed bank at her feet.



Today's other seeds belonged to this Wood Nettle, but reminded me of aphids, at first.

The first species of the day presented itself on a chair in the Nook; a rather large Orb Weaver was attempting to attach a bridge line. It looked new, but turned out not to be. Spiders show varying degrees of sexual dimorphism. It turned out to be a male Marbled Orb Weaver (*Araneus marmoreus*), complete with large palps extended out front like a pair of boxing gloves.

I took a walk up the track toward the Jane Bowles Sassafras tree, finding a tussock moth caterpillar (*Halysidota tesellaris*), a caterpillar we call The "Toothbrush". Further along, I spotted a very colourful Mirid bug poised on a leaf as I took its picture. Excitement later turned to disappointment when I discovered it to be yet

another colour morph of the very common Tarnished Plant Bug (*Lygus lineolaris*). Images were building in my camera as I stalked a Clover Looper (*Caenurgina crassiuscula*) trying to hide from me in the grass of the track. This is a rather drab day-flying moth with two diagonal dark bands on lighter brown wings, also very common at Newport Forest.

After a break I decided to investigate a small area of the nearby Regen Zone to see why it looked so bare. Back in the decade 2000-1009, we apparently planted no trees there, although two Black Walnuts have since volunteered. Meanwhile, no goldenrod grows there either. A well-used game trail leads into the patch without exiting anywhere. Several areas of grass, trampled and pressed, told of deer beds. Did that “explain” the bare area or do deer make beds there because it is bare?

Continuing on to the Hole, I made several sweeps of the surrounding vegetation, netting a Two-Striped Plant Hopper (*Acanalonia bivittata*), an unidentified black Jumping Spider (possibly *Phidippus* or *Sassacus* sp.), a Two-striped grasshopper (*Melanoplus bivittatus*), and a Crab Spider (*Mecaphesa* sp.).

Taking another break at the Nook, I was amused by a very persistent fly with an interesting brown thorax. I waited until it migrated to my left hand so the right hand could reach the camera in my right pocket. Oops! It was time for the next Honeybee count. As I proceeded along the counting trail, I was somewhat dismayed to see that many of the Goldenrod plants had already browned and were receiving very few visitors. The count came to about half the count of last Wednesday. Halfway through the count, I was pleased to receive a brief visit from a male 12-spotted Skimmer (*Libellula pulchella*) with a beautiful purple abdomen.

Determined to get more beetles from old logs, I descended the Fleming Creek trail to stop at a promising log, with well-rotted wood. No beetles of any kind. Just an attractive network of rhizomorphs from one of the rot fungi such as *Coniophora*. Back at the Nook once more, I found more species on offer. At my feet a wasp dug away industriously at the dust. This was my best clue to the Potter Wasp, *Ancistrocerus aldiabatus*. Meanwhile, a grey-black “fuzzy bear” caterpillar of the Virginia Tiger Moth (*Spilosoma virginica*) made its way along the rustic table in the Nook.

On my final foray, I ventured into the Blind Creek Forest to get better photographs of a thousand aphids crowding a Wingstem plant. The aphids were gone, but on a nearby Wood Nettle, I found what I thought were a bunch of new aphids, only to discover that the nettle had set seed, as shown in our cover photo.

Overflight Note: At about 3:40 pm, I heard the whistling/roar of turboprop engines that grew steadily louder until a large, four-engine aircraft flew directly overhead at about 300' altitude on a NE heading. The trees all shook. It was a Canadian Forces C-130 Hercules transport. Air regulations do not permit an altitude less than 500' over open country. Was there an air show somewhere?

Phenology: Goldenrod browning rapidly, Wingstem still in flower.

New Species:

'Brown-backed Longjaw'	<i>Tetragnatha caudata</i>	LM KD Sp10/15
'Gold Tachinid Fly'	<i>Archytas apicifer</i>	GF KD Sp10/15

Notes: The Long-jawed Orbweaver previously identified tentatively as *Tetragnatha* [*caudata*] is now certain enough to remove the square brackets. The Cluster Fly *Pollenia labialis* is a rather close lookalike to our Tachinid - but its face is too dark and its vibrissae much too short.

Obituary: We are greatly saddened by the passing of Glen Jacobs early last August. Glen was a great friend of Newport Forest and Uncle of Steward Darrren Jacobs. One of the last of the Delaware nation to speak the Munsee dialect, Glen was the language coach for Daniel Day Lewis during the filming of *Last of the Mohicans*. He taught us many words and phrases, including a prayer that starts,
“A-ni’-sheek, Ki-shal-i-mu’kwang, a-lu-wi-la’-ki-mak . . . “
“Thank you, oh Creator, for this fine day . . . “.

Readers Write:

Clare Magee, a naturalist in Newmarket, writes, “Let me be among the first to congratulate you on reaching 1,000 Newport Bulletin posts. (next one!) So glad your heart is again strongly into the research and monitoring and sharing. ’Tis a wonderful contribution.”

Andrew Szilard, a mathematical colleague and nature lover in London, writes, “Congratulations for exhausting all 3-digit numbers to enumerate your most interesting and valuable Bulletin.”

Catching up:

Readers who would like to read past issues of the *Bulletin* may visit the archive at <http://www.csd.uwo.ca/~akd/newport-forest/> and scroll to the bottom.

IMAGES:



A 'Gold Tachinid Fly' (*Archytas apicifer*) inspects a finger of my left hand while my right hand aims the Lumix camera. Tachinid flies lay eggs on other arthropods, often on caterpillars. Larvae burrow into the host, consuming its tissues and pupating into adults when fully developed. Adults feed mainly on nectar. Was there a hint of Coca-cola on my finger?



Two colour variants of the common Tarnished Plant Bug (*Lygus lineolaris*) showed up today. These differences hardly begin to illustrate the extreme variability in the field marks this species may have. For a mind-boggling adventure in ID flexibility, visit <http://bugguide.net/node/view/16892> and click on “Images”.