

Date and time: Sunday October 22 2017 2:00 - 5:00 pm

Weather: Pr 0mm; RH 71%; BP 102.0 kPa; clear; winds S 10-30 kmh; T 23° C.

Contents: Catching up with Steve Logan, more collecting and a predated deer.



Milkweed by gate resembles a field of ripened cotton, causing us to wonder if a useful fabric could be made from the milkweed “fluff”.

Pausing at the gate to wait for the arrival of Steve Logan, one of our supporters, I noticed several Sweat Bees (*Halictidae*) visiting some asters right next to the milkweed plants shown above. These are beautiful metallic green bees, with several species in our area.

I continued on to the trailer and Steve arrived a few minutes later. We spent some time loading scrap lumber (for firewood) from the back of my van to the bed of his truck. Then we retired to the Nook where we spent nearly an hour trading medical histories, as old folks like to do. Steve couldn't stay to do any trail work, so I said goodbye and headed down to the creek, net in hand.

I was taken aback, as I stepped onto a seep-trestle, to see the leg of a deer at my feet. What!?! (See Image Gallery.) The leg was intact from the metatarsal down to the toe, but most of the flesh had been stripped away from the tibia. My immediate thought was “Coyotes”. But do Coyotes sometimes attack deer? Depending on what web site you consult, opinions differ. Perhaps the deer died a natural death and the corpse was scavenged by coyotes. In any event, it looks like the leg had

been carried away from the corpse, then dropped when diminishing returns set in for the animal carrying it. (Best guess.)

At the creek I carried out a sweep on the north bank, suddenly dismayed when I found the sweep net literally clothed in devil's pitchforks (or beggar-ticks as some people call them.) What a mess. I got most of them off by working the bag against the bark of a nearby tree and resigned myself not to sweep too close to any *Bidens* plants, the source of the "ticks". That sweep nevertheless got me a Meadow Katydid, an insect we never saw before this year — and now seemingly everywhere. Then a Longjawed Orbweaver, a very common genus of spiders at Newport Forest. A sweep of the south bank produced several spiders and I spent the rest of my time pulling the devil's pitchforks from my net.

Climbing back up the creek bluffs, I began to feel dizzy and tired. Never mind, just keep climbing. Past the deer leg and on up to the Nook. I did one more sweep on the Upper Meadow and found among my haul, the nymphs of three different bug species. Why so many nymphs this late in the season? Do they expect to survive the winter.? I got nice photos of more Yellowjackets exploring my coffee and doughnut, changed the sd cards in the trail cams and made for home.

Biological Inventory (ATBI)

New Species: (17% new arths)

Brown Lacewing	<i>Micromus posticus</i>	RSF kd/SP Oc18/17
Silky Striped Sweat Bee	<i>Agapostemon sericeus</i>	UM KD Oc22/17

Species Notes:

Being poor with lacewings, I referred our specimen to Steve Paiero at U of Guelph — who did the ID; the Sweat Bee was visiting Asters in the Upper Meadow.

Recurring Species:

'Rathki's Sowbug' (*Trachelipus rathii*); Hammock Spider (*Pityohyphantes costatus*); Long-jawed Orbweaver (*Tetragnathus* sp.); Shortwinged Meadow Katydid (*Conocephalis brevipennis*); Tarnished Plant Bug (*Lygus lineolaris*); 'Rose-winged Damsel Bug' (*Nabis roseipennis*); Asian Lady Beetle (*Harmonia axyridis*); Spotted Cucumber Beetle (*Diabrotica undecimpunctata*); Northern Paper Wasp (*Polistes fuscatus*); Eastern Yellowjacket (*Vespula maculifrons*); Pennsylvania Carpenter Ant (*Camponotus pennsylvanicus*).

Deferred or Discarded:

Unid. Sweat Bee; *Lygus* nymph; *Coreid* nymph; one other unid. bug nymph.

Readers Write

Dr Greg Thorn, our consulting mycologist, examined multiple images of two mushrooms that I photographed in the Riverside Forest on the 18th of this month: “The polypore I can ID with confidence - *Trametes elegans*. The clitocybe-like mushroom may be a *Clitocybe*, but my guess would be *Pseudoarmillariella ectypoides*. How's that for a name? Descriptions may emphasize fine brown radial scales on the cap, but many a photo does not show them.” (See images below.)

Dr Steve Paiero, an entomologist at the University of Guelph examined the image of a Mantid that reader Marg Hulls sent in to us: “Looks like another Chinese Mantid, indeed. I do not see these guys very often in this area but they do become more common as you head towards Windsor. During one trip to Ojibway Prairie, I believe I swept 10 of these guys up in my net in the course of 5 or 10 minutes.”

Image Gallery



Toe, metatarsal and tibia of a deer's leg are all that remain at this spot.



This is the mushroom that Dr Thorn talks about in the Readers Write section above. The upper image shows a troop of caps — not quite clear enough to make out any fine radial scales. The bottom image shows the gills, plus the spot where I took a taste. It's all right as long as you spit the piece out. (Almost a new species.)



The Sweat Bee above answers the description of *Agapostemon sericeus*, a common sweat bee in southern Ontario. Most species of sweat bees seem to live in the American southwest. There are some four species in our area. I believe this is a male, as females seem to lack the bold stripes.