

Date and time: Thursday July 14 2022 2:05 - 6:10 pm.

Weather: Pr 0 mm; RH 39%; BP 102.1 kPa; sun/cloud; winds calm; T 24° C.

Contents: Prepping the trailer for removal & other maintenance ops.



A large rift has developed as a massive section of bluff detaches itself to begin a long ride down to Fleming Creek. Its mass would probably come to several tonnes.

Today's visit began with a strange event at the farm gate; instead of putting the car keys in my pocket as I normally do, I absent-mindedly left them on the drivers seat. When I got back, I found the car locked! WTH! That is not supposed to happen. For one thing, whether I put the keys in my pocket or not should not make any difference and has not in the past. The CAA roadside assistance guy agreed.

While waiting for the CAA to arrive, I strolled over to the little "copse" that I had planted inside the gate some years ago to see how my trees were doing: Two White Ash, now 20 feet, along with a Red ash of the same height and now heavy with seed. A Tulip Tree of 15 feet, but doing poorly with somewhat chlorotic leaves and evidence of attack by borers, then a 12 foot Red Oak doing well, and a 12 foot Silver Maple, also looking happy.

After the CAA visit, things got better. Steve had already arrived and the neighbouring farmer, Alex McIntyre, had come over to discuss the removal of our old trailer from the site (of which more later). In passing he mentioned watching a sort of migration last winter when no fewer than 72 deer came wandering into the

upper meadow, then across the road to browse on the grain spillage in recently harvested fields of corn and soybeans.

Steve and I then drove down to the camp to be greeted by an amazing sight. Amid lush green mounds of forest and field, dozens of butterflies flitted and flirted. The sight seemed to contradict what I had been reading lately about butterfly decline: Fritilleries, Anglewings, Nymphs, Whites, and others. I was too concerned with our maintenance issues to photograph the butterflies, but it was much easier to photograph the flowers they fed upon as we took an inspection walk to the river. We removed both the riverside camera and the one at the Hole, placing them in my backpack to take home for inspection.

The trailer will not be removable until we have removed a young tree of 3" dbh, pulled the deck away from the trailer and sawed through a sewage pipe stuck in the earth. Steve managed all but the deck and will take care of that after the Thursday fungus walk is done. (See later.)

Image Gallery



This 20 foot Pinto trailer has served my former wife Pat and me since we bought it in the year 2000. Now decayed and infested by a family of

Long-tailed Weasels, it no longer serves as a night time stay over and will soon be removed from the site. Pat had refused to sleep over ever since.



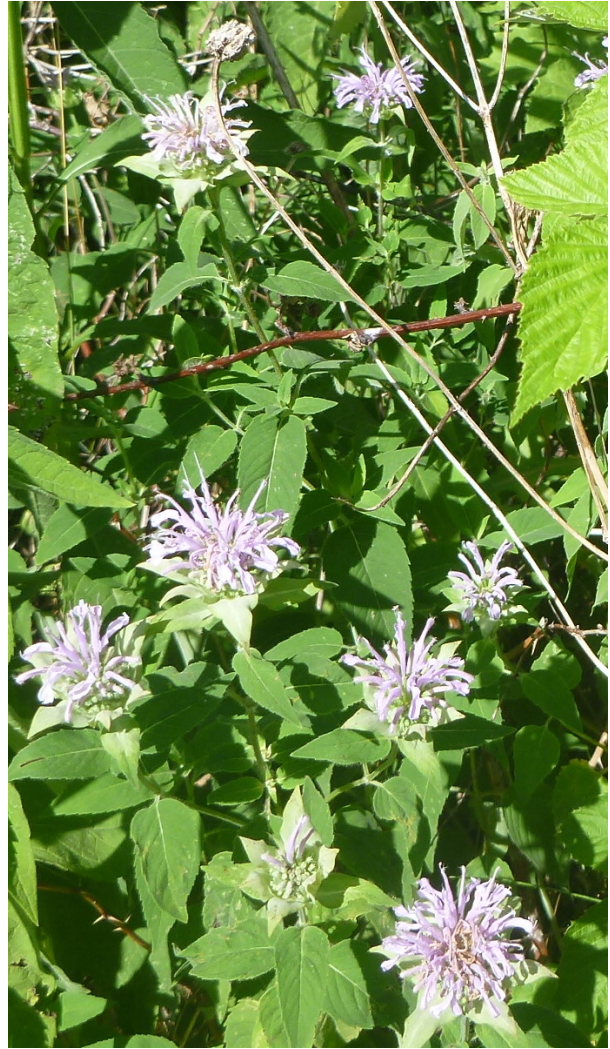
A recent visit to Newport Forest by birder Glenn Berry, brought out some birds we haven't seen in a while, including this Bobolink. Photos of Glenn's finds will be found at

<https://www.icloud.com/sharedalbum/#B0yGkb0P0GCmhOU>,

with identifications at the Naturalist website:

<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations?>

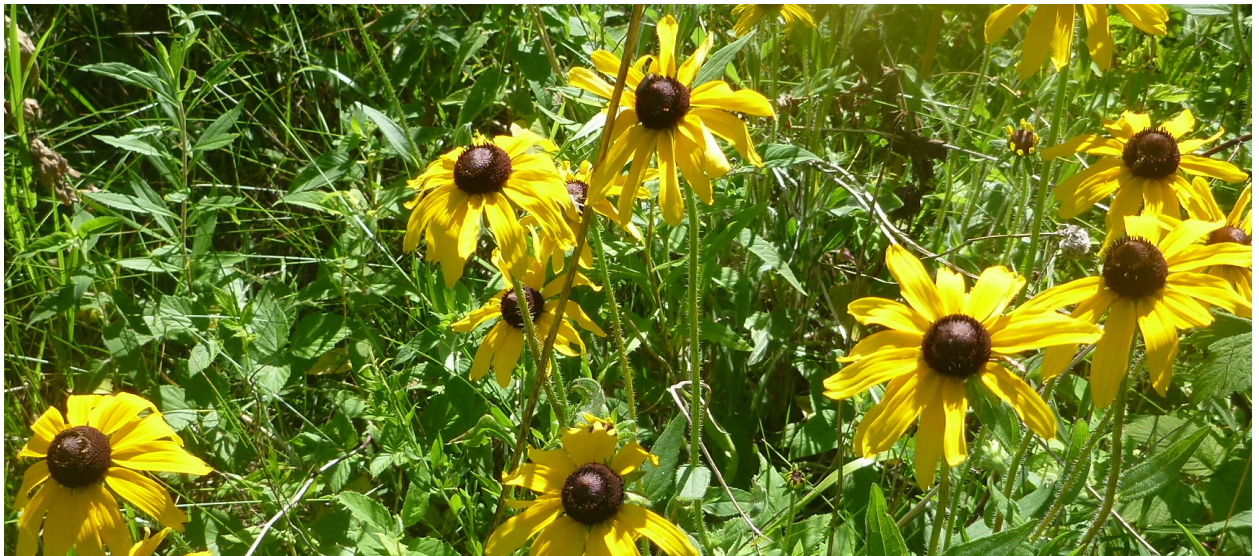
[nelat=42.639332815851&nelng=-81.73558729345363&on=2022-07-03&order_by=observed_on&place_id=any&subview=table&swlat=42.62196694212178&swlng=-81.80133360082668&verifiable=any](https://www.inaturalist.org/observations?nelat=42.639332815851&nelng=-81.73558729345363&on=2022-07-03&order_by=observed_on&place_id=any&subview=table&swlat=42.62196694212178&swlng=-81.80133360082668&verifiable=any)



Two common flowers on site are the Birdsfoot Trefoil (left) and Monarda or Bee Balm (right).



This Tall Sunflower (by the river) sometimes called the “River Daisy” by locals.



The Black-eyed Susan is a common sight at Newport Forest.



This Blackcap Raspberry ceased flowering and is now fruiting. This plant has wrecked more insect nets than even the Multiflora Rose (bushes). It is the most pervasive plant, short of grasses and sedges.

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Fungus Walk has been largely scaled back to include only a few naturalists thought to be most helpful in finding new fungi. This is more of a Monitoring Nature project than a Citizen Science project. The search will take place on site beginning at 1 pm this coming Thursday. (i.e. tomorrow)