

Here are recent sightings from the trail. It's always worthwhile looking around the pond, and this summer we've had a wood duck family living there (photo). Heavy storms have altered the mud banks in the pond, so look carefully around all the edges.



We're still in a season of butterflies. The five species shown below are among the most common, though others may appear too. Monarchs are in the area but less numerous than expected this year. We also have major **predators** along the trail – dragonflies – which catch and eat mosquitos, flies, and sometimes butterflies. Not all predators are furred or feathered!

The pattern on a leaf can tell you about other insects.

The last photos in the second row display trail mines, showing where a very small fly, moth, or wasp laid an egg inside a leaf, and the developing larva crawled around feeding on the cells between the upper and lower leaf surfaces, leaving a trail of where it had been. The trail is narrow at first but gets wider as the larva grows, and the dark dots in the trail are the fecal pellets left behind (called "frass"). You might find the exit hole at the end where the adult insect emerged.

A sign of the passing of the season is that many fruits are developing. Meanwhile, composites (aster relatives) are among the most abundant flowers, including sunflowers, coneflowers, goldenrods, joe-pye weed, and boneset. Many others remain in flower, too; floral diversity is at its peak right now.



Honeysuckle Gooseberry Raspberry F. Solomon's seal Wild mustard Thin-lv coneflower Pale-lv sunflower Joe-pye weed Boneset



White admiral Red admiral Cabbage white Little wood satyr Question mark Whitetail dragonfly Blotch mine Trail mines



Pale jewelweed Spot. jewelweed Thimbleweed Red clover Soapwort Ev. primrose Yel. Wood sorrel W. sweet clover Goldenrod Agrimony



Pokeweed Bitters. nightshade Ramps Sp. knapweed Am. germander Clematis Dewberry Pinkweed Monarda Queen Anne's lace