

## Site Visit

Newport Forest Tuesday October 7 2009 2:30 - 6:35 pm

weather: prec. 40 mm; RH 72%; BP 98.1 kPa; ovcst; S 0-15kmh; T 18° C  
purpose: fungus walk  
participants: Kee

My heart leapt at the sight of 40 mm in the rain gauge. I had been hoping for another banner year like 2006 and 2008, but we're now about 100mm "behind schedule" to match those years. (2000 was average, the remaining years offering barely half the regional average precip.)

I filled the three bird feeders, then went down to the creek to rake out the trail to the rapids nice & level. A flock of 10-12 goldfinches flew excitedly back and forth between the GF, the old walnut and the meadow feeder. They made their little cheeping sounds frequently, as though planning a trip.

Sitting in the Nook, I was visited by a lone hoverfly who inspected my clothing, my apple juice and other items with more than average interest. My fungus walk began right by the trailer, where I spotted some LBMs (myco-talk for "little brown mushrooms, some of which are notoriously hard to identify) Working up my gumption, I took up brush hook & field pack and followed the TRT clockwise, stopping at some logs to see if the "Marasmius & Co." were still there. I collected some moss in fruit from an old log nearby (S). Further along (still in the BCF) I found another troop of what looked like Psathyrellas. Then, up on the HB, found another growth of Phlebia tremellosa behind the bench (S) and Ash Boletes along the trail in the thorn wood. (neither new)

Coming off the HB (Hogsback) I ran into (nearly) another spider web, with (you guessed it) a Micrathena on it. This one was busy dining on a planthopper, a common green Anormenis. I feel a bit alarmed that for the last three years, we have seen no other species of orb-weaver across our trails than Micrathena gracilis. Where are the other orb-weavers we used to see? Where have the Araneus spp. gone? In the RSF (Riverside Forest) I found an all-white bracket fungus, thick with a bumpy, rubbery top and tiny pores, (S). I also picked up an orange Crepidotus-like sp. in the RSF, possibly new, then a troop of more than 100 brown mushrooms with splitting caps (see image below), which turned out to be Hoiney Mushrooms (not new). Watching the river from the bluffs bench, I started a Great Blue from the shore below -- always a beautiful sight.

Back at camp, I made a quick tour of the RZ (regeneration zone) to check the planted trees. I took a few pictures (P - TT, RO, WO) and noted that the Populus spp. were well advanced in colour, while the rest were still mostly green. I then decided to retrieve the canoe stowed near the river back to the trailer before the gunwales rot out for a second time. It needs a treatment of tung oil before it rains again. Closing the gate, I dropped off some Stewards documents to Nina, being surprised by the appearance of a doe trotting across her back yard toward the pond behind the Hurdle house. (The new trail cam picked up its first deer of the season. See below)

birds: (7)

American Crow (HB); American Goldfinch (LM); American Robin (RB); Great Blue Heron (MB); Mourning Dove (LM); Red-bellied woodpecker (GF); Turkey Vulture (TR)

new species:

'Orange-gilled Shelf' Phyllotopsis nidulans\* RSF KD Oc07/09

\* pending confirmation

phenology: nutfall for walnuts; katydids still calling; Cabbage Whites still around

### IMAGES:

(click on image to enlarge)



*troop of Honey Mushrooms*

(click on image to enlarge)



*Climbing Bittersweet on river bluffs:  
good winter forage for several  
species of burds & mammals, but  
not humans ("cleans you out at both  
ends")*

(click on image to enlarge)



*buck ready for the rutting season  
(spectral camera artifacts due to  
sun angle) (firtst useable image  
from new trail cam)*