

Time: Saturday October 6 2012, 2:25 - 6:25 pm

Weather: Pr 12 mm; RH 59%; BP 101.7 kPa; SW 10-20 kmh; cld/sun; T 11° C

Activity: Pat & Kee visit the river and prepare for Work Day

The weather across much of North America today was unseasonably cold and Newport Forest was no exception. For compensation, we were presented with a dazzling display of colours as we drove onto the property, as witness the maples and oaks in the image below. To ease the shock of transition from a supernaturally hot summer to a premature winter, we spent rather a long time in the trailer, cof-



feeling up while the propane stove slowly warmed us up. Temperature on site was 11° C, but a brisk wind made it feel like 5 ° C.

The focus today was our preparation for the Thames Talbot Work Day scheduled on site for next saturday. (See announcement below.) Pat planted some Box

Elders that had sprouted at home. Concentrating on the operation, she missed seeing the Great Blue Heron that flew over her on its way to the river. Meanwhile, I changed the sd cards on the trail cams. One of the cameras no longer produces correct time stamps on the images it takes, so it will have to be replaced.

On the way to the river we looked carefully into the veg on either side of the trail, searching for Turtleheads, one of the last flowers to bloom. Nothing. At the river landing, I went out on the beach to record the tracks, while Pat searched along the shoreline, often a good place to find unusual plants. She found what she at first thought was a Buckwheat, but later turned out to be an Amaranth. She's still working on it, as it appears to be new. (This genus can be tricky.)

The river is running about 10 cm lower than normal as it passes Newport Forest, exposing a 10 cm primary terrace ledge at Mussel Beach. We spotted a Great Blue (possibly the same one that flew over the meadow earlier) hunting along our side of the river a good 100 m upstream. Magnificent bird.

Back at camp, we surprised a raccoon raiding the Hickory tray feeder. "What are you doing up at 6 pm, a good hour before breakfast?" It crabbed out of sight around the tree. How can you not look guilty while wearing a mask?

We cleaned up the trailer and departed.

Birds: (6 - no summer birds, no winter birds, no migrants, just a few endemics)

American Crow (WR); Blue Jay (GF); Great Blue Heron (PL); Red-bellied Woodpecker (Tr); Turkey Vulture (UM); White-breasted Nuthatch (Tr)

New Species:

"Two-cornered Stokesia"	<i>Stokesia vernalis</i>	LR/FC KD Sp23/12
"One-armed Spirofilid"	<i>Spiratella</i> sp.	LR/FC KD Sp23/12
"Flask Enchelys"	[<i>Enchelys arcuata</i>]	LR/FC KD Sp23/12
"Freckle-cap"	<i>Pholiota [flammans]</i>	RB ec/GT Sp29/12
resupinate polypore	<i>Poria</i> (pseudogenus.) sp.	EE bp/GT Sp29/12
"Whiteleaf Trametes"	<i>Trametes pubescens</i>	EE bp/GT Sp29/12
"Phlebia Crust"	<i>Phlebia tremelosa</i>	RB ec/GT Sp29/12
"Clubfoot"	<i>Hypsizygus tesselatus</i>	RB tk/GT Sp29/12
Purple Ear"	<i>Peziza</i> sp.	RB ec/GT Sp29/12

“Mini waxycap”	<i>Hygrocybe [miniata]</i>	RSF ec/GT Sp29/12
Bear Lentinus	<i>Lentinellus ursinus</i>	BMF tk/GT Sp29/12
Gelatinous-pored Polypore	<i>Gloeoporus dichrous</i>	RSF/S BP Sp29/12
“Black-nosed Lepiota”	<i>Lepiota [felina]</i>	RSF tk/GT Sp29/12

Notes: I have been busy with another sample from the Lower Rapids of Fleming Creek, finding three species of “protozoa” that I have been waiting a long time to see, two of them distinctive. We also took our unidentified samples of fungi to Greg Thorn recently for a discussion of the specimens, with many new species emerging.

Corrections:

1. The Mica Cap mushroom reported in the previous issue of the *Bulletin* was identified taking only three of the most common “inky-caps” into account. It is therefore withdrawn from the list as the ID was made only in distinction from the other two. (The ID is not necessarily wrong, just uncertain.)
2. Margaret Hulls’ name was misspelled in the previous Bulletin as “Hull”. Our apologies!

Phenology: some insects (e.g. wasp & grasshopper) torpid, 50% of trees have no leaves, 5% still green, esp. willows.

Thorn to Speak in West Elgin Co.: Dr. Greg Thorn of the UWO Biology Department will give an invited talk to the West Elgin Nature Club entitled “The Secret Lives of Mushrooms”. Will Thorn reveal the full extent of mushroom misdoings or will he hold back out of concern for the faint of heart? Only one way to find out: *October 18* in West Lorne at the Anglican Church Hall. Show time is 8:00 pm.

Newport Forest Work Day: Calling all volunteers! The Thames Talbot Fall Work Day at Newport Forest will be held this coming Saturday October 13, from 1 to 4 pm. Bring loppers (if you have any) and work gloves. Main projects will be invasive woody spp removal and trail work, including lining and repair. Get in touch with Erin Carroll with any queries. Go to the website below and click on the email button.

Nature in Ontario’s Banana Belt: Erin’s website includes many adventures at Newport Forest, especially the recent “mycoblitz”: <http://erintown.blogspot.ca/>

IMAGES:



Sunlight comes roaring up the river toward the beach, as the end of the cold front arrives to clear the sky; a massive shield of cloud (edge can be seen in upper right corner) slides to the north.

We noted that trees next to the river are the last to change colour, partly because many of them are willows and partly because they have not dried out as quickly, at a guess.



Tracks of a Virginia Possum on the clay beach of the River Landing add to those of the Raccoon, Virginia Deer, Coyote, Canada Goose, and Great Blue Heron. Also spotted were tracks of either a Raccoon kit (unlikely this time of year) or a Striped Skunk, rarely seen on the property. Possum tracks are readily distinguished from others by size (somewhat smaller), spread of toes and narrow heel pads.