

**Date and time:** Thursday October 10 2:15 - 6:00 pm

**Weather:** Pr 42 mm; RH 62%; BP 102.5 kPa; clear; calm; T 25° C

**Activity:** A visit, a dieback, and another flood

We noticed that the ground was still wet when we arrived on site today. The rainfall had been plentiful, the sky was blue and the air was warm once again. How long would all of this last? looking down through the Gallery Forest that cloaks the creek bluffs, we could see Fleming Creek well over its banks, the second such flood in two weeks! The entire Fleming Creek Forest (where we rarely go since



the bridge was removed three years ago) appeared to be inundated. Would this enhance the fungus finds in the workshop planned for October 27th?

We noticed several Sulphur butterflies flutterby everywhere. They are very wary and hard to approach, but I got enough photos to see that it was an Orange Sul-

phur, with other species possibly present. I walked along the edge of the Gallery Forest, turning over some of the overhanging leaves and finding a Brown Stink-bug, several intriguingly tiny galls on Basswood leaves, along with several cottony scale insects that I was doomed never to identify. A (possible) Scathophagid Fly clung to the bottom of a Basswood leaf. (I'm still working on it.)

As for the Lower Meadow, given the loss of so many blooms, with the goldenrod dieback now under way and the Aster Bloom pretty much over, arthropods were noticeably less abundant. I found a deer "bedroom" in the middle of the meadow and had just started searching the browning vegetation, when Steve Logan rolled into camp to pay a courtesy call, along with a friend named Mark. Pat joined us for a walk to the river to check on flood levels. She stayed at the landing to sort out the numerous small migrant birds flitting from branch to branch in the bushes there, while Steve, Mark and I continued along the trail up to the River Bluffs to sit on the bench and examine the river. It was still quite high, well over the clay beach, but a metre-wide band of gray foliage on the far shore told of even higher levels yesterday. There were plans afoot for a canoe convoy downriver from Big Bend to Moraviantown. Would I like to join in? We would see.

The reenactment marking the 200th anniversary of the Battle of the Thames had just ended, a great success in terms of numbers, with hundreds of reenactors from both countries playing the role of British Regulars, local militia, Kentucky riflemen, and yes, even the great Tecumseh, and his warriors. (Real "Indians" don't do reenactments. They're still living with the aftermath of such conflicts.) The latest version of the Great Battle was marred by occasional rains and nearby Moraviantown saw little economic benefit from the thousand-plus visitors. After all, it was *their* bicentennial, too.

With Steve and Mark gone, it was back to the Lower Meadow. Pat had had very little luck with the birds at the Landing. She heard a Black-capped Chickadee call and spotted several Kinglets, without being able to make out the crowns, whether of Ruby or Gold. She went birding along the road while I returned to sweeping the meadow. I found a small orb web inhabited by a very shy *Gea* spider (new) and later picked up a new Funnel spider, as well. Several plant bugs also appeared in the net. I photographed everything and looked forward to examining all the imagery at home.

**Birds: (9)**

American Crow (EW); American Robin (BCF); Black-capped Chickadee (RL);

Blue Jay (GF); Common Flicker (FCF); Common Grackle (LM); Field Sparrow (Nk); Kinglet (Ruby- or Gold-crowned) (RL); Red-bellied Woodpecker (RSF)

**Phenology:** flood with 3m crest (approx.) on Oc08-09, Common Grackles assembling in large flocks, Katydid still calling, Sulphur butterflies still about.

### **Honeybee Protocol:**

The pollinator survey, which has been running for five summers now, has yielded the following figures for Honeybee presence in the Lower Meadow, expressed in terms of bees per hectare, as below:

2009 4,952/ha  
2010 5,957/ha  
2011 no count owing to poor conditions  
2012 3,077/ha  
2013 2,654/ha

The figures were derived from the peak count in each season and are subject to an undetermined error term. In spite of this caveat, one would have to admit to some evidence of a decline. Next year's count should give a fuller picture.

### **New Species:**

'Seven-pointed Orb Weaver'	<i>Gea heptagon</i>	LM KD Oc10/13
'Spotted Funnel Spider'	<i>Coras</i> sp.	LM KD Oc10/13

**Notes:** The *Gea* spider, thanks to its flat, angular abdomen, was an easy ID, while the Agelenid took additional time as I sorted out the details of its carapace.

**Golden Eagle attacks Sitka Deer:** not to be too sensational, but here is an image, taken from a trail cam in eastern Asia, that few wildlife experts ever get to see, let alone ordinary people like us. Click on the following url:

<http://www.latimes.com/science/sciencenow/la-sci-sn-photos-capture-rare-eagle-attack-on-deer-20130924,0,957086.story>

### **Newport Forest Fungal Workshop & Bioblitz on October 27 !**

Fungi make up the "Fifth Kingdom" of life on Earth. They are found in an amazing variety of forms and are found in an equally amazing variety of habitats. Your chance to explore this realm is coming. Watch for the TTLT flyer.

## IMAGES:



Ever wonder what the (normally concealed) wings of a Mirid bug look like? By sheer chance I clicked the shutter just as this one deployed its wings the instant before taking off, apparently a Tarnished Plant Bug.



Ready to pack it in for the year? Steve holds a Praying Mantis that has lost legs 1 and 2 on its left side, possibly the result of predation. Can it still secure prey items with a single foreleg?