

Date and time: Thursday October 2 2014 1:55 - 3:40 pm

Weather: Pr 22 mm; RH 61%; BP 100.9 kPa; overcast; E 5-20 kmh; T 11° C

Activity: Sampling Fleming Creek and visiting Tecumseh.

We had barely two hours on site before the dedication ceremony for the new Tecumseh memorial would begin on Hwy 2 near Moraviantown. Accompanied by our field assistant Laura Lee, I made my way down to Fleming Creek which was higher than shown in this file photo from 2012. In fact I wondered if I would be



able to make it out to the rapids without water flooding into my boot-tops. I was after some of the algae-coated rocks (seen here in aggregate as a large greenish patch) to carry out some long-delayed microbial sampling. Laura waded out with an aquatic net to transport the rocks back to a large pickle jar on the bank.

Jar in hand, we retreated back up the bluffs for a quick sandwich and shelter from the cold wind in the trailer. At one point, I heard a sudden cry from Laura. “What?” She looked apprehensively at a hole in the wall to her left. “I saw an animal come out of that hole, but it went back in.” From her description, I concluded that it was

a young Long-tailed Weasel, one of the litter born to Wendy the Trailer Weasel, who took up residence behind the wall last fall.

Since the ceremony would be held in half an hour we wasted little time carrying out the remaining task, to set up two photo-monitoring posts on site, one near the trailer, the other in the Upper Meadow overlooking the Fleming Creek Forest. From both posts there is an uninterrupted view of a forest edge, complete with several leafless trees. The posts will be used to position annual imagery to monitor tree loss due to colder winters, pollution and other factors.

When we arrived at Moraviantown at 4 pm, we were at first puzzled by the fact that parked vehicles far outnumbered the hundred or so people milling around the monument. Then we realized that many people had elected to remain in their vehicles simply to stay warm. The ceremony took a long time to start, with native drummers and singers just warming up at 4:30. Laura, meanwhile, not well dressed for standing inactive in the cold, began to shiver. Once I realized that we still had to get through endless political speeches, we cut our losses and drove away.

With apologies: for non-italicized scientific names in last *Bulletin* and a mistaken date in the covering message; type 2010 quickly enough and you'll get 2019.

New Species:

Colonial Peritrich	[<i>Zoothamnium</i>] sp. (protist)	FC/LR KD Oc05/14
'Rubberleaf'	<i>Lepista nuda</i> (fungus - TBC)	FCB kdGT Oc02/14

Notes: *Lepista* is a tough, whitish leaflike fungus growing on old wood. A Peritrich is a subclass of protist with cilia arranged around a mouthlike opening. I have made two hay infusions (a kind of bio-amplifier) to bring out the organisms present in the samples from Fleming Creek. The following genera were found in the raw sample: algae *Cladophora*, *Melosira*, and *Navicula* spp., ciliates *Stylonychia*, [*Zoothamnium*] (possibly *Carchesium*), and *Halteria*, the rotifer *Lepadella*, and a Caddisfly larva. *Zoothamnium* would be a "lifer" for me. I was frustrated at not being able to photograph, as my camera adapter has gone missing.

Owing to surgery scheduled for December, I can't absolutely guarantee that I'll be fit for the field in 2015, so we've been pushing the ATBI project. Over the last year we have listed 112 new species as well as 61 repeats. The ATBI total is now 2043.

IMAGES:



(image: Rogelio Moreno)

In the colonial genus *Zoothamnium*, each individual is attached to a stalk that joins other stalks in a treelike arrangement. Chief characteristic of this genus, in contrast to other branched colonial peritrichs, is the ability of all stalks to contract simultaneously, as witnessed in the colony observed today. Species of this ciliate (about 50) occur in freshwater and/or marine habitats, often on turtle, shellfish and other animals.



Attendees to the ceremony mill aimlessly about, waiting for something to happen. None of our many friends from Moraviantown showed up.

A large circular plaque displays a likeness of Tecumseh based on a sketch made in the early 1800s. The image is flanked by an historical tablet:



“Born in a Shawnee village in what is now Ohio, Tecumseh became in the 1790s co-leader with his brother, the Prophet, of a movement to restore and preserve traditional Indian values. He believed a union of all the western tribes to drive back white settlement to be the one hope for Indian survival and spread this idea the length of the frontier. Seeing the Americans as the immediate threat, he allied himself with the British in 1812, assisted in the capture of Detroit and was killed near here at the Battle of the Thames on 5 October 1813, while retreating with General Proctor from Amherstburg.” (It might be added here that Tecumseh urged Proctor to stand and fight, calling him a “coward” for retreating. Tecumseh fought on.)