

Date and time: Wednesday November 11 2015 1:50 - 5:40 pm.

Weather: Prec. 10 mm; RH 62%; BP 101.8; clear; W 5-10 km/h; T 14°C

Activity: Collecting fungi.

As one can see in this image, taken from the River Landing at Newport Forest, the leaves are now mostly off the trees. On the property itself, I encountered only one tree still hanging onto its leaves, a large White Oak in the Gallery Forest that crowns the Fleming Creek Bluffs adjacent to the meadow areas.



Most of today's collecting of fungi took place along the trail to the river. I kept hoping to find some mushrooms fruiting on soil, but there didn't seem to be any around! Nevertheless, I found plenty growing on dead trunks and branches. Determined to be somewhat more professional in my approach, I not only photographed specimens, but collected them in a basket for further examination in my home lab.

On the very first log I examined, I found some five species of fungus: Pear-shaped Puffballs, two little orange-red mushrooms, a very slimy Late Fall Oyster, and (regular) Oyster Mushrooms. I am holding the two red mushrooms in suspension. They appear to be an early stage of either the Deadly Cort or the Deadly Galerina, both poisonous in any case.

On a branch further along, I found a delicate fan-shaped polypore that I thought at first might be *Cotylidia diaphana*, a species I have waited for a long time. But no. It was *Stereum striatum* or Silky Parchment, a species we had already observed years ago. On I went to the next log, finding some interesting fungi under the (loose) bark. A thin patch of blue-green colour hinted at a blue-green alga that grows sub-aerially (i.e., on land), but it will have to be examined under the microscope. Then came a sprinkling of a hundred or so little white balls a millimetre or two in size. Would I ever know what fungus that was? Further along the log was another Oyster Mushroom. Beside the log lay another branch with a beautiful growth of Ochre Spreading Tooth, a species we should have found ages ago, but hadn't until today. (See New Species below.)

Arriving finally at the river, I stood on the bank to reflect on my day. I hadn't seen a single insect or spider up to that point! I had brought a trowel to dig for soil invertebrates but by the time I got back to the vernal pond area, I was too tired to do much digging. Instead I rolled a few small logs. Suddenly a small spider dashed across the dark space left by a log, but I couldn't get to my camera in time before it disappeared. Then appeared a sow bug which was undoubtedly a species we had already seen, but not worth the trouble of re-logging.

The air was chilly and the season late. We hope to have at least one more visit in November and one or two in December and that will be *it* for the year. The very next visit will concentrate on Blind Creek and the all-important geographical history of Newport Forest. The ATBI effort is pretty much finished for now.

Phenology: Leaf fall now complete; American Robin still present on property.

New Species:

Sheepskin Jelly Oyster	<i>Hohenbuehelia mastrucata</i>	RSF/SB KD Nv03/15
Ochre Spreading Tooth	<i>Steccherinum ochraceum</i>	ET KD Nv11/15
Clustered Collybia	<i>Gymnopus acervatus</i>	ET KD Nv11/15

Old Species:

Pear-shaped Puffball (*Lycoperdon pyriforme*); Late Fall Oyster (*Panellus serotinus*); Oyster Mushroom (*Pleurotus ostreatus*); Silky Parchment (*Stereum striatum*); Asian Multicoloured Lady Beetle (*Harmonia axydris*);

Readers Write:

Prof. Greg Thorn, our consulting mycologist, writes about the mystery mushroom described in the previous issue of *The Bulletin*: “Very nice! That is *Hohenbuehelia mastrucata*, the Sheepskin Jelly Oyster. It eats nematodes in soil and well-rotted wood, and is an uncommon mushroom. See photos at <http://publish.uwo.ca/~rgthorn/hohmastr.html>”

Catching up:

Readers who would like to read any of the past 1009 issues of the *Bulletin* may visit the archive at <http://www.csd.uwo.ca/~akd/newport-forest/> and scroll to the bottom.

IMAGES:



Clustered *Collybia* used to be called *Collybia acervata*, but the species has since been re-assigned to *Gymnopus*. This mushroom grows in large clusters on dead wood, particularly willow logs, where I found many “clusters” during today’s visit.



The (so-called) Sheepskin Jelly Oyster is a stalkless gilled bracket that grows on dead wood. According to mycologist Dr. Greg Thorn, it feeds (in part) on nematodes. How it does this is explained at Mykoweb below. Who would have thought that the hyphae of a fungus (*Hohenbuehelia* in this case) can not only locate nematodes, but locate their mouths?

<<http://www.mykoweb.com/articles/FungalSnares.html>>

