Date and time: Sunday December 03 2017 2:10 - 4:00 pm
Weather: Pr 4 mm; RH 67%; BP 102.1 kPa; clear; winds calm; T 9ºC
Contents: Setting up for Regen Zone enhancement.

We came on site with intentions for a short visit that would involve just two operations: searching for wintering-over insects and flagging oak, hickory, and other young saplings along the Gallery Forest edge for later replanting. As I cut several dozen dead goldenrods and winter grasses into a large garbage bag, Pat searched for suitable saplings. There weren't as many Hickory or Oak volunteers for the project than we thought there would be.

Trees at edge of Regen Zone (right) outpace those in the middle (left)

In any event, we ended by flagging some 20 saplings with very few oak or hickory species among them. However, these will do as fill-in trees to reflect the fill-in of the gallery Forest just across the track from the Regen Zone. As for the wintering over project, there were no insects visible inside the dead foliage or stems of the dead meadow plants. If course, most insects die during the winter while others may spend the cold months in egg, larval or pupal form, not to mention as adults. Live and learn as the saying goes.

We heard or saw no birds at all during our two hours here — just the ubiquitous crows. No insects about — except for a lone gnat that flew through the Nook while we sat there.

Phenology: last snow free day of the year might be December 6.

Biological Inventory (ATBI)

New Species:

'Predatory Bag Rotifer/	*Asplanchna* sp	LR KD Oc19/14
Red Velvet Mite	*Callidosoma* sp.	GF KD Je21/15
'Indigo Chlorotettix'	*Chlorotettix tergatus*	KM KD Jl18/17
'Black Robber Fly'	*Machimus* [s*adyates*]	Tr KD Au14/16

Notes: Over the years we have collected several hundred images of arthropods that remain unidentified. Some of these will remain unidentified, even by experts, owing to either a) poor imagery (focus or angle problems) or b) lack of a physical specimen. Of the remainder, some were assessed as identifiable, but only after a great deal of work has gone into them. Winter is the best time to dig out the image banks and see what can be salvaged. Today's new species include a rotifer that I simply missed in 2014, while the Robber Fly was going to take too much time. The square brackets mean that our specimens (a mating pair) are close to the species named than any other species on the web, with several hundred images having been examined in the process.

Readers Write

Two responses to the Fried Egg Fungus in the previous issue:

Aija Downing: "Ha. The 'yolks' are little round golden leaves (the leftmost 'yolk' still has some green in it). I won't attempt to identify the plant to which the leaves belong."

Mohamed Amery: "How interesting. Did you find out about the "fried eggs" they. Definitely are sunny side up!!!"

Image Gallery

Roesel's Bush Cricket (*Metrioptera roeselii*) is an European import that is now widespread over the northeastern quadrant of North America, including our area of course. I trust the leg was not lost in the sweep net.

Asplanchna is a predatory rotifer that lives in the Lower Rapids, among other places. The brush-like swimming organs are located at the top of the animal in this image. They consist of numerous cilia that beat with a rotary motion giving it the appearance of an animated floor polisher.

Two Problem Species:

If it weren't for the fact that *Cybaeus* is primarily a west coast genus, I would be tempted to think the specimen below belongs to that genus. We therefore appeal to anyone who wants to track this critter down to please send us your thoughts.

This beetle looks very much like an Ant-like Flower Beetle (Antheridae) or possibly a Checkered Beetle (Cleridae). Once again, we ask anyone good with beetles to relieve us of “species anguish”, a disease peculiar to those who spend inordinate amounts of time trying to identify difficult specimens.

We assume that the structure ahead of the abdomen is the thorax and that the head is largely obscured, with only the antennae to help in identification.