

**Newport Forest**

June 12/00

3:30 - 5:00 pm

**Weather:** cloudy, cool 15C, with intermittent rain

**Purpose:** to show River Forest to Michelle Kanter of NCC

**Participants:** Kee, Michelle

The tour began where Michelle had last looked at the property, namely at the riverfront opening. she had never been inside the River Forest, however, or any of the others. We made our way along the Riverside Trail and into the river Forest, noting a beautiful little plant with a yellowish cluster of food-storage organs just below a small blue flower. (Pat ID'd this later as Wild Garlic.)

Michelle seemed to be quite impressed with the dense vegetation (actually evidence of disturbance), the large vines, very large trees, etc. She described it as "lush" and "Carolinian." (She had earlier talked about a possible "corridor" connecting Skunk's Misery to the Newport Forest.) She took several pictures of some of the larger trees, including a very large Hackberry that I hadn't noticed before. It forked quite low into three branches that were trees in their own right, the central one being pretty well dead, but with lots of holes, large and small, an apartment building of sorts.

We went up on the Hogsback where she took a picture of what she called a "wolf tree." We had a discussion of just what a "wolf tree" was. (i.e., an open-grown tree by accident vs human cutting) Over in the Old Creek Forest, we found both blue and yellow flags and I was lucky enough to spot a small, peculiar-looking tree at the base of the Hogsback. It had numerous yellowish "leaves" on it, but these turned out to be the seed pods of a Bladdernut! (How strange that I planted a Bladdernut early this spring, positive that I was introducing a new species.)

Since the rain was getting heavy and the hour late, we adjourned for a supper at the diner in Newberry over which we discussed a draft letter initiating easement proceedings and other matters connected with the property. Following this, we attended a meeting of stakeholders, mostly area farmers, on the Skunk's misery & Bothwell Agreement Forest. During this meeting I got the idea of a method to generate revenue for the proerty after I am gone: Start next spring by planting about 10 Black Walnuts in the west meadow and ten every year after that. In about 40 years, the first row will be ready to harvest at (to-day's prices) about \$5000 a log. We could use the techniques developed by a friend of ours (name to come later) who has operated a "tree farm for about 40 years already. He prunes the trees as if they lived in a forest, getting single-stem trees that are ideal for

vener and furniture logs.

Nina Hurdle and Eva Newport also attended the meeting. Afterwards, Nina told me that the Upland Sandpiper was frequently seen in a pasture not far from Newport Forest.