

Newport Forest

Je22/00

2:15 - 5:00 pm

**Weather:** clouds. occasional drizzles, clearing, cool 16-18C

**Purpose:** to extend trail and find more tree species

**Participants:** Kee, Nic

We parked the van by the Old Creek Forest entrance and proceeded to chip portions of the cliffside trail and on into the River forest, where we covered another 20-30 m of trail. During this process, Nick spotted a caterpillar on a tree trunk: 5 cm, resembling a Woolly Bear, but thinner; long lateral hairs, dark; brownish pile at head and tail; median band light; flanking bands dark; two black eyespots; 10 pairs of blue spots anteriorly, six pairs of blue spots posteriorly. (note: head and tail may be reversed) We both found specimens of a helical land snail on plants, mine a small one on a rose leaf, Nick's a larger one on a Jo-Pye Weed (or something similar). I hadn't realized that there were non-planispiral land snails around here. These were both light brownish/yellow, with black flecking near the apex. [At home, I determined that the snail belongs to the family Succineidae, possibly *Succinea* sp. ]

Coming out, we found two new woody spp. on the Riverbank Trail, a Trembling (lately changed to "Quaking") Aspen and a Ninebark, something that i had not observed until to-day.

We walked the east edge of the Old Creek Forest (bordering the meadow) where we collected some five specimens of shrub and tree. These included a probable Hawthorn with exceptionally large fruit, A Gray Dogwood, and a tree with ash-like leaves but the leaflets having exceptionally long stems and asymmetrical at their bases (but not four-ridged twigs). Driving along the ravine edge, we saw a White Oak and a Russian Olive; in the Upland Meadow, a domestic Pear gone somewhat wild, a rather old tree with somewhat dwarfed (even for the season) and mis-shapen fruit. There is also a fine old Northern Catalpa here, now in full flower.

In the meadow we collected three of the most common grasses, including Agrostis (Red-top), a kind of Foxtail, and a yellowish Barnyard Grass. Redtop is unquestionably the most common grass.