

Newport Forest

September 19 2000

3:00 - 5:45 pm

**Weather:** cool 18 C, sunny, breeze from NW

**Purpose:** to “complete” the Hogsback Circuit

**Participants:** Kee, Nic

We came in with five bags of chips, dividing them between the RSF and BCF trail entrances. While Nic proceeded to groom (clip veg) the BCF Trail, working toward the Hogsback, I went in along the River Bluffs and deep into the RSF to find branches and small logs with which to line the trail. I completed lining about 150 metres of trail, the portion most likely to be invisible under winter snows, pausing now and then to examine the trees around me.

Presently, I heard Nick’s whistle and we joined up for a break. Nic claimed to have seen a Monarch Butterfly in the BCF. He had yet to chip the BCF portion of the trail, so I joined him to help. We saw two Wood Frogs and an American Toad during this portion of the work.

Returning to the RSF, I collected what I thought might be some *Lepiota* mushrooms near a rotting log. They had very scurfy stalks, the flesh peeling away in what I thought might be a distinctive pattern. But when I got home and examined them, they turned out to be *Psathyrella candolleana*, a species I had already collected there. Returning through the RSF, I spotted a small *Succinea* snail with unusual banding on the shell. Later, at home, I made careful drawings of the snail before releasing it in the “bog” in our back yard. The specimen had two sets of stripes, bold ones on the parietal edge, and fainter lines orthogonal to the aperture. These turned out to be stripes on the mantle, showing through the thin, amber-coloured shell.

On the River Bluffs, we took a very short break, then cut another 30 m of trail to a level state, nearly completing this portion of the trail. We then chipped what we had done, recognizing that a trail is NEVER finished!