

Newport Forest

October 27 2000

2:00 - 5:30 pm

**Weather:** supernaturally hot! 25C, cloudy/clearing, light SW breeze

**Purpose:** to work further on trails and collect sample from BCF swamp

**Participants:** Kee, Nic (it's not spelled "Nick")

We parked the van in the usual spot and made our way down Edgar's Trail to the river, noting a Garter Snake along the way. It seemed reluctant to flee, so I took its picture from several angles. Perhaps it didn't want to leave the scene because just a few feet away we spotted a Wood Frog. (These frogs are ubiquitous throughout the site. We rarely visit Newport Forest *without* seeing a Wood Frog.)

Gathering some twigs from the River Landing drift pile, we spotted a dead mouse in a most singular state. It's fur was matted and slick, as though something had swallowed it, then vomited it up again. Clenched in the mouse's teeth was a stick, about 4" long. It's hard to see how anything could swallow a mouse in such a state. So how did the fur get that way? I collected the mouse to deposit in the freezer at home.

We carved thinner portions of the Bluff Trail to make them easier to walk, then extended the carving for another two or three metres and distributed twigs in lieu of wood chips -- to provide some footing against the sometimes slick clay base of the path. About 10 metres remain to improve in the fashion.

We lined the near-river portion of the Riverside Trail with more logs and branches, pretty well completing that part for winter walking. We also added the odd branch and log along the interior trail, until we got to the Hogsback, where we added many old branches to nearly complete lining that part of the trail nearest the bench. We had a break here and Nic spotted a large, blackish bug, which I later identified to species by a lucky accident: The family (Coreidae) could be inferred from field marks in Peterson and the species popped out of Dunn, who mentioned that a common species of Leaf-footed bug in our area, *Acanthocephalus terminatus*, has the last segment of its antenna orange. Bingo! Here also, I spotted a medium-sized white mushroom which I thought might be the long-awaited Mica-cap. But no, it turned out to be one I had collected three years ago in A'Nowaghi, the distinctive Rooted Oudemansiella which has a deepish "root" - quite distinctive and otherwise checking out.

From the Hogsback, we frequently heard what sounded like a Spring Peeper calling. These frogs have been calling right through the summer on the hotter

days. (And to-day was very summer-like!)

Down in the BCF, Nic found a burrow beside the trail. It looked quite fresh and had a “collar” of fresh mud, very professionally done. Nic remarked that the hole was just large enough to swallow a golf ball. At its east end in the BCF, Blind Creek becomes a chain of water-filled sloughs, forming a nearly continuous swamp. I had hoped to get some rich algal samples here, but had to be content with two new snails (same species), some duckweed, and some mossy scrapings from a submerged stick. The water reminded me very much of the lagg around Gallo’s Bog, tea-like and cold.

Nic spotted some orange-brown mushrooms growing clustered on a dying tree and I thought these might be the long-awaited Deadly Galerina, but no, they turned out to be Velvet-stalks, a species I had already collected there. As we returned to the trail, I spotted a large dragonfly whirring about, surprised to find a species that we normally see only in the summer, a Green Darner. It was getting late and we repaired hurriedly to the van, dropping tools and packs, to head for a quick look at Fleming’s Creek. Here were wonderful, algae-covered stones, just like the Logan Drain! Since I had already taken my sample, I had to forego the collection to-day. We studied the White Ash which had fallen across the creek some 100 metres upstream from the ford. It would make a good bridge, if we modify it appropriately.

### Species Observed (animals only)

large hawk (prob. Red-tail)	LM
Robins (calling)	RSF
Spring Peeper (calling)	BCF
Wood Frog	ET
Garter Snake	ET
Green Darner	BCF

### New Species:

Leaf-footed Bug	<i>Acanthocephala terminatus</i>	HBF
Rooted Oudemansiella	<i>Oudemansiella radicata</i>	HBF
Common Duckweed	<i>Lemna minor</i>	BCF