

Newport Forest

October 23 2001

2:00 - 5:45 pm

**Weather:** prec. 5 mm, LM 21 C, FCF 18 C, S wind (gusting), overcast

**Purpose:** construction, maintenance, and biowalk

**Participants:** Kee, Nic

We stopped at the tree station to drill three more holes, each to 2', thus finishing that phase of the construction. We turned another 10 sq. ft. of sod, then left the site for the trailer.

Fleming Creek was up marginally (~1") since the last visit. We timed the speed using a floating twig and sweep second hand. At the mid-stream, it ran at about 0.45 m/sec. We discussed various designs for a home-made flow meter.

We then completed maintenance on the earth steps at the east end of the bridge, staking in the bottom two steps, hopefully flood-proofing them. We also completed the last decking module on the bridge by adding a final plank.

After a short break, we decided to take a "biowalk" (environmental scan?) principally to collect fungi. Aided by Nic's sharp eyes, we found many.

About 10 m along the RST, Nic spotted a Cottontail right ahead of us, just off the path. It waited in frozen position for a full minute before taking off at a leisurely trot. From high on the bluffs, we could see the river was up somewhat over the last visit: the water has reached within inches of the top of Nina's Rock and only the roots of two gravel bars are still exposed.

We added a few liner logs to the RST just inside the RSF and continued this until at about the 1000 m mark, Nic spotted a thick branch with a growth like Radiating Phlebia on it. This turned out to be what I have chosen to call "Netted Phlebia" or *Phlebia tremellosa*. At about 900 m Nic found a medium sized white mushroom with a scaly cap growing out of the side of a dead tree. I thought it looked like a Train-wrecker and that's exactly what it turned out to be with its distinctively toothed gills (among other things): *Lentinus lepideus*. At about 850 m, Nic found a Red-belted Polypore, *Fomitopsis pinicola*, on a dead or dying Bitternut Tree.

As we were adding a few liner-logs in the vicinity of the RSF bench, we both saw frequent occurrences of small, round, chrome-yellow fungi growing on many old logs. These turned out to be Lemon Drops or *Bisporella citrina*, a species we had actually collected last summer (2000).

Continuing along the trail as it slowly ascended the first shoulder or terrace of the Hogsback (about 5 m above the river), Nic noted a Beech growing nearby. Then I spotted several others, surprised to find the Beeches this far off the Hogsback and growing as close as 50 m from the shore of the river! While admiring the trees, we saw two twig nests, both in bitternut Trees about 40 m from the river. At or on the second terrace about half way up the Hogsback shoulder, Nic spotted another of those large, spore-filled sacs that I've never been able to identify. This one was different, however. It was covered with small white filaments all over its surface. This enabled me finally to identify it. What I now call "White Fuzz Slime" is a slime mold: *Mucilago crustacea*. The inside is a solid mass of black spores. THIS IS A WRONG ID -- deleted from ATBI records

Up on the Hogsback, we decided upon a short walkabout to see if, perchance, we might find a new woody species. Among the few trees with leaves still on them, I spotted two Chinkapin Oaks, one of dbh 2'3", the other slightly smaller. Beyond these, on the S side of the HB, Nic excitedly pointed out a Black Cherry! (*Prunus serotina*) It looked somewhat dead, but I will check it next spring. (So planting BCs on the HB was the right thing to do, after all.) Nearby, Nic found an old log covered with Raccoon poop and half-digested berries. He called it a "Raccoon hangout."

We continued the walk under the power lines and about 20 m along the trail beyond this, I found a shrub with beautiful buff-red leaves still on it. I cut off a branch, wondering if it might be a Speckled Alder, but it turned out to be a Nannyberry, a.k.a. *Viburnum lentago*. Not much further on, Nic found an extremely slimy white mushroom growing on the soil of the path. I collected it but was not able to identify it later. (See description below.) We descended into the BCF where Nic found a Mustard-yellow Polypore, *Phellinus gilvus*, and where I decided to give an oak tree in the middle of the BCF a closer look. We collected several leaves and some acorn caps, enough to positively identify this as a Swamp White Oak, or *Quercus bicolor*. What a day! As we left along Edgar's Trail, Nic pointed out a whole row of white bracket fungi on a dead willow branch. This was a White Cheese Polypore, or *Tyromyces chioneus*.

New Species (Not all of these species are actually new, but I can't remember which ones.)

Plants:

Nannyberry	<i>Viburnum lentago</i>	HB/PL
Black Cherry	<i>Prunus serotina</i>	HB/S
Swamp White Oak	<i>Quercus bicolor</i>	BCF/central
Fungi:		
Lemon Drops	<i>Bisporella citrina</i>	RSF
“White Fuzz Slime”	<i>Mucilago crustacea</i>	RSF/HB
Train Wrecker	<i>Lentinus lepideus</i>	BCF
Mustard-yellow Polypore	<i>Phellinus gilvus</i>	BCF
Red-belted Polypore	<i>Fomes pinicola</i>	RSF
“Netted Phlebia”	<i>Phlebia tremellosa</i>	RSF

Notes: Lemon Drops are not slimes, but Ascomycetes. The Red-belted Polypore, as its Latin name implies, is frequently found on pines, but is occasionally found on deciduous wood, as well.

The “Slimy White” mushroom has proved a tough specimen to ID. I think it may be a *Hygrocybe* or a *Melanoleuca*, but I can’t be sure.

Cap: 3.5 cm wide, slimy and white, fading into a yellow/buff centre. Flat with a small depression. Gills: decurrent, narrow, distant, white/cream in colour. Stalk: white fading to light buff, fibrous-lined, widening toward base, 5 cm x 0.5 cm (near top). Growing on soil, possibly over buried wood.