

Newport Forest

October 29 2001

1:30 - 5:20 pm

Weather: prec. 12 mm, LM 11 C, FCF 12 C, cloudy, light breeze

Purpose: maintenance - tree nursery, plus biowalk

Participants: Kee, Nic

We stopped at the nursery and unloaded seven bags of a fast-setting concrete called Rapid-Post. We used wedges to hold the posts upright for the first few pourings, but discovered that the concrete set so fast that not even these were necessary. Edgar came down to help by the time we were finishing the second post. All are nicely vertical and well-aligned. In the next phase, we will add the roof beams (10' 2x4s), saw the tops of the posts off to the same level, then (if there's time) add a second layer of 2x4s on 4' centres.

During the construction, I spotted a new kind of "wooly bear" caterpillar. It was about 3 cm long, had a black back and orange brown sides, exactly the same colours as the wooly bear, but a completely different pattern. According to our field guides, this is the Saltmarsh Caterpillar, a.k.a. *Acraea Moth (Estigmene acrea)*, a common North American moth, a close relative of the Woolly Bear and, like it, a member of the Artiid moth family. Final clinchers include the fact that the *Acraea Moth* larva is active in the fall and frequents pastures.

On the way down to the trailer, we paced out the two stretches where gravel is to be dumped this Thursday. From this information I can calculate how many yards we will need to cover the two wet patches of track: 19 yards @ 3" = 1.6 yards;
40 yards @ 6" = 6.7 yards

8.3 yards

Driving the last short stretch to the trailer, I saw the white tail of a large adult deer flash twice as it bounded down the far side of the LM, on its way into the BCF. After a short break, we went down to inspect the bridge and creek, finding the creek down a bit further and the bridge still intact.

We decided to go for a "biowalk" around the FCT and collected fungi at several spots, as well as inspecting the odd tree in case it was a new species.

Unfortunately, with the leaves off this is much harder to do.

We found a small, rather hard polypore, possibly a small *Ganoderma*, on a tree at the 400 m mark, some Mossy Maze Polypores on a log at about 500 m, then at about 520 m, where a number of dead limbs had been piled, we found quite a few

fungi, some of them new. These included a Thin-maze Flat Polypore, a Fall Oyster (peculiar colour!), an extensive colony of Mossy Maze Polypores, some “White Cushion” (see below), an Golden Pholiota, a possible alien that superficially resembles *Bondarzewia* (but isn’t - see below) and a specimen too old to make out, possibly a Short-stalked Paxillus or maybe just a late Oyster.

We were happily collecting fungi near Tower Hill when some shots rang out. We dropped everything and headed back to the trailer, then down Edgar’s Trail, where we split up, Nic taking the Riverside Trail, me the Blind Creek Trail, hoping to catch the hunters in a pincer movement. We went well into our respective woods (communicating by WT) and waited some ten minutes. But no sounds or signs of hunters appeared, so we assumed the shots came from across the river.

We went up to Nina’s to pick up four little trees from her yard (Butternuts and Walnuts), planted these down by the nursery, and left.

New Species:

Acreea Moth	<i>Estigmene acreea</i>	UM
Late Fall Oyster	<i>Panellus serotinus</i>	NCF/520
Thin-maze Flat Polypore	<i>Daedaleopsis confragosa</i>	NCF/520
Golden Pholiota	<i>Pholiota aurivella</i>	NCF/520
Milk-white Toothed Polypore	<i>Irpex lacteus</i>	NCF/520
Mossy Maze Polypore	<i>Cerrena unicolor</i>	NCF/500

possible *Lyophyllum connatum*, the first fungus I have seen referred to as an “European invader.” This will not be logged, but it grew in HW.