

Newport Forest

December 16 2001

1:40 - 4:55 pm

Weather: prec. 20 mm, LM 8C, FCF 6C, cloudy, variable E wind (It snowed last Friday, but the snow has all melted since.)

Purpose: maintenance and inspection

Participants: Pat, Kee and Nic

I took the weather readings, Pat did some organizing in the trailer, then Nic and I went down to the bridge, where we moved the far ramp to the far bank, then walked the trestle out of the water and set it against the ramp, tying both to a young Bitternut tree. We then took up the rest of the deck modules and tied them to a tree half way up the trail on the creek bluffs. Pat spotted 3 White-breasted Nuthatches, a crow, a Downy Woodpecker, and three Chickadees, and a Red-bellied Woodpecker from the trailer.

We walked down to the river, noting that it was stil fairly high, though no longer flooding the lower trail. At the river we did not see many birds, certainly not the Great Blue Heron we had hoped for, just two Cardinals and lots of Chickadees. I saw what I thought was a Cedar Waxwing, but silhouetted, so i couldn't be sure it wasn't a Cardinal.

while Pat observed the river environment, Nic and I took a walk along the RSt into the RSF, where Nic found a few fungi, including a log full of False Turkey-tail (*Stereum ostrea*) (P). He also found another of those strange "Dead-Stick Polypores" which I think are late variants of the Black-footed Polypore, at metre 1050 on the trail. Nic also spotted some wonderful moss-covered logs not far north of the trail. (P) At metre 950 he found what looked like a leathery white finger poking out of a log. Even at home, I couldn't make the ID except as some kind of aborted white polypore. I photographed the Red-belted Polypores we found several weeks ago, then went on up to the Hb, where Nic folund Lotor sleeping up in the old Black Maple apartment house. I inspected his food bag, finding it torn in several place, but still hanging from its nail. I added two more handful of dog biscuits to it.

Returning through BCF, we decided to check another fungus known previously. this is an extensive growth of *Daedaleopsis* (?) an overlapping assemblage of very old brackets, some melded together, the whole covering the top of an old stump about 2' across. (P)