

Newport Forest

Sp14/02

12:05 - 6:00 pm

Weather: sunny/hazy, S < 5 kmh; LM 32 C; FCF 28 C

Purpose: Field Botanists of Ontario tour

Participants: Pat, Kee

The annual general meeting of the Field Botanists of Ontario (FBO), held in St. Thomas this year, featured tours of local areas of botanical interest, including Newport Forest, the most distant venue by far. Thus we were gratified that the following FBO members showed up. Jane Bowles led a morning tour on the Hogsback circuit, while Pat and I (with Bowles' assistance) led an afternoon tour on the Fleming Creek trail:

John Ambrose (Guelph), Jane Bowles, Kara Brodribb (NHIC), George Bryant (FBO), Helen Juhola, Arne Juhola, Larry Gailskill, Andre LaChance, Marilynn Murphy, John Tiedje, Dorothy Tiedje (author of Flora of Lambton County)

Among the highlights of the day were the sighting by Jane Bowles of eight Broadwinged Hawks taking off from Eva's Woods in the morning and the discovery (also by Jane Bowles!) of a very young Sassafras tree right under the tower on Tower Hill. The group agreed that it had probably dropped as a seed from a bird perched on the tower. The bird, presumably, had been feeding in Skunk's Misery earlier in the day. After the group left, I went up and watered the sapling, which had several brown leaves, thanks to the drought.

Jane showed me an interesting dbh meter (basically a tape measure with all the numbers multiplied by pi) which one can use to read diameter directly from a tree.

FBO members expressed gratitude via email after the tour, both for the hospitality and for the excellent lunch and refreshments laid on by Pat.

New Species

Broadwinged Hawk

Buteo platypterus

EW JB

(note: the FBO tourist found many "new" species, but some of these were ones Pat hadn't bothered to record or had seen but forgotten to check or had been recorded under another (older) name.)

Sassafras	<i>Sassafras albidum</i>	TH JB
Silver Lace Vine	<i>Polygonum albertii</i>	?? DT*
Short-styled Snakeroot	<i>Sanicula canadensis</i>	ET & FCF DT
Barnyard Grass	<i>Echinochloa crusgalli</i>	FC/bridge DT
River Bank Wild Rye	<i>Elymus riparius</i>	RL DT
Rice Cut Grass	<i>Leersia oryzoides</i>	RL DT
Sedge	<i>Carex spicata</i>	FC JB
	<i>Polygonum pathyfolium</i>	FC JB

DT = Dorothy Tiedje