

Newport Forest

October 29 2002

1:00 - 5:15 pm

**Weather:** prec. 0 mm; ovcast; N < 5 kmh; LM 3 C; FCF 4 C

**Purpose:** maintenance and research

**Participants:** Kee, Nic, Brian (Cornish), George Nicholas

We filled the bird feeders. I then took the others down to the FCT to see what needed doing. Along the way, Nic noticed a rather large bracket of what appears to be a new species of fungus for us. (P) Taking advantage of the extra manpower, we spent an hour lining the trail from the top of Tower hill, down the hill to Eva's Hairpin and from there about half way to the bridge. I did very little work personally, but supervised the others. We also carved the slope part of the trail to make it level. We then had a short break and headed for the river bluffs, Brian and George brought tools and lumber. We climbed the trail to the bluffs, where Brian and George stayed to install five steps on the precipitous little hill leading down to the bluff trail proper.

Nic and I went on ahead to the RSF, taking the old logging road (on which Nic spied what appears a young White Spruce) recently recommended to me by Pat. It leads directly to the RSF and picks up the present trail just inside the forest by the river. On the way to Plot #1, Nic noticed a new mushroom at the base of a living Box Elder. Brian and George did not show up until we had finished Plot #1. The four of us then worked our way up to the HB, adding liners as we went. After another short break on the HB, we went down into the BCF where we stopped to get some live twigs from a suspected mature Blue Ash. The bark is right, the shape of the tree is right, even the leaves (viewed through binos) are right. But I still wanted a square twig to confirm the tree. We spent the better part of an hour hurling various object tied to a long rope, getting it to hook over one of the lower branches. Finally, after many tries, we succeeded in pulling down a smallish side branch with leaves still attached. Initially I was disappointed because there were no prominent ridges on the bark. It wasn't until I got the specimen home that I noticed the small squarish ridges in at least two parts of the twigs. Old twigs don't show the ridges as markedly, I guess.

### **New Species**

Honey Mushroom

*Armillariella mellea*

RST NM