

Newport Forest

December 15 2002

1:40 - 5:15 pm

Weather: overcast, calm, LM 3 C; FCF 3 C

Purpose: maintenance

Participants: Kee, Brian, George

Coming in, we spotted the largest Rough-legged Hawk I'd ever see. It flew across the Lower Meadow road in front of us, to perch on one of the dead elms along the border of Blind Creek Forest to watch us. But it went before I could get the binos out of my field pack.

George filled the deer feeders, Brian filled the bird feeders, and I put out DBs for the coons and other lesser mammals.

Before taking the bridge deck up, we walk the Fleming Creek trail one last time (to keep it exercised). George spotted deer tracks on a game trail that cuts across the FCT just before the first bench. A large buck may have taken up residence. We tied the gangplank to a tree on the other side of the creek and tied all the decking modules to the ash beside the bridge on this side of the creek.

After a quick lunch, we went down to the Fleming Creek flats where the tractor tire lay half-buried in the floodplain sediments and set to work at removing it. The going was tough until I brought down a saw. George sawed the tire in half, after which it came out fairly easily in two sections. We hauled them up to the trailer. We are now ready to hire a pickup to haul all our junk away.

We then went over to the river bluffs and cut shrubs and young trees (mostly thorn trees and Russian Olive, etc) to give us a clean trail along the old logging road, thereby circumventing the rather tricky and sometimes dangerous bluff trail. We then walked the rest of the Riverside Trail, over the Hogsback (Lotor not home) and on down through the BCF. The only notable sighting was a Ruffed Grouse that we started up under the hydro lines up on the HB. It was getting dark as we tied the canoe to the van and hauled it to Edgar's. And so out.