

Newport Forest

June 8 2003

2:50 - 6:50 pm

**Weather:** prec. 14 mm\*; overcast/lt. rain; calm; LM 17 C; FCF 16 C

**Purpose:** maintenance and plant survey

**Participants:** Pat, Kee, Nic

We stopped at the tree station to offload the germination frame which I had used for many years to germinate seed collected for the Forest City Tree Project. Within about 20 minutes of our arrival, rains from the SW also arrived. The rain continued, off and on, for most of our stay, soaking our clothes.

Nic and I worked on the bridge for about an hour, while Pat went to the banks of Fleming Creek in Eva's woods to search for new plants. At the bridge, we found a most unusual sight. A Great Horned Owl perched at the other end of the bridge, staring at us fixedly. The bird just happened to be sitting at the very spot where we intended to add the far trestle braces, then to install the ramp. Nic tried to take pictures of the owl with his new digital camera, but the low light required a longer exposure and camera tremble kept fuzzing the image. The appearance of the bird was startling and I couldn't help wondering what, if anything, it could be an omen of. After a 15-minute standoff, we walked toward the bird and when we got to the halfway point of the bridge, it had had enough and flew off, beating its large, broad wings majestically downstream, low over the water.

after a short break in the trailer, Nic and I went up to the tree station to reassemble the germination frame and to install it beside the station. Thanks to the nice rainy spring, all trees are doing about as well as can be expected. The forests have all taken on a healthy green flush that was absent last spring. This could be a heavy growth year, with more wood added than the last three years combined.

Pat was rather successful in finding new plants. although they were not all identified, I can at least indicate what she found. (See after bird list.) During a walk on the HB trail, Nic spotted several fungi which I collected but all turned out to be recorded previously. These included *Psathyrella candolleana* on a log in the BCF, a Dryad's Saddle in the BCF, and a really large mushroom which has recently had a name change -- appearing below as a "new" species.

### **Birds:**

Baltimore Oriole (1f LM carrying food to nest); Blue Jay (1 Tr); Bobolink (1 UM); Common Yellowthroat (1 BCF); Eastern Kingbird (1 UM); Great Blue

Heron (1 LM); Great Horned Owl (1 FC/br); Northern Cardinal (1 LM); Red-tailed Hawk (1 LM/Hydro); Song Sparrow (1 LM)

**New species:**

Giant Lepiota	Megalepiota rhacodes	EW/HBF/N
Twinleaf	Jeffersonia diphylla	EW/FC/W
Field Mustard	Brassica rapa	HBF
Carey's Sedge	Carex careyana	HBF x FC
Wood Fern	Dryopteris [intermedia]	EW/FC/W
Sedge	unidentified as yet	EW/FC/W

\* recorded at end of stay; no precipitation prior to that