

Newport Forest

October 9 2003

1:00 - 7:40 pm

Weather: prec. 0 mm; calm; haze/overcast; LM 26 C; FCF 22 C

Purpose: visit by NCC easement officer

Participants: Kee, Sandra Turner

Annually, the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) sends out officers to check easements on properties for which the NCC has granted easements. Today was the turn of Newport Forest. I showed Turner the tree station and we repaired to the Nook, where she went through a list of questions relating to the easement. It turned out that I had allowed a trailer of no more than 12' in length, whereas our present wonder if about 23.' Turner said that barring a complete new easement process to include longer trailers, a letter of variance might be applied, instead.

Soon we will receive a management plan template from Gordon Buck of the NCC and we can strike an initial plan for approval, filing, and (of course) action. We discussed the ultimate ownership of the property and I explained my unease about the Thames Talbot LT. Specifically, I wondered whether one organization could manage a property, while another owned it. She said that Howard Hamilton, an NCC lawyer, could advise us on that issue.

After a brief lunch, we set on on the FCT, with Turner stopping to set up a photomonitoring point (which I will abbreviate to PMP) that consisted of a yellow steel rod with a foot flange. Turner, her camera on a tripod directly over the rod, took pictures in the direction of all four points of the compass. This PMP #1 was located at FCT300. (subject: FCF thorn scrub and secondary forest areas)

We continued around through Harvey's and Eva's properties and just inside the lot line along the end of the FCT (at FCT1856) she placed PMP #2 and again took pictures in the cardinal directions. (subject: box elder forest and creek bank)

We took a brief break, while I told Turner a few stories relating to the property.

We set out along ER, stopping at the chip pile long enough for Turner to put in PMP #3 and to take four more photographs. (subject: LM, GF over FC bluffs and BCF edge. We went to the river, walked briefly along the flats, and I showed her interesting points about the bluffs, the point bar, fish, mussels, etc. We then went into the Thames River Trail (new name - TRT) along the top of the bluffs and into the RSF where, not far from Plot #2, she placed PMP #4 and took four photographs. We put the PMP there because it straddled the Box Elder/Black

Maple ecotone and NCC could thus monitor both forest components from the same point. (subject: Box Elder forest and Black Maple forest.)

We went up to the HB, where we walked along the game trail, coming back behind the bench and stopping at the Chinkapin Oak. Here, she established PMP #5 about 20 m north of the Chinkapin and took four more pictures. (Subject: HBF) While descending into the BCF, I found two new mushrooms along the trail, both growing on soil.

Right in front of the BCF bench, Turner put in the last of the PMPs, #6. (subject: BFC, HB shoulder) The light was now so bad, it was doubtful that her pictures would turn out, so I took four flash pictures after her four (from the same position).

New species:

Blewitt	<i>Clitocybe nuda</i>	HB/TRT/BCF
Fragile Russula	<i>Russula [fragilis]*</i>	HB/TRT/BCF

* a young fruit body lacking the mature cap colours, being a lead grey

For later action: Cut new set of keys for NCC to be kept in their Guelph office; Get distance of PMP #4 along FCT; Select a nice little thunderstone for Turner's daughter (who collects rocks); send slides for PMP #6