

Newport Forest

October 18 2003

1:05 - 6:25 pm

Weather: prec. 36 mm; overcast; W < 5 kmh; LM 10 C; FCF 10 C

Purpose: walk & picnic

Participants: Pat & Kee, Anita & Stan Caveney, Winne & David Wake; Michelle Carnerie & Willy Schenk; Pat Tripp with Lisa & Caroline (grand nieces); Eva Newport & Nina Hurdle

By 2 pm, all but Eva and Nina had gathered for a walk on the Thames River Trail, which we executed in somewhat piecemeal fashion, with Pat and Winnie heading back out from the RSF, while everybody went on. I talked a bit about the trees now and then, but otherwise left everyone to their own devices. On the Hogsback I checked to see if Lotor was home, while Stan checked the Prickly Ash bushes for signs of "orange dogs." Stan found a few interesting insects, including a new species of bug with orange legs, perhaps sufficient, along with its other characters, to ID it.

Stan was especially nice to Pat Tripp's nieces, who really seemed to enjoy themselves. In the BCF I spotted some pure white bracket fungi which I thought were cheese polypores. They were not the cheese polypores I thought they were, however. (See below.) One of the field marks of this particular fungus is its very sweet aroma, something I wish I had known during the walk; everyone could have marvelled at the scent!

It was good to have such expert birders as Michelle and Dave along. Pat and I are very likely to have missed the bluebird spotted by Michelle near FC or the flicker heard by Dave on the RBIfs. Anita kept a list of all the records. Stan, meanwhile, brought his new gps unit along, giving us some coordinates and altitudes of a few special places.

When we returned from the walk, we found Pat and Winnie sitting with Eva and Nina, who put in guest appearances. We enjoyed a variety of treats furnished by Pat and some of the guests. The day had not been as warm as we had hoped but everyone, Eva and Nina included, seemed warmed by good spirits.

After everyone had left, I planted four American Plums that I had dug up in the TS on the way in. I put them mostly near the trailer to act as seed sources.

