

Newport Forest Sunday December 11 2005

1:50 - 5:25 pm

**Weather:** prec. 15 mm; RH n/a; ovcst; calm; LM -3 C; FCF - 3 C

**Purpose:** maintenance

**Participants:** Kee, Steve

By the time Steve got to the Fleming Line, I had nearly finished reposting the Janik property with NO HUNTING and NO TRESPASSING signs. He opened the gate and began shoveling snow away from it while I got stuck in the ditch at the far end of Janik's. Edgar, good soul, pulled me out. This makes the third tow-out in 6 years.

At the trailer, we took a light lunch, then went down to the bridge, where we tied the ramp to a far tree and carried the deck sections one at a time up to the storage area on the hillside nearby.

After that we decided to walk the TRT. The snow was about 12 cm deep and growing moderately heavy with slump, but it was fairly easy walking. Along Edgar's Road we saw tracks of a large buck, a possible doe and two or three yearlings. They were all fresh, so they were presumably traveling together. We stopped on the bluffs to admire the river, which was still open. According to Steve, it was already iced over at Moraviantown. I told Steve about Pat's experience with the large swimming animal a couple of years ago. He said he had seen something similar one afternoon while at the property alone; a head moving downriver at high speed (not a muskrat) and diving, then coming up for a gulp of air, then diving again, etc. Sounds like a River Otter to me!

I showed Steve the new section of trail and shortly after we got back on the old section, approaching the BM forest, there was a crack of wood and Steve said, "Look!" A very large buck, his flag high, bounded along the base of the HB heading west, then turned upslope. A doe broke cover almost immediately after that and she followed him. Then we saw two yearlings heading straight up the hill. Wonderful sight. Steve's eyes sort of glowed. Going out, I opened the tank valve for the winter.

**New species:**

Euphorbia Bug

*Chariesterus antennator*

LM KD