

Newport Forest Thursday October 12 2006

12:35 - 5:05 pm

Weather: prec. 25mm; RH 70%; cld/sn; SW 5-25kmh; LM 3C; FCF 3C

Purpose: two-day fungus fest

Participants: Kee

I was to meet Heather Arnold and Wendy Frise from the NCC today, so I came in early in order to get some work done. After filling the feeders and calling for Charlie and the girls, I went down to the bridge to reposition the decking. This was a wearying job, as the modules are heavy and they tend to jam on the pipes, the wood being wet and swollen from immersion in the flood. (Nevertheless, I continue to regard the bridge as an engineering marvel.)

While we sat in the trailer, Wendy read off a checklist of provisions in the easement document to make sure I was not in violation of my own rules. I agreed to start moving on the management plan. I informed them of the proposed handover next summer. After concluding this part of the meeting, we adjourned to the UM, where Heather and Wendy made measurements and placed little blue surveyor's flags in the ground. I agreed to replace them by stakes later on.

Just as Heather & Wendy were about to leave, along came Darren Jacobs in his pickup truck. He explained that he had just finished a seed-collecting course. I invited Darren and his friend Mike down to the trailer

After catching up on Rez Newz, I took Darren and Mike into the Point Bar Forest (RSF), to search along the river for that giant Blue Ash. There were no seeds. But Darren's friend Mike discovered two grasshoppers mating on a nearby tree. This struck me as somewhat bizarre. I had never seen a (shorthorn) grasshopper in the woods before, but there they were, copulating away on the bark. Both individuals had the same colouring: black and grey stippling (in effect), with no other colour, the hind femur being banded black & white. Mike took a (digital) image of the mating pair while I memorized what I could of the field marks. Later, all I could find in the way of a match for that colour scheme belonged to the Seaside Locust (*Trimerotropis maritima*). I will check this with Skevington. Mike also showed me a red-orange bracket fungus he had picked up nearby, It seemed to be unfamiliar, so I put the specimen in a baggie.

Darren and Mike left as the sun set. The wind had come up and snow was falling. I ate a lonely supper in an increasingly draughty breakfast nook, lighting both burners on the stove to keep a semblance of warmth in the trailer. Around 9:30

pm I had steeled myself to the point of walking the Thames River Trail (TRT). Sometimes it is easier to find fungi in the dark, using a flashlight, than it is during the day. The air temperature was -2C.

As I entered the BCF trail, I heard a wild yip-yip-yowling from the HB, just like the time I took the same route with the girls a few weeks ago. (Ah, would they had been with me this night!) I found little in the way of new fruiting bodies until I arrived at the HB bench, threw down my pack and began to prowl the local area. There was some snow-white crust on a log, a *Daedaleopsis* bracket, another brown bracket with brown “fur” on it, and some tiny *Mycenas*. (see below for all IDs.) I rather like these walks in the dark. The forest becomes mysterious again. Down in the RSF, I collected a few more species, after which I made my way out to the River Bluffs, where I stood near the bench, marveling at how warm it seemed, compared to elsewhere. Here I was out of the wind and the river itself;f may have been radiating heat.

I stayed up until about two, then went to bed, heaping as many blankets on me as I could find. The outside air temperature was now -3C. In the middle of the night, my propane tank ran out, a fact I did not discover until morning. After breakfast, I went outside, the wind still howling down the meadow, out of the SW. The air temperature, however, had climbed to a more comfortable +5C. (It was strange to get a cold wind from the SW.) It took nearly two hours to put together a respectable squirrel house for Charlie. I made it raccoon-proof by inserting a baffle between the entrance and the main sleeping compartment. The Chipmunk, meanwhile, scuttled between the bird feeder in the BM and his home under the lumber pile.

In the early afternoon, I took a second fungus walk almond the 2BT, collecting some brackets from the old Beech. I thought I already had these, but I have slowly learned to re-collect, as it sometimes pays off in a new species. (It did in this case.) I also collected a new, white *Hygrophorus* mushroom near the Beech. By the pipe bridge I found some *Poronidulus* on a dead branch. Back at the trailer, I noticed another dead House Mouse with the intestines eaten at. (Same MO as last time) Who could it be?

I cleaned up camp, loaded the van and, on the way out, thought I would take a quick look in the “Copse.” This was a good idea. We now have “The Panther.” (See below.) This was a very large, impressive *Amanita*, with veil nubbins all over the cap, arranged in concentric circles (as it later turned out).

Birds: (13)

American Crow (BCF); American Robin (RSF); Black-capped Chickadee (GF); Blue Jay (Tr); Canada Goose (EW); Downy Woodpecker (GF); Eastern Bluebird (Rd/UM); Eastern Screech Owl (FCF); Great Blue Heron (TR/FC); Northern Cardinal (RSF); Red-bellied Woodpecker (Tr); Ruby-crowned Kinglet (Tr); White-breasted Nuthatch (Tr)

New species:

The Panther	<i>Amanita pantherina</i> *	GF KD Oc12/06
“Burned Hygrophorus”	<i>Hygrophorus eburneus</i>	FCF/FC KD Oc12/06
“Wrinkled Mycena”	<i>Mycena</i> sp.**	RSF/HB KD Oc12/06
Bear Lentinus	<i>Lentinellus ursinus</i>	HB KD Oc12/06
Yellow-red Gill Polypore	<i>Gloeophyllum sepiarium</i>	RSF/TR KD Oc12/06
“Porcelain Bracket”	<i>Bjerkandera adusta</i>	FCF/FC KD Oc12/06

* var *velatipes*

**description of *Mycena*: cap 2-4mm, white, radially striate, splitting, with a brownish, strongly wrinkled umbo. Stalk 5-10mm x 1mm, minutely fibrous and translucent, with a small basal mycelial mat. Gills attached distant, white. Caespitose in small numbers on dead bark.

Others: (includes only fungi that I bothered examine.)

Oxyporus populinus (HB); *Peronidulus conchifer* (FCF/FC); *Cerrena unicolor* (RSF); *Daedaleopsis confragosa* (RSF);

Phenology: Eastern Bluebirds flocking, Box Elder Bugs plentiful around trailer for last two weeks