

Newport Forest Wednesday December 6 2006 2:10 - 4:55 pm

**Weather:** prec. 43mm; RH 73%; ovcst; SSW 0-15kmh; LM 6C; GF 4C

**Purpose:** maintenance

**Participants:** Kee & Brian

As we approached the trailer, we found our way partially blocked by one of the enormous trunks and branches of the large Bitternut tree in the GF that died last year. All that is left now standing is the main trunk and about 20' of side trunk on the west side of the tree. We cleared the newly fallen wood, adding it to the brush pile we started last spring. It is truly amazing how quickly these hickories succumb to fungi. A White Elm may stand for ten years after dying, but these are down, typically, within a year. A troop of large oyster mushrooms sprouted from the base.

While I took the weather, Brian retrieved the (former) farside trestle from HBF and filled the LM deer feeder with corn he brought with him. We then went down to FC near the mouth where Pat and I had tied the bridge deck to a tree. A recent flood had lifted the deck right off the drift pile and laid it on the near bank, ready for us to pick up and carry (with some effort) back to camp. We took the trestle and deck down to the staging area, where we tied them up, then took the rest of the corn to the log bridge only to find that the recent flood had rotated the log so that all the decking was beneath it. The rotation revealed a row of old holes that had once held pegs to keep the foundation log in position when it had been part of the mill. I shimmied across the inverted bridge and filled the feeder. On my way back, I discovered a row of tiny brackets on a downed branch - another new fungus. (See new species.)

We walked the BCT to clear out all the remaining deadfall, except for two Bitternut logs that still lie across the trail - both stepovers.

**New species:**

Crimped Gill *Plicaturopsis crispa* GF KD Dc06/06

Malaise Samples:

'Small Black Braconid' fam. Braconidae RL nz/KD J131/05  
'Red-banded Spider Wasp' *Anoplius semirufus* RL nz/KD J131/05