

**Newport Forest**

Wednesday October 31 2007 4:15 W - 4:45 Th

**weather:** prc. 0 mm; RH 61 %; BP 98.67 kPa; ovcst; S 10-30 kmh; LM 16 C

**purpose:** two-day stay and tour for Stewards Committee

**participants:** Pat & Kee (plus, on thursday, Jane Bowles, Heather Campbell, Brian Deller, Frances Shamly, John Wood)

We put out birdfeed and set up camp for a two-day stay. There are still plenty of robins on the property but less than half the number of last Sunday. Pat & I walked to the RL, where I checked the cedars: one volunteer cedar is left, as well as three planted ones. (prov. Rae Axford)

While we stood on the beach, we were both startled to see a Wild Turkey fly across the river to the mouth of FC-- low, like a GBH. (We thought it WAS a GBH, at first) I followed the tracks of two female deer accompanied by a yearling. They went downstream, but one came back and followed the same route again -- so at first I thought there were four deer.

Pat spotted some Deadly Galerina sprouting on wood in two different locations nearby. This mushroom tends to fruit late in the season. Back at the camp a chipmunk fed itself at one tray, while a black squirrel worked the other tray.

After supper (sunset already) it got quite windy outside, with gusts powerful enough to shake the trailer. (I visualized us getting blown over into Eva's Woods.) By midnight the wind had died down to a steady breeze and the LM thermometer read 7 C as the new cold front made its presence known. A raccoon snuffled around under the hickory feeder. Presently the air went dead calm.

By noon of Thursday the air temp was a mere 10 C. I noted only a few trees with green leaves still on them, so I walked over to the BCF to see which species were involved. What I thought was a young tree at the edge of the meadow was, in fact, a vine: Bristly Greenbriar. The trees were 2 BWillows, 2HB, 1 WA. While examining these trees I heard a loud banging, like a gowd man striking a tree with a hammer. Then a shrieking noise as an oversize woodpecker with a prominent red crest flees my presence. To match my Pileated, Pat had a sighting of her own to report, a Bald Eagle flying up Fleming Creek right past our camp!

As the wind shifted to a steady breeze from the west, our guests arrived more or less simultaneously. After introductions, Brian Deller, an archaeologist, explained what fires-cracked rocks were and what they looked like. He said it was the best

thing to look for when assessing an area for ancient campgrounds or villages. We walked the TRT, with me pointing out this feature or that, Jane supplementing me as we went. She thought my fir on the bluffs was a Scotch Pine. She may well be right, but I still see 3 cm needles (Jack) as opposed to 4 cm needles (Scotch).

We had hot cider all round at the end of the walk and discussed when we might meet again. We agreed to meet no later than next spring and anywhere in between if the occasion arose.

birds: (22)

American Crow (BCF); American Goldfinch (LM); American Robin (BCF); Bald Eagle (FC); Black-capped Chickadee (GF); Blue Jay (Tr); Brown Creeper (Tr); Canada Goose (TR); Cedar Waxwing (BCF); Dark-eyed Junco (Tr); Downy Woodpecker (Tr); Mourning Dove (BCF); Northern Cardinal (GF); Northern Flicker (EW); Pileated Woodpecker (BCF/E); Red-bellied Woodpecker (GF); Red-breasted Nuthatch (HB/BCF); Red-tailed Hawk (BCF); Tufted Titmouse (Tr); White-breasted Nuthatch (GF); White-crowned Sparrow (GF); Wild Turkey (TR)