

Newport Forest

Sunday December 20 2009

1:55 - 5:20 pm

weather: prec. 32 mm; PH 71%; BP 98.8; calm; sn/hz; T 2° C

purpose: to clear deadfall from trails

participants: Kee, Darrren

Before I even got to the property, I met with Bob and Sue Pallister who live in Bothwell and frequently take nature walks along the Fleming Line. We chatted about Newport Forest and they expressed interest in the stewardship opportunity. (contact info to Don & Stan under separate cover)

Darren arrived on schedule and we wasted little time in getting his chainsaw out of the truck and off along the TRT. The river is up moderately, with flotillas of thin ice cakes drifting downstream. We cut about 10 problem trees along the trail: deadfall stepovers, leaners, widowmakers, and deadheads. It is now once again an easy walk and we encourage stewards to visit during the exciting winter season. We saw a black squirrel in the RSF and (between chainsawings) heard a flock of Wld Turkeys arguing near the river, as well as a kingfisher flying downstream.. We also spotted the travels of a White-footed Mouse along a succession of liner-logs, with their thin coating of snow.

Back at the trailer, Darren explained how they deal with the heavy Phragmites infestation at Rondeau; it's called "rolling the phrag." They tow a very heavy roller over mature stands, flattening them to a kind of semi-permanent mulch.

birds: (8)

American Goldfinch (Tr); Belted Kingfisher (TR); Black-capped Chickadee (Tr); Downy Woodpecker (GF); Mourning Dove (LM); Red-bellied Woodpecker (Tr); White-breasted Nuthatch (Tr); Wild Turkey (RSF/TR)

new species:

'Giant Paramecium'	<i>Paramecium multimicronucleatum</i>	TR KD Nv29/09
'Slender Spirostomum'	<i>Spirostomum [loxodes]</i>	TR KD Nv29/09
'Long-bodied Colpid'	<i>Colpidium [campylum]</i>	TR KD Nv29/09
'Pear-shaped Tetra'	<i>Tetrahymena pyriforme</i>	TR KD Nv29/09
'Small-mouthed Vorticella'	<i>Vorticella microstoma</i>	TR KD Nv29/09

Note 1: The TR hay infusion has produced another species of paramecium, illustrating a kind of succession that is common in infusions. *P. caudatum*, however, still dominates, but one can see from the number of Giant Paramecium undergoing fission that they will soon catch up.

Note 2: I finally found out how to take pictures through the microscope by digital camera: you DON'T remove the eyepiece, but simply shoot directly ! I will seek improvements in clarity.

Note 3: You can always tell a good hay infusion: the air in its vicinity smells like human digestive gases (not a coincidence, of course).

IMAGES

Mixed group of Paramecium feeding on bacteria; *P. multimicronucleatum* (e.g. three individuals at upper right) is fatter and slightly longer, in general, than *P. caudatum* (lower right). Two of the former have developed “blisters,” a pathology related to osmoregulatory function. 400 X



Colpidium campylum is a common ciliate found in rivers, ditches, even soils. Note striations, food vacuoles at rear. Mouth (stomum) is a slit just below the “beak” of the organism. (ignore pointer)



a doe sniffs the measuring post, while her friend looks on.



Stealth Cam 12/14/2009 17:24:25 ☾ 36F

two wild turkeys (tom in foreground) head for the Lower Meadow



Note: cam times are in EDT