

Trailwork

Newport Forest Wednesday October 6 2010 3:05 - 6:30 pm

weather: prec. 29 mm; RH 89%; BP 101.6 kPa; N 0-15 kmh; clr; T 20° C
purpose: trail maintenance
participants: Kee, Brian

The ground was still damp from an overnight rain when we arrived on site. The smell of autumn was even stronger and the ground in the forested areas now has an inch or two of freshly fallen leaves on it.

I found what appeared to be freshly-dug skunk holes in Edgar's Road. We see skunks (Striped Skunk) very rarely at Newport Forest, perhaps one every 2-3 years. Flooding as often as it does, the place is not great for burrowing animals.

Brian filled in the remaining ruts in the Mudhole on the Upper Meadow stretch of Edgar's Road and we then went off to the Thames River Trail, me counterclockwise and Brian clockwise. In other words, I went to the river, while Brian went into the Blind Creek Forest to drag more trail liners out of the bush. I joined Brian up on the Hogsback, where we relined the entire trail. That much work is relatively permanent. Liners in the areas that usually flood are being systematically pegged in, otherwise, they tend to float away.

New species:

Purple-toothed Polypore *Trichaptum biforme* FCT kd/GT Sp28/10

Note: I had always assumed that this common species was already in our records. When seeing the kind of growths shown in the image below, I assumed it was a *Trametes* fungus with an algal growth on it, without actually examining the thing. Greg identified the species from the image, so I checked the list and . . . voila!

Bee protocol: (last count - weather good)

HB BB OB SW LW SF LF
13 4 1 3 4 1 0
(24 4 0 4 1 1 2) << last count

Note: A comparison of the 2009 and 2010 Bee Protocol results will be issued within a day or two.

Drought watch: precipitation shortfall 20% -- still falling

Note: to avoid experiencing a "drought year," the property must have another 147 mm of precipitation

Phenology: leaf fall at 2-3"

IMAGES:



Our best fall colour shot was taken two years ago. Check that Sugar Maple in the foreground!



Shoreline erosion along river: The sharp edge is characteristic for much of the Thames shoreline and Mussel Beach, in particular. The landscape is somewhat terraced,



*Purple-toothed Polypore (*Trichaptum biforme*) growing on a log along the Blind Creek Trail. Note irregular appearance of early growths. with apologies for bad*

owing to surface clay being somewhat harder than subsurface clay. Ten years ago the same edge used to be another two meters to the left, the beach then almost double what is visible here. The property has also lost bank from a second terrace, next level up, in the distance. The mouth of Fleming Creek can be seen as a dark opening about half way around the bend, upstream. To get a numerical handle on the rate of erosion, we are planning some erosion/deposition monitoring.