

Newport Forest

Thursday January 12 2012

2:15 - 5:10 pm

**Weather:** prec. 4mm; RH 100%; BP 93.1 kPa; Ovcst/rn; SW 0-20 kmh; T +4° C

**Purpose:** monitoring property

**Participants:** Kee

The no-snow trend continued today, with light rain as the only precipitation on site -- and not much of that, either. However I walked in from the gate, not being sure what conditions would be like further down. A light rain fell as I walked, but soon abated. The air pressure was at an all-time low as far as property records go: 93.1 kiloPascals.

There seemed to be few birds or other animals around, so I contented myself with a little exploring, walking into the forest on Eva's side of the lot-line and noting some pools that belong to Blind Creek before it "empties" into the chain of pools that cross the property from east to west. There, in a large hollow, I found some flood jetsam, including a bright metallic party balloon and a plastic Pepsi bottle that was empty. At first I didn't notice the slip of paper inside it.

I collected a small number of old walnuts for Pat's dye-making experiments and then walked half the Blind Creek Trail. Before returning, I made a foray off-trail into the Blind Creek Forest to inspect the American Beech Trees we planted there five and six years ago. They're still doing well, with new leaf buds, but rather little growth up to this point. I suspect that is characteristic of Beech. Back at camp I descended the Fleming Creek trail to examine the rapids, now about one decimetre above normal levels. I found a strange-looking dark green polypore growing near the base of an old Elm stump and took both a photo and a sample of the cap. Examining the cap later I found that the green colour came from two common algae that had no particular relationship with the fungus (probably a decayed *Ganoderma*).

I then made a quick tour of the Regen Zone, looking for trees attacked by beavers. Nothing yet.

### **New Species:**

coccal filament A	SCnm [1.0, +]	VP1390 KD Dc17/11
coccal filament B	SCnm [2.0, +]	VP1390 KD Dc17/11
cocci	CCnm [1.0]	VP1390 KD Dc17/11
vibrio	VBmt [1.0, 5]	VP1390 KD Dc17/11

rod bacillus	FMff [1.5, 5]	VP1390 KD Dc17/11
diplococci	DCnm [1.5]	VP1390 KD Dc17/11
short spirochaete	SPmt [1.0, 8]	VP1390 KD Dc17/11
filamentous bacterium	FMnm [1.0, +]	VP1525 KD Dc17/11
bacilli	BCnm [1.0, 5.0]	VP1525 KD Dc17/11
‘Fast Astasia’	<i>Astasia [klebsi]</i>	VP1525 KD Dc17/11

**Note on bacteria:** The notation I have used for bacteria is based on the “morpho-species” concept, it being impossible in most cases to do any better unless one is a bacteriologist. The code gives a brief description of morphological type (e.g. SC = Staphylococcus, nm = non-motile) and [2.0, +] means 2 microns in diameter and indefinite length. In cases of pathogenic bacteria, such as a tree canker like *Agrobacterium tumefaciens*, or known genera with distinctive morphologies and behaviour like *Flexibacter*, we enter the scientific name directly.

**Note on Astasia:** There is almost no extant material available to ID species of *Astasia*. This particular species of colourless Euglenoid is shaped like a tear drop when in motion, but the suspicion remains that these are junior forms of a more common sp. of *Astasia* such as *A. longa*. In any case, there are no diagnostic keys, as far as I can tell -- unless one wants to read through all the original literature and build one for oneself.

**Phenology:** no significant snow cover up to this date

### Readers Write:

Terry Keep is a Newport Steward whose home near Wardsville is 1.9 km (as the Nuthatch flies) from our feeding trays. He confirms an apparent recent scarcity of birds, including some of the most common species: “Glad to hear you are [finally] seeing lots of birds. it's been uncommonly quiet around our place this year, including no signs of the Black-capped Chickadee and we usually gets lots of them at the feeder.”

### IMAGES:



FinePix

View upriver from this vantage point near the mouth of Fleming Creek reveals a straight stretch extending about half a km. At the end of that stretch, in the middle of a gravel shoal, is the place we call Clam Island, a very diverse source of mussel species.



FinePix

*Turkeytail Series:* Colour scheme #3 involves ochre yellow, brown, black, and white. The fruiting bodies are sprouting from a narrow two-foot stump and not the log below.



FinePix

Love in a bottle: Against my better judgment I threw this bottle back into the river; who am I to stand in the way of getting this vital message out to the world? I infer that Will has not known Miranda long enough to have seen her name spelled correctly, but good luck anyway.

In a more serious vein, we record the vast variety of flotsam and jetsam that floods bring into the property. Our list of such items includes everything from riverdrift (cornstalks, etc.) to the following jetsam: spare tires, a tin roof with wood framing, child's plastic golf clubs, a TV set, several car wheels, a grader tire, the list goes on and on. Not to mention an endless supply of pop beer, antifreeze bottles, etc. etc