

Newport Forest

June 29 2000

2:30 - 4:45 pm

Weather: intermittent light rain, cool < 20C, no breeze

Purpose: to extend River Forest trail

Participants: Kee, Nic & Mat Mihlik

Driving along the Beattie Line, we saw some eight Turkey Vultures sitting on fence posts beside the road! Only one of these magnificent birds took flight as we passed. We entered the property and made our way without incident to the River, where we followed the Riverside Trail, chipping here and there as we went. We had brought three bags this time, instead of the usual two. But even after saving two bags for the forest trail, we only covered another 40 metres.

We found many more fungi growing in the forest, thanks to the recent rains. I collected some small parchment fungi on a stick, a "white cheese" fungus on a rotting log, an Elegant Polypore and another of those hard-to-ID gilled oysterlike fungi.

We followed the forest trail to "Garlic Mustard Preserve" and beyond, coming upon a great deal of branch litter which we broke into serviceable pieces and carried with us to the slough, thinking to fill it in with corduroy. As it turned out, we had only enough to cover a small slough. We discovered, however, that the trail can avoid the slough altogether, by following a modest ridge right beside it. Mat found a small cup fungus, Nic found a land-snail shell and then Mat found a baby Spruce tree, rather a find, considering there are no conifers of any kind on the property. Yet I recalled that we were at that point only 100 metres or so from a plantation of conifers on the adjacent property to the southwest, owned I am told, by two doctors (or dentists?) from Windsor.

On the way back, I decided to check whatever woody species seemed unusual or hard-to-ID. Thus we came upon a very large tree, leaning ponderously. When I looked up, I could plainly see it was a Basswood. With a tape we measured a girth of 2.72 metres, which translates into 86.6 cm dbh. Along the forest trail I was quite excited to "discover" a Prickly Ash which, when I got home, I keyed out to Multiflora Rose -- with help from Pat. I also saw some Tall White Lettuce or Rattlesnake Root.

I wore my camera, but found that I had no film in it!