

Newport Forest

June 16 2001

1:45 - 4:55 pm

**Weather:** sunny, 25C, light breeze from NW

**Purpose:** maintenance visit

**Participants:** Kee, Nic, Caleb

When we arrived, we found Eva's car parked at the gate and Eva already half way down the Upper Meadow with her two great-grandchildren in tow. We drove down to the trailer after stopping to talk with her. The trailer was still in the shade and fairly cool inside.

We unloaded Nic's first decking module and checked to see that its guides matched up with those of a new cradle, which we also unloaded. The match was within tolerance.

To keep Caleb busy, we sent him over to the chip pile to bag chips. Our idea was to bag as many as possible before the rains reduced the pile to a mass of spores. The puzzling growth discovered there during our last visit has now duplicated itself. Nic discovered filaments of the fungus well into the chips and there was no longer any doubt that this was pure fungus, not a coprafagous fungus growing on feces. (At home we finally identified it as *Fuligo septica*, a "widespread and common" wood-digesting slime mould.)

The mosquitoes proved too much for Eva and the little ones. I drove them back to Eva's car on the road and she gave me a copy of the *Elgin Co. Historical Atlas*.

We next raised one end of one pipe off the ground and set it on the cradle. We measured the height of the end of the pipe and the height of the middle and found that it had developed a 2" "gravity bend." Knowing this helps tremendously in designing the mid-stream trestle.

Next, we installed the far trestle by moving it to exactly the right position, levelling the base and anchoring it with two stakes and 2x4s. We spent the remaining time cleaning up the Fleming Creek trail along the portion we had earlier avoided owing to the presence of the fawn.

**New species:** "Septic Slime" *Fuliga septica* LM