

## August 13-14, 2022 Spruce Woods hike and backpack

It was another warm day for a Spruce Woods hike, but as August progresses, the heat starts a bit later in the day and we managed an earlier start than we did a couple of weeks earlier. Rick

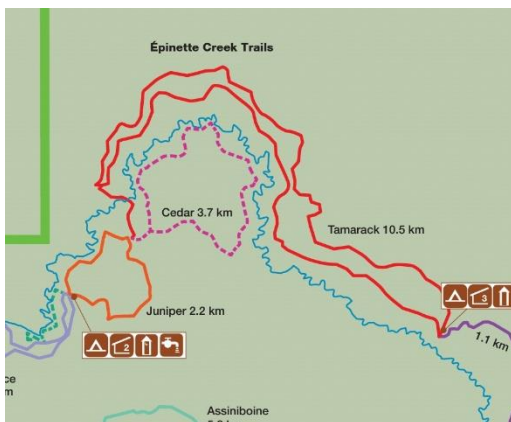


and Sue (and Agnes, of course), and Bert and Judy met at the Epinette Creek trailhead, where we welcomed brand new member Ray for his first experience with the club. Judy biked,

while the others hiked the 8.2 km in to cabin 3.



Bert, as usual, could often be seen on his belly photographing. Good to see that there are still bees pollinating the flowers.



Along the way, Judy met another cyclist, who told her about the new 3.7 km "Cedar Trail" that does a loop from the intersection of Juniper and Tamarack. The trail is being maintained by a group of people from Carberry and Glenboro schools. Her informant, a retired principal told us he'd be mowing the trail first thing in the morning, and hinted at some more interesting future developments.

Not suffering from heat stroke and the need for frequent naps like the last time, Judy made it to cabin 3 well ahead of the hikers, where she met Di and spirit who had hiked down from cabin 4 where they spent the previous night with Kari.



We set up camp and then relaxed and told tales as we rehydrated/warmed up our meals. Dessert was apple and blueberry crisp, along with a little square of “ice cream”. A lot of imagination was needed to recognize the ice cream. We enjoyed having new member Ray with us-- always nice to have someone new to tell our stories too and to provide some new stories for us!

While the humans didn't find the bugs too bad, Princess Spirit was antsy until placed in the cabin, where he quite happily remained for most of the evening.

Spirit was also looking none too pleased when he was fitted with his pack for the walk out. He might not have looked quite so dejected if he had known that he had only a km or two to walk to where Di had parked the car before their hike in to cabin 4!

The rest of us packed up for the hike back to the trailhead. Along the way, we met the retired principal again, who advised us to take the new “alternate” trail between cabin 2 and the trailhead. After a break at cabin 2, we followed his suggestion—it's actually the old trail that follows the creek, now maintained again, and much more interesting than the other route.

