NATURAL COMMUNITY SURVEY PART I: RECONNAISSANCE Maine Natural Areas Program

IDENTIFIERS / LOCATION

Survey area: Housatonic River [C3]			Date: 2 September 1998
(Site name:)		(Quadcode:)	Airphoto (#, scale, date):
Surveyors: Arthur Haines, Eugenie Moore	Town: Lenox County: Berkshire, MA (Biophysical Region:)	USGS 7.5' Quad: X15' 1:25,000 East Lee, MA	

Mark all observation points on a copy of the topo. Add any comments or sketches here if necessary to clarify the topo.

Directions (if not obvious from topo or Maine Atlas): From parking lot, north of mill on Willow Creek Rd, walk to RR tracks and head north 1950 meters, turning right (east) and into forest 25 meters.

VEGETATION / HABITAT

Observation Point 1	Observation Point 2	Observation Point 3
Community type: Circumneutral hardwood swamp - Bur Oak Association	Community type: Floodplain forest - Silver maple - false nettle - sensitive fern association	Community type:
Soil: Primarily mineral	Soil: Alluvial	Soil:
Slope, aspect, topography: Flat, plain	Slope, aspect, topography: Flat, small island shelves	Slope, aspect, topography:
STRATA*: cover & 1-2 dominant spp. for each	STRATA*: cover & 1-2 dominant spp. for each	STRATA*: cover & 1-2 dominant spp. for each
Tree layer: Total cover (%): 65 Quercus macrocarpa Acer rubrum Fraxinus nigra	Tree layer: Total cover (%): 70 Acer saccharinum	Tree layer: Total cover (%):
Sapling / tall shrub layer: Total cover (%) 35 Carpinus caroliniana	Sapling / tall shrub layer: Total cover (%) 5 Acer saccharinum	Sapling / tall shrub layer: Total cover (%)
Shrub (1-2 m) layer: Total cover (%) 10 Spiraea alba Lindera benzoin	Shrub (1-2 m) layer: Total cover (%) 40 Cornus amomum	Shrub (1-2 m) layer: Total cover (%)
Herb layer: Total cover (%) 80 Osmunda regalis Onoclea sensibilis	Herb layer: Total cover (%) 90 Laportea canadensis Urtica dioica Impatiens capensis Matteuccia struthiopteris Pilea pumila	Herb layer: Total cover (%)
Bryoid layer: Total cover (%) virtually absent	Bryoid layer: Total cover (%) essentially absent	Bryoid layer: Total cover (%)
Other diagnostic or notable species:	Other diagnostic or notable species:	Other diagnostic or notable species:
Condition / evidence of human use: None	Condition / evidence of human use: None	Condition / evidence of human use:
Additional data collected / COMMENTS plots (size)? tree cores? photos?	Additional data collected / COMMENTS plots (size)? tree cores? photos?	Additional data collected / COMMENTS plots (size)? tree cores? photos?

date: 9/2 initials: AH p. 1 of 7

NATURAL COMMUNITY SURVEY — PART II: DESCRIPTION

-> complete separate description forms for each notable natural community on reconnaissance page.

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IDENTIFIERS / LOCATION

Area (specific/general): Housatonic River [C3]			Obs. Pt. #
Community type: Circumneutral Hardwood Swamp — Bur Oak Association			Adjacent communities: Circumneutral shrub swamp, floodplain forest
Quad: East Lee	~~(Lat.)~~ Northing 4692700	Size (acres) of community EO (not site):	BE SURE TO MAP EXTENT OF COMMUNITY ON TOPO. Distinguish between portions ground-truthed vs. portions presumed to be part of community based solely on photo/map interpretation, where applicable.
(Quadcode:)	~~(Long.)~~ Easting 0644400		

CLASSIFICATION HIERARCHY

Physiognomy (Class)	Phenology (Subclass)	Leaf type (Group)
(forest)	evergreen woody	(broad-leaf woody)
woodland	(deciduous woody)	needle-leaf woody
shrubland	mixed woody	graminoid
dwarf shrubland	perennial	forb
herbaceous	annual	pteridophyte
sparse vascular/nonvascular		non-vascular

(ALLIANCE:)

ADDITIONAL DATA FOR FORESTS

Tree canopy height	Core data: ring counts (~ 5 cores) of larger trees (give sp. & dbh)	Deadwood (describe distribution, abundance, degree of decay):
85 feet	① Quercus macrocarpa 32 in dbh, >170 years before present	Some large downed wood
supercanopy trees? yes, a few Pinus strobus.		

HISTORY (describe evidence or lack thereof; please do not leave boxes blank. Indicate approximately how recent where possible.)

Fire:	Wind:	Cutting:	Agriculture:	Impoundment:
NO	no	NO	NO	Woods Pond has been impounded and flooded back into some areas that were forested.

comment:

ADDITIONAL SPECIES LIST

List additional plant species in community not included in the plot data that follows.	Species list sketchy or basically complete? Comment:
A.H. field Book 8.27.98 pg. 7	Relatively complete

VEGETATION ~~PLOT DATA~~

Area: Housatonic River EC 37	Obs. pt. #: 1
Community type: Bur oak association	(Regional alliance/community:)

LAYER	plot # 1A	1B	1C	1D
TREE list species and dbh for all trees >= 5 cm dbh; count standing dead as 1 species. note units: QUAD SIZE: note which size used 5.64 m radius for 1/100th ha 7.98 m radius for 2/100th ha use same size throughout!	Quercus macrocarpa 15 Standing Dead 7 Acer rubrum 18	Quercus macrocarpa 10, 6 Acer rubrum 5 Fraxinus nigra 7, 7, 10	Acer rubrum 27, 6 Tsuga canadensis 9, 10	Quercus macrocarpa 16 Acer rubrum 5, 8, 9, 10, 14
SAPLING / TALL SHRUB cover class by species of trees > 2 m tall but < 5 cm dbh; and shrubs > 2 m tall QUAD SIZE: 2.8 m radius or 25 m²	Carpinus caroliniana 9	Carpinus c. 63	Acer rubrum 9 Carpinus c. 19	Carpinus caroll. 37 Ulmus americana 1
SHRUB cover class* by species of shrubs/trees 1 - 2 m tall. QUAD SIZE: 2.8 m radius or 25 m²	Lindera benzoin 1	NA	Fraxinus nigra 1 Ilex verticillata 3	NA
HERB cover class* by species for all herbaceous plants plus any woodies < 1 m tall QUAD SIZE: 1 m², 2-4 herb quads per tree plot. Enter individual values in left-hand column and average in right-hand column. Remember the zeros for spp present in some but not all herb quads when figuring averages!	① Onoclea sens. 3 Equisetum sylvaticum Smilax 1 Rubus pubescens 3 Elymus virginicus 1 Carex brunnescens 1 ② Symphyotrichum lateriflorum 1 Onoclea sen. 9 Athyrium felix-f. 3 Toxicodendron radicans 3 Geum canadense 1	① Osmunda regalis 37 Onoclea sensibilis 1 ② Equisetum syl. 3 Fraxinus nigra 1 Osmunda cinn. 3 Onoclea sen. 1 Thalictrum pub. 1	① Carex projecta 3 Onoclea sen. 3 Symphyotrichum lateriflorum 1 Chelone glabra 1 Equisetum sylv. 3 Carex cf. bromus. 3 Athyrium felix-f. 3 ② Carex cf. brom. 3 Athyrium felix-f. 1 Onoclea sens. 3 Equisetum sylva. 3	① Onoclea S. 9 Athyrium f.-f. 3 Osmunda reg. 9 Carex projecta 3 ② Osmunda reg. 63 Onoclea S. 1
BRYOID ground-layer mosses, liverwort, lichens in herb quads. resolution (check one): X "moss"/"liverwort"/"lichen" only; __identified to major group; __identified to genus; __identified to species.	NA	NA	① Moss 3 ② Moss 0	① Moss 19 ② Moss 1
REMARKS				

In box on previous page, list plant spp. present in the community but not in the sample plots so we have a complete species list.

* cover classes (record midpoint): < 2 1 2-5% 3 6-12% 9 13-24% 19 25-49% 37 50-74% 63 75-100% 87

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TOPOGRAPHY / SOILS

Area: Housatonic River [C3] | Obs. pt. #: 1

Community type: Bur Oak association | (Regional alliance/community:)

Elevation:	Aspect:	Slope:	Microtopography:
294 meters	NA magnetic or true?	0° measured or estimated?	Slightly uneven ground with shallow pits and low mounds.

pH	Topographic position:			Habitat patchiness (describe zones or patches if present):
(note kit or meter type)	(P) low plain, level T toe of slope LS lower slope MS middle slope	TB hillside terrace/bench US upper slope E cliff/ledge	C crest M high plateau N narrow valley D drainage channel	Relatively uniform

Mineral Soil Profile:

horizon	depth (cm)	color	mottling	other
O				
A				
E				
B				
C				

Organic Soil Profile:

peat depth:_____cm OR > 1 m_____

vonPost decomposition:_____

ALL SOILS:

DEPTH TO WATER TABLE:_____

DEPTH to OBSTRUCTION:_____

Soil temperature reading _____ F/C at _____ (depth)

Surficial deposit:	Surface:	Average Texture:
bedrock	____% Bedrock	gravel
talus slope	____% Boulders (>50 cm)	sand
glacial till	____% Cobbles/Gravel	loamy sand / sandy loam
moraine	____% Bare mineral soil	loam
esker/outwash	____% Organic soil	silt loam
glacial delta	40 % Litter (note type)	clay loams
(lacustrine/fluvial) alluvial	____% Water	sandy clay / clay
marine	60 % Total vegetation	peat
aeolian	____ Other:	muck
other:		

Bedrock type:
- Igneous
  - granite
  - dioritic
  - gabbroic
  - other igneous
  - _____
- Metamorphic
  - slate/phyllite
  - schist/gneiss
  - other metamorphic
  - _____
- Sedimentary
  - limestone
  - other sedimentary
  - _____

details?

Soil stoniness:
- v. little (< 1%)
- moderate (2-25%)
- very (25-100%)

Drainage & moisture regime (see MAPPSS key):
- very poorly drained
- poorly drained
- somewhat poorly drained
- moderately well drained
- well drained
- somewhat excessively drained
- excessively drained

Hydrologic regime:
- upland
- nontidal wetland:
  - permanently flooded
  - semiperm'ly flooded
  - (seasonally flooded)
  - saturated
- tidal - irregularly
- tidal - regularly
  - saltwater
  - brackish
  - freshwater
- unknown

ATURAL COMMUNITY SURVEY — PART II: DESCRIPTION

> complete separate description forms for each notable natural community on reconnaissance page.

DENTIFIERS / LOCATION

Area (specific/general): Housatonic River [C3]			Obs. Pt. # 2
Community type: Floodplain forest — Silver maple - false nettle - sensitive fern association			Adjacent communities: Circumneutral hardwood swamp, Robust Emergent marsh, Low Gradient Stream
Quad: East Lee, MA	(Lat:) Northing 4692700	Size (acres) of community EO (not site):	BE SURE TO MAP EXTENT OF COMMUNITY ON TOPO. Distinguish between portions ground-truthed vs. portions presumed to be part of community based solely on photo/map interpretation, where applicable.
(Quadcode:)	(Long:) Easting 0644700		

CLASSIFICATION HIERARCHY

Physiognomy (Class)	Phenology (Subclass)	Leaf type (Group)
forest	evergreen woody	broad-leaf woody
woodland	deciduous woody	needle-leaf woody
shrubland	mixed woody	graminoid
dwarf shrubland	perennial	forb
herbaceous	annual	pteridophyte
sparse vascular/nonvascular		non-vascular

(ALLIANCE:)

ADDITIONAL DATA FOR FORESTS

Tree canopy height	Core data: ring counts (~ 5 cores) of larger trees (give sp. & dbh)	Deadwood (describe distribution, abundance, degree of decay):
70 feet	① Acer saccharinum 57 feet tall, 20 inch dbh, >60 ybp	Little deadwood present, mostly few logs deposited by high water near channel edges.
supercanopy trees? NO	② Acer saccharinum 21 inch dbh, 83 ft, 64 ybp	
	③ Acer saccharinum 18 inch dbh, 55 feet tall, 46 ybp	

HISTORY (describe evidence or lack thereof: please do not leave boxes blank. Indicate approximately how recent where possible.)

Fire:	Wind:	Cutting:	Agriculture:	Impoundment:
none	none	none	none	Woods Pond Impoundment may have affected water levels here.

comment: ?

ADDITIONAL SPECIES LIST

List additional plant species in community not included in the plot data that follows.

Eupatorium maculatum	Sium suave	Clematis virginiana	Cardamine pratensis
Epilobium ciliatum ssp. glandulosum	Lycopus uniflorus	Solanum dulcamara	
Toxicodendron radicans	Onoclea sensibilis	Persicaria sagittata	
Galium cf. trifidum	Leersia oryzoides	Lysimachia nummularia	
Myosotis scorpioides	Galium	Peltandra virginica	
Bidens connata	Cicuta latifolia	Viburnum dentatum	
Persicaria hydropiper	Lycium Salicaria	Rubus pubescens	
	Ulmus americana		

Species list sketchy or basically complete? Comment: Moderate survey

VEGETATION PLOT DATA

Area: Housatonic River [C3]	Obs. pt. #: 2
Community type: Silver Maple Floodplain Forest	(Regional alliance/community:)

LAYER	plot # 1A	1B	1C	1D
TREE list species and dbh for all trees >= 5 cm dbh; count standing dead as 1 species. note units: QUAD SIZE: note which size used 5.64 m radius for 1/100th ha 7.98 m radius for 2/100th ha use same size throughout!	Acer Saccharinum 7, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 14, 19, 24	Acer Saccharinum 28, 24	Acer Saccharinum 8, 11, 24, 8, 8, 12, 16, 6, 16, 18, 18	Acer Saccharinum 10, 12, 9, 6, 14, 12
SAPLING / TALL SHRUB cover class by species of: trees > 2 m tall but < 5 cm dbh; and shrubs > 2 m tall QUAD SIZE: 2.8 m radius or 25 m²	NA	NA	NA	NA
SHRUB cover class* by species of shrubs/trees 1 - 2 m tall. QUAD SIZE: 2.8 m radius or 25 m²	NA	Cornus amomum 9	Cornus amomum 9	NA
HERB cover class* by species for all herbaceous plants plus any woodies < 1 m tall QUAD SIZE: 1 m², 2-4 herb quads per tree plot. Enter individual values in left-hand column and average in right-hand column. Remember the zeros for spp. present in some but not all herb quads when figuring averages!	① Laportea canadensis 19 Boehmeria cylindrica 9 Pilea pumila 37 Matteuccia struthiopteris 3 ③ Eupatorium maculatum 19 Impatiens cap. 9 Boehmeria cyl. 9 Pilea pumila 37 Epilobium ciliatum 3 Geum canadense 3	① Laportea can. 37 Pilea pumila 1 Matteuccia struth. 3 ② Laportea can. 3 Matteuccia St. 37 Onoclea sen. 9 ?	① Matteuccia St. 37 Laportea can. 9 Pilea pumila 3 ② Matteuccia St. 37 Onoclea sen. 9 Boehmeria cylindrica 19 Glyceria striata 1	① Boehmeria cyl. 9 Impatiens cap. 3 Pilea pumila 63 Laportea can. 19 Matteuccia st. 1 ② Laportea can. 1 Pilea pumila 19 Galium 1 Myosotis scorp. 1 Boehmeria cyl. 9 Lycopus uniflo. 3 Matteuccia struthiopteris 9
BRYOID ground-layer mosses, liverwort, lichens in herb quads. resolution (check one): X "moss"/"liverwort"/"lichen" only; __ identified to major group; __ identified to genus; __ identified to species.	NA	NA	NA	① NA ② moss 19
REMARKS	Trees from a single, basally-branched clump			Trees single-stemmed

In box on previous page, list plant spp. present in the community but not in the sample plots so we have a complete species list.

* cover classes (record midpoint): < 2 1 2-5% 3 6-12% 9 13-24% 19 25-49% 37 50-74% 63 75-100% 87

date: initials: p. 6 of 7

TOPOGRAPHY / SOILS

Area: Housatonic River [C3] | Obs. pt. #: 2

Community type: Silver Maple Floodplain Forest | (Regional alliance/community:)

Elevation:	Aspect:	Slope:	Microtopography:
294 meters	Flat magnetic or true?	0 measured or estimated?	Relatively level ground

pH	Topographic position:			Habitat patchiness (describe zones or patches if present):
(note kit or meter type)	P low plain, level T toe of slope LS lower slope MS middle slope	TB hillside terrace/bench US upper slope E cliff/ledge	C crest M high plateau N narrow valley D drainage channel	Uniform as to overstory. Understory comprised either of tall herbs or dense colonies of dogwood.

Mineral Soil Profile:

horizon	depth (cm)	color	mottling	other
O				
A				
E				
B				
C				

Organic Soil Profile:

peat depth:_____cm OR > 1 m_____

vonPost decomposition:_____

ALL SOILS:

DEPTH TO WATER TABLE:_____

DEPTH to OBSTRUCTION:_____

Soil temperature reading _____ F/C at _____ (depth)

Surficial deposit:
- bedrock
- talus slope
- glacial till
- moraine
- esker/outwash
- glacial delta
- (lacustrine/fluvial) Alluvial
- marine
- aeolian
- other:

Surface:
- ____% Bedrock
- ____% Boulders (>50 cm)
- ____% Cobbles/Gravel
- 10 % Bare mineral soil
- ____% Organic soil
- 10 % Litter (note type) herb/broadleaf
- ____% Water
- 80 % Total vegetation
- ____ Other:

Average Texture:
- gravel
- sand
- loamy sand / sandy loam
- loam
- silt loam
- clay loams
- sandy clay / clay
- peat
- muck

Bedrock type:
- Igneous
  - granite
  - dioritic
  - gabbroic
  - other igneous
- _____
- Metamorphic
  - slate/phyllite
  - schist/gneiss
  - other metamorphic
- _____

Sedimentary
- limestone
- other sedimentary
- _____

details?

Soil stoniness:
- v. little (< 1%)
- moderate (2-25%)
- very (25-100%)

Drainage & moisture regime (see MAPPSS key):
- very poorly drained
- poorly drained
- somewhat poorly drained
- moderately well drained
- well drained
- somewhat excessively drained
- excessively drained

Hydrologic regime:
- upland
- nontidal wetland:
  - permanently flooded
  - semipermanently flooded
  - (seasonally flooded)
  - saturated
- tidal - irregularly
- tidal - regularly
  - saltwater
  - brackish
  - freshwater
- unknown