

Pancake Tour - April 13, 2019

By Ron Prickett

Ok, is predicting the weather a science? I say it is more attune to the rigors of Chaos Theory. Yes, we were supposed to get rain/wet snow in the PM. So, what happened was obviously a miracle. The sun came out and shone down on 14 hardy naturalists who dared the gods and ventured forth along the shores of Gitchigumi and hiked through Pancake Provincial Park. Check Val and Renee's great pictures to see the kind of day we had.

We travelled the beach instead of wading through the soft deep snow of the interior. The ice had been shoved up on the near shore but the high beach was clear. Into a bit of a stiff northwest wind (southwest predicted by weather station) our band of nature lovers trudged. The discovery of otter tracks brought the group to a momentary halt to determine if indeed it was an otter or some other creature. As usual after a brief debate it was decided definitely an otter (check the photo of the foot print and judge for yourself). Take a look at the enigmatic Earthstar fungus photo found on the high beach as well.

Finally running out of clear sand shores we donned our snowshoes and headed inland with trepidation as to the density of the snow. And to our great delight the snow did its part and supported even the most massive of naturalists. After meandering through the tall maples festooned with lichens and fungi, Jeff picked for us a perfect perch for us to lunch and discuss all matters of worldly great concern. While lunching the gods shone down on us and bathed our winter weary souls in bags full of sunshine.



Sand encrusted ice - VWalker



Pancake shoreline - RWysynski



Otter tracks on the beach - RWysynski

In spite of the pessimistic forecast the day turned into a delight. You never know. It was great to be out in the great outdoors; the water, the trees, the sun and of course the great company.

Thanks, Karen, for the homemade power bars.



Tree lungwort - VWalker



Creek water- RWysynski



Barometer earthstar - VWalker

