

**Newport Forest**

May 21 2000

2:10-4:40 pm

**Weather:** cloudy with sunny breaks, 18C+. no breeze

**Purpose:** to continue trail-building, to remove Garlic Mustard, etc.

**Participants:** Kee, Nick Mihlik

We were escorted into the meadow by numerous butterflies, including a Black Tiger Swallowtail. We carried two large garbage bags of wood chips down the trail to the river and began laying them along the riverside path, only covering about 20 m before we ran out. I took two photos of the River. It was running fast, very muddy, and much higher than it was last week, after the recent heavy rains. It came up to within a meter of the Riverside Trail at its lowest point. We scooped away more soil to improve the trail in spots.

Using the same bags that delivered the wood chips, we began to pull Garlic Mustard from along the forest path at the east end of the river forest, stuffing the plants into the bags. We cleared the weed from along the path for about 50 m but, far from clearing back a whole meter, I doubt if we averaged 10 cm! In the end, we filled both bags with a weight of Garlic Mustard that was about equal to the weight of wood chips that we brought in. Add to this the weight of dog biscuits that I distributed, and we have biomass in = biomass out. I took a photo of the east end of the river forest.

We then made our way to the centre of the west end of the forest which is much clearer of underbrush and probably less disturbed. Here we paused for cokes under a very large sycamore which, I promised Nick I would name it after him in lieu of pay. It will be called the "Nickamore." I measured the circumference of this tree at breast height with my tape, recording 3m and 20 cm. This would correspond to a diameter of slightly more than 1 m.

I couldn't do much tree ID work today because I forgot to bring the tree books. It would be a very good idea to develop a check list for future visits.

**Birds:** Mourning Dove, Blue Jay, Robin, and many birds whose calls I could not identify.