

Newport Forest

My30/00

2:50 - 4:50 pm

Weather: warm, light wind from W, mixed sun/cloud

Purpose: to check planted trees and explore creek flood plain

Participants: Kee, Nic

I noticed as we parked the van by the cliff edge, just north of the hunting blind, that the Black Maple by the ridge was setting seed, not a lot, but several clusters on the north side. I will keep an eye on it for seedfall and possible collection.

Fleming's Creek was down considerably from recent weeks and was easily fordable in our rubber boots, at least at the gravel bar that lies at the base of the cliff close to Harvey's property. (I have pondered possible "bridge" designs and have concluded that some large flat stepping stones would work most of the time.) We found several clear tracks of Great Blue Herons and Raccoons on the soft, muddy bank by the gravel bar. Both on the hill and elsewhere in the floodplain, indeed everywhere one walks on the property, deer tracks are a very common sight, about 100 times more frequent than at A'Nowaghi.

We searched for the trees we planted almost a month ago, finally locating one of the Chinkapin Oaks and both of the larger Tulip Trees. All are doing well, especially the Tulip Trees, one of which that was planted in a shady location had grown about 2", the other in a more open setting having grown 4"! (I had read that they are great "pioneer" trees for Creek flood plains, so what better tree to start a new forest with?)

As we made our way further south, while treading through vegetation, high grasses and dense bushes, we spied a huge and very beautiful Swallowtail. (Later, checking with Pat, we decided this must have been a Giant Swallowtail.) There were, moreover, dark blue Jewelwings everywhere. What elegant insects! Some of them had a white cell near the wingtip at the leading edge. (Possibly the Black-winged Damselfly, *Calopteryx maculata*)

With much laborious and inexact measurement, we set up two plots amid a fairly uniform patch of Garlic mustard-invaded ground about 70 m north of an old Beech "wolf tree," by the creek. (It has a diameter of nearly a metre!) By the time we had set the six stakes marking two 3m x 5m plots. the afternoon was too advanced for us to begin pulling Garlic Mustard, so we left that for another time.

As we came out, I picked two plants for Pat to examine, one with a daisy-like

flower, the other a peculiar-looking sedge.

Note: Edgar Hurdle says that he will mow a track right down to the river. He likes to canoe off the property, so he refused any payment for the service.