

**Newport Forest**

August 12 2000

2:00 - 5:15 pm

**Weather:** mixed sun/cloud, 24C, breeze from SW

**Purpose:** to extend the OCF trail

**Participants:** Kee, Nic

This time we brought six bags of wood chips with us and set to work immediately on the OCF trail. Nic and I would take turns hacking and chipping, ending by completing another 56 metres of trail. Based on this single example, it would seem that one bag of wood chips is sufficient for coverage of 11 metres of trail. It follows that if we brought ten bags with us, we should complete another 100 metres of trail, at least.

We are now approaching the rear of the Hogsback and should be within sight of the Deer-hunting blind after about two more sessions. Deep in the OCF, I noticed a rather healthy, mature White Elm, still something of a rarity. Beside it were two dead trees, about equal height to the Elm, and with a similar branching pattern (possibly former elms).

We adjourned to the river for lunch. I snuck down to the shore, hoping to catch one of the mystery turtles basking, but none were present. Instead, I found a beautiful, thin-shelled yellow clam half-buried in the newly exposed river mud. It had some unusual features, including reduced pseudo-cardinal teeth and a prominent wing on the posterior side of the beak, a smaller one on the other side.

We proceeded to the river bluffs where we set to work on the Riverside Trail, improving it to a level path with frequent steps, so that Pat may walk it with ease. We decided to call this part of the walk Pat's Trail. The clay of the river bluffs is remarkably stable, at least in the short term. No part of the current trail has shifted downslope or shows any sign of doing so. I am keen to be done with this trail-making business as soon as possible, so that we may get on with our "conservation work."

## **New Species**

Fragile Papershell

*Leptodea fragilis*