

**Newport Forest**

Au24/00

2:30 - 5:30 pm

**Weather:** sunny, clear, warm 28C, breeze from SW

**Purpose:** to extend OCF trail over Hogsback

**Participants:** Kee, Nic

There was one more sign to post. I took the stepladder to the landing and nailed the sign to an elm that was clearly visible from the trail entrance. The mosquitoes have hardly abated through the warm months the way they normally do, something I put down to the unusually rainy conditions we have had all summer.

We brought 5 bags of chips along the OCF trail, right to its current terminus about 3/4 of the way up the Hogsback. As we walked along the trail, carrying our bags, we heard one of the Redtails screaming up on the Hogsback. I love the sound of the mysterious, hoarse "Skree."

We chipped and clipped up to the top of the Hogsback west of the power lines where the trail bends abruptly east again. Nic made a beautifully clear path with the shovel while I went ahead to clip overhanging branches, clear debris, and scout out the trail right under the power lines and into the "old" (or should I say "older") Hogsback Forest. Here the trees are much older and the wood more open. For some reason, I pictured a bark-covered lodge set some way into the woods. By the time we ran out of chips, we were only 30' from the "precipice" where the Hogsback falls away, somewhat abruptly, into the RSF. We decided that "stairs" would be appropriate here for Pat and anyone else who might experience some difficulty with the grade.