

Newport Forest

May 20 2001

1:45 - 5:10 pm

**Weather:** sunny, dry, warm 22C, light wind from S

**Purpose:** to start Fleming Creek Trail

**Participants:** Kee, Nic & Caleb Stocking

Caleb Stocking, a lad of 11, will be a temporary addition to our crew. We noticed his ad on the bulletin board at Pop's Variety two weeks ago. The ad said he would like to earn some money over the summer and that he would work hard and could do a variety of jobs. We met with Caleb and his mother last Thursday, just before the West Elgin Nature Club tour of Newport Forest, and agreed to take him on a trial basis, until the end of May, at the rate of \$5/hr.

We picked Caleb up at Pop's variety, headed to the site and got immediately to work, Nic filling the feeders and the three of us then filling four bags of wood chips. While Nic and I concentrated on the trail, I sent Caleb off to a rise, not far away, where Garlic Mustard abounded. Every time I looked over at him, he was hard at work.

Later, Caleb joined us to work on the trail. While Nic and I hoed and hacked intensively, Caleb spread wood chips on the newly cleared ground. In all, we completed about 60 m of trail. We reasoned that if we could get our production up to 100 m per visit, the trail would be complete in about 14 more visits.

During our mid-afternoon break, Nic and I measured the two steel pipes that Eva's grandson, Robert (son of Jim Newport) had brought into the property last weekend. They measured about 34' 11". One of them had a weld in the middle, not the best thing in a pipe which must withstand bending stress. So I decided that the mid-stream trestle should be placed right under the weld.

Not far from the creek bank that we climbed to get up on the top terrace, lay a dead sucker, with many Silphid beetles crawling over and under it.

**New species:**

White Sucker  
Carrion Beetle

*Catostomus commersoni*  
*Silpha americana*

FC  
NCF