

Newport Forest

May 24 2001

2:00 - 6:00 pm

Weather: sunny, 22C, light S wind

Purpose: to collect/observe new plant species

Participants: Pat, Kee and Nic

We parked behind the trailer, ferried a few items inside, then walked down to the creek. What I thought was going to be a quick check of water levels and what have you turned into a collecting expedition, with Pat picking up some sedges that looked new. She also picked up a Silver Buttercup and worried briefly about a dock plant. Was it Burdock or something else? She would have to wait for it to flower. Despite the rather heavy rains of the last few days, the creek water level was up only an inch or two.

We came back up to the lower meadow, where I checked the trees and Pat recorded a flight of Canada Geese overhead. Many of the trees look pretty iffy, except for the Silver Maples, which are all going gangbusters.

Perhaps that's the tree to have as the primary meadow forest. Along Edgar's Trail, we spotted many Ebony Jewelwings flitting among the bushes, as well as an unusual number of day-flying moths. I spotted two types of geometrid moth, as well as a species which I was quite sure was the Eight-spotted Forester. However, the four spots on each side were all on one wing, instead of their being two spots per wing. It is certainly a pretty little moth, not being over 3/4" in wingspan.

At the RL, the trees were all doing as well as could be expected, especially a Witch Hazel which I frankly didn't expect to take the way it has. Here Pat spotted the Oriole guarding its nest in the elm tree. Here also, Pat found wild Strawberry (FRAVIRG) and what she at first thought was a Pink Honeysuckle, but which later turned out to be Tartarian Honeysuckle, an alien. (LONTATA). She also found a plant with deeply lobed, basal leaves. It resembled lion's Foot. Possibly it was a species of *Prenanthes*.

Along the river she spotted a Spotted Sandpiper (but whether the Spotted Sandpiper spotted her is anyone's guess). Then, higher up the bluffs, she found some Seneca Snakeroot, a new species. It was time then for Pat to return to the trailer to catch 40 winks, while Nic and I went up to the Hogsback to collect a few specimens of a small mystery plant that might just be a member of the Orchid family. Along the way, we cleared as much Garlic Mustard as we could. But already, we could see that the flowering season for GM was almost over. There

remains very little time to reduce the seed bank further.

We returned to the LM and passed along to the Fleming Creek bluffs and down the trail to the creek. Here, we measured the height of both banks above the water, as well as the distance across the creek. I have drawn below a schematic of the creek at the spot where we intend to place the bridge.

cross-section

pipes

New Species

Seneca Snakeroot

Polygala senega

RB PD My24/01