

Newport Forest

June 25 2001

2:40 pm - 9:45 pm

Weather: Sunny, 28C, breeze from SW

Purpose: to extend biosurvey opportunistically

Participants: Pat, Kee and Ann Cherry

Coming in through the Upper Meadow, we saw a Bobolink perched on the fence. We parked at the trailer and went down to the creek to check the bridge (still there), then walked to the end of the trail, as so far constructed. In the course of this stroll, we saw a Grackle and a Robin.

While Pat napped, Ann and I set to work on the steps at the far end of the bridge. We constructed the last piece of decking at the trailer (noticing a Summer Azure as we worked) . Back at the creek, we put in three temporary steps to the upper terrace. On the return, we spotted a Common Whitetail (*Plathemis lydia*) and several Ebony Jewelwings (*Calopteryx maculata*).

I took Ann on the Hogsback circuit, starting at the river and ending in Blind Creek Forest. I showed her some Black-footed Polypores on a log and she took note of many plants and trees that were new for her. When Pat awakened from her nap, we all went down to the river landing to prepare a cookout. Ann was intrigued by the many Cedar Waxwings and Tree Swallows catching their dinners over the river. We started a hibachi, then got in the canoe for a trip to Clam Island. The short trip upriver was magical. We saw Rose-breasted Grosbeaks and a Yellow Warbler in overhanging trees that glided by our canoe. We were delighted to discover that Clam Island was fully exposed with a whole new crop of clams that we collected in plastic bags. Among the first of these to be identified was the Ridged Wedge-mussel (*Alasmodonta marginata*). This and other new species will appear in the next Animal Report, coming soon.

We drifted back down to Newport Forest, beached the canoe, and had a supper of hotdogs, and pop. We watched the birds for a while, checked out a new plant growing along the river (Wild Parsnip), then carried all out picnic gear and the canoe back to the trailer. As the sun set over the LM, with the BCF as backdrop, fireflies (not as numerous as we hoped) began their displays, some staying on for up to five seconds, others flickering in short bursts.