

Newport Forest

August 9 2001

1:30 - 4:30 pm

Weather: precip 29 mm; temp 40C LM 30C FCF; winds light SW; cloudy

Purpose: maintenance - trails

Participants: Kee and Nic

In the staggering heat of the LM, we filled four bags with chips, gathered our tools, and headed down the Fleming Creek Trail. We began extending the trail from the bridgehead toward Eva's lot line. We cleared about ten metres and, as an experiment, sprayed Roundup on the half-stripped vegetation to see whether it might have potential as a trail-making partner. We also sprayed Roundup on one side of the main trail between the 100 and 200 metre stakes in order to compare the sprayed side with the unsprayed side in a few days time.

We then moved on to the head of the trail on Harvey's lot. We extended the trail only about 20 metres, but well into Harvey's magnificent beech forest. We worked slowly, owing to the excessive heat. On two occasions as we walked the trail in this connection, we spotted a smallish game-bird take flight as we passed. On one occasion two took off, on the other just one. The birds were no larger than a Bobwhite but all had a bright patch of white showing on their rumps. The only bird this size that might be found in that particular habitat and having a white rump is the Ruff or Reeve, but that's a long shot for such a vagrant, rarely seen species. The only other possibility I can think of is a young Ruffed Grouse, assuming that it has some white on its rump or back.

Just before 4 pm, the sky darkened and we heard thunder. It then began to rain lightly, so we came out early in order to finish up. By the time we got to the trailer, the rain had ended, with less than a millimetre having fallen. We tested the toilet flush in the trailer, finding it worked perfectly. (On the next maintenance visit we can dig a latrine pit and install the sewage pipe.) We then cleaned up in the general vicinity. The deer head is not yet being "stripped" by the ants in quite the manner I was hoping.

We left early in order to pay Eva a visit.