

Newport Forest

June 1 2002

2:10 - 6:30 pm

Weather: precip. 8 mm; sunny/hazy, calm, LM 36 (30), FCF 29 C

Purpose: maintenance and tree survey

Participants: Kee, Nic

Once again we stopped at the tree station, this time to install the screen we constructed several weeks ago on the roof of the tree station. This gives the young trees a modicum of protection from what will undoubtedly be an increasingly fiercer sun in the summer months. I expect we will put up two more screens before long.

We proceeded to the trailer, took up our brush-hooks and headed for the worst GM infestation of all, the numerous islands of the Fleming Creek (New) forest. I have observed on many occasions how the Gm tends to grow in islands or patches in which one clearly sees the alternating generations of GM. Some islands are large areas covered by the first year rosettes and others are thick with second-year plants, some of them a metre high. We cut one entire "island," about 100 square metres.

I checked the newly planted trees in the LM, finding several that I thought were dead slowly leafing out, despite the heavy frost burns. This was encouraging, although they are slowly developing some drying stress. It will take more than 8 mm of rain to supply the needed water, so a thorough watering session is almost overdue.

We went into the RSF and by the time we got to Plot # 8, I realized I had forgotten to bring the measuring tape, which scotched that bit of work. At Nic's suggestion, we went up to the HB for some tree ID work (training). Using the if-you-can't-id-it-you-can't-go-on-to-the-next-tree technique, I found myself puzzling over what I had told Nic was a White Oak, only to discover that it was actually a Bur Oak. Also, there are a lot more Sugar Maples on the HB than I thought. They may even dominate the Black Maples there. While Nic was examining the bark of a tree, a Giant Swallowtail flew right past his head, seemingly headed for the patch of Prickly Ash nearby!

Butterflies: Giant Swallowtail (HB); Black Swallowtail (HB)

Birds: no report