

Newport Forest

June 9 2002

2:15 - 6:15 pm

Weather: precip. 0*; sunny; NE lt/var; LM 37 (29); FCF 27 C

Purpose: to monitor regeneration, start Beeches, continue Plot #8

Participants: Kee. Nic

The first sunscreen, installed a few weeks ago, may be one of the factors responsible for the survival of most of the saplings in the tree station. In fact, they are doing surprisingly well, despite soil conditions.

On the way to Harvey's Woods, Nic spotted some scarlet cup fungi on the main trail (S) and, as we walked over the bridge, a Great Blue Heron took off from a tree right overhead and flew off downstream, always an inspiring sight. We dropped a minnow trap into Fleming Creek and continued on to Harvey's Woods where we cut and tagged 16 Beech saplings and one Basswood. The Beeches were all on runners, so we cut the runners in the hope that the saplings would develop their own root systems prior to transplanting next fall or spring.

The trees in the regen zones are all doing well except for 2 TT, 2 BE, 1 WA, 3 FD, with two Bitternuts very slow to leaf out. Root problems?

During a brief break, I made a stake compass for the RSF plots. This is just a square of wood that nails into the top of the stake, with the zero-line oriented along the transect. We walked to the RSF via the River Bluffs trail. Nic spotted a turtle basking on one of the gravel bars, but by the time he got down to take a close look, it had buried itself in the mud of a lagoon. It was at least a foot in diameter and may have been a Spiny. In the RSF, Nic found a polypore (S) on a log. It resembled a Black-foot.

At Plot #8 we finished up to the 180-degree mark, then continued on the the HB. The mother racoon seems to have taken her kits elsewhere. We could hear toads trilling down in the ephemeral ponds at the W end of the RSF. In the BCF, we spotted a Giant Swallowtail near a stand of Wild Phlox.

Caution: Poison Ivy now growing right across some of the trails, in places.

* gauge leaks, must be replaced.

Birds:

Belted Kingfisher (RL); Blue Jay (TR); Red-bellied Woodpecker (RSF);
Mallards-2 (RL)

New species:

Stalked Scarlet Cup	<i>Sarcoscypha occidentalis</i>	FCF/bluffs
Black-footed Polypore	<i>Polyporus varius</i>	RSF

(We have probably already logged this species.)