

Newport Forest

June 15 2002

2:00 - 7:10 pm

**Weather:** overcast; precip. n/r; LM 22 (17); FCF 16 C; NE med./var.; lt. rn.

**Purpose:** to level water tank, remove down willow, and build sun screen

Participants: Kee, Nic and Edgar

We stopped by the tree station to level the water tank, with Edgar's assistance. He brought his large auto jack down by truck and we inserted a 4x4 under the W end. On the tank, Nic used a spirit level to confirm alignment.

Edgar then went back to his garage to get the tractor, chain saw and axe. We met along ET. Edgar cut through the supporting stub and the willow did not come crashing down as we had feared. So a simple cut on a small obstructing overhead branch was all that was needed to clear a passage for Edgar's tractor. Since he already had the mower attached, he continued down to the RL. We ended with a freshly mown trail ("road" is more like it) from the gate to the river.

After Edgar left, Nic and I went to the pipe bridge to inspect the minnow trap. It proved to contain a small member of the bass family and three crayfish. The crayfish had eaten the fishes tail, but it was still identifiable as a Centrarchid. As far as I could tell, it was either a young sunfish (Pumpkinseed?) or possibly a very young Rock Bass.

During our break, Nic spotted a wood tick on his wrist. (S) Following the break, we went to the UM, where we constructed a second sunscreen for the tree station. We will be able to install it within a week.

**Birds:** (10)

American robin (BCF); Baltimore Oriole (LM); Gray Catbird (FCF); Eastern Kingbird (LM); Eastern Meadowlark (UM); Eastern Towhee (LM); Common Grackle (UM/ER); Red-bellied Woodpecker (RL); Red-tailed Hawk (HB); Song Sparrow (LM)

**New species:**

Eastern Wood Tick

*Dermacentor* sp.

ET/BCF