

Newport Forest

August 18 2002

1:00 - 7:30 pm

Weather: sunny/clear; S < 5 kmh; LM 29 C; FCF 23 ZC

Purpose: trail-grooming Bee

Participants: Kee and Nic plus Don Aisles; Stan Caveney; Edgar and Nina Hurdle; Benny, Dan and Imke Jorgensen; Randy Scott

Having spent so much time watering trees and grooming the trails, there has been precious little time for survey work, so I decided last week to have a trail-grooming bee. Only about half of the people I invited showed up, but that was enough to form four teams of two people each, as well as two chippers. Only 500 metres of trail remain ungroomed and Nic and I can easily handle that (in addition to watering and survey work) by the time that the Federation of Ontario Botanists comes for their tour in early September.

Stan Caveney took some time off to examine the Prickly Ash bushes on the Hogsback for larvae of the Giant Swallowtail and was greatly rewarded to find several. They all resemble bird poop, amazingly so. This seems to protect the larvae which move very little on the leaves during the day (as bird poop is wont to do) while at night they forage freely. Stan took several pictures and agreed to share some of the slides with us for our collection.

Shortly after six, Nina brought down some beef cold cuts and potato salad which everyone seemed to enjoy. I had intended to water the trees after supper but by the time everyone had said their good-byes, it was too late.

We did not bring Junior this time, as it would have been too complicated.