

**Newport Forest**

September 8 2002

2:00 - 7:05 pm

**Weather:** sunny/clear; calm; LM 38 C; FCF 32 C

**Purpose:** to introduce Mathis Natvik to property and water, water, water

**Participants:** Kee, Nic, Mathis Natvik

It was refreshing to see our forests and fields through new eyes, namely those of Mathis Natvik, a most active and knowledgeable young tree-grower and practical ecologist. Today Nic and I took him along both trails, walking a total of 3 km. Among Mathis' more interesting suggestions, entered here into the record, are

1. Garlic Mustard strategy: wherever GM has accumulated in the woods, pile dead branches over the patch and allow leaves to accumulate under the branches. The leaves accumulate beneath the branches, eventually choke out the GM and encourage older plants to emerge from the seed bank, plants that have no trouble penetrating the leaf litter. Hmmm. Well, we may as well set up some experimental brush piles at selected spots to see what happens.
2. If we can get Hydro One to cut the right-of-way in November, it would minimize damage to all herbaceous plants.
3. There's no limit to the amount of sand you can add to the beds in the tree station. The more you add, the better the young trees will do!
4. Move any young Blue Ash saplings in a forested setting out into the open. They will flourish out there, whereas they will ultimately die in the woods. (I doubt that ALL Blue Ash saplings will die under cover, as surely one or two will ultimately reach the canopy. The interesting thing about this suggestion was Mathis' conviction that BA will do well in the open!)
5. Bur Oak will make a very good tree to plant out in the LM.
6. The bush at the River Landing that I've had so much trouble identifying, according to Mathis, is actually Autumn Olive, an invasive alien. (We'll ask Jane Bowles to confirm this.)
7. Mathis gave us two Red Mulberry saplings in pots today. He has advised us to plant them in the RSF on the NW side of a canopy gap, where they will catch the morning sun.

While walking the trails with us, Nic spotted a few fungi, some dried, some old, some fresh. He took them home with him to ID. Recently I gave Nic all my better fungi books, suggesting that he might get good at it, with practice. In Harvey's Woods, we spotted a strange moth with very attractive colours alight on the bark of a large tree. (P)

We drove to the Upper Meadow, where Nic began to fill the watering jugs and tanks, while I took Mathis up to see Nina about getting Butternut seeds from her. Sadly, she pointed to the Butternut tree in her front yard, the leaves had all fallen off, the tree had turned black, and it was now deader than the proverbial doornail.

After Mathis left, Nic and I had time only for watering. We are now switching from 3 litres of water to 6 litres for the duration of the drought. My guess is that the water table below the meadow is slowly sinking downward and that it now takes 6 litres to do what 3 litres once did.

We therefore double-watered EVERYTHING. The 40 trees in the station, the 15 trees in the island and the 35 trees in the triangle. I'm glad we didn't plant more!

Nic spotted a brown Praying Mantis on the water tank. (P) It was catching Yellowjackets that came to the tap to drink. This is good: one alien species eating another! I also photographed the sere browning of the Upper Meadow, while Nic watered in the tree station. (P)