

Newport Forest

August 30 2004

2:00 - 5:30 pm

Weather: prec. 21 mm; ovcst/sun; calm; LM 23 C; FCF 21 C

Purpose: collecting/observing new species

Participants: Pat & Kee

At the tree station I planted the baby Sweetgum given to us by Bill Priecksaitis last week, while Pat searched for new plants and noted an American Goldfinch among the many thistles now flowering. She also saw a Red-spotted Purple butterfly. I spent about 20 min. weeding with shovel & trowel.

At the trailer, Pat set up while I inspected the trees in the SC. A Tulip Tree had a fungus on its leaves, making a dull brown spot or patch above and a dusting of orange apothecia beneath. (I could not identify this disease in Westcott.) The trees continue to look somewhat stressed, although this condition may improve, thanks to the recent rain. I moved the tray feeder from the distant walnut back to the trailer, mounting it on the old Black Maple in a way that would be visible from the nook.

I spent two hours collecting insects in the LM: A large flower fly, a small greenbottle, a small brown day-flying moth, two small hover flies (Syrphids), a Black-horned Tree Cricket, a flesh fly, a small black bee, and (with Pat's help) a medium-sized black beetle. I found a young caterpillar of the White-marked Tussock Moth crawling over the pages of my field notebook. Clearly, it wanted to be recorded.

We went to the river, where Pat collected several plants, some of which may be new. I found a set of cat tracks about 2 1/4 inches wide going from the landing and running parallel to the shore, converging with it at the lower rapids, where (apparently) it crossed the river. The only local possibilities for the author of these signs is the Bobcat or a young cougar.

The three cedars that volunteered for duty last spring are doing very well indeed, showing lots of new growth. The general area where they have established themselves is roughly triangular in shape and about 5 m on a side - mysteriously free of the tall "river daisies" that form a thick stand enclosing the area.

I came back from the river early and went down to FC to bring up the canoe.

Birds: (12)

American Crow (FCF); American Goldfinch (UM); American Robin (ET); Black-capped Chickadee (Tr); Blue Jay (Tr); Cedar Waxwing (TR); Eastern Wood Peewee (BCF); Great Crested Flycatcher (BCF); Northern Cardinal (Tr); Red-bellied Woodpecker (BCF); Turkey Vulture (HB); White-breasted Nuthatch (Tr)

Butterflies:

Cabbage White (LM); Giant Swallowtail (LM); Great Spangled Fritillary (LM); Monarch (LM); Red-spotted Purple (UM); Summer Azure LM/HBF

New species:

Red-banded Leafhopper	<i>Graphocephala coccinea</i>	PD Tr
Wht-marked Tussock Moth	<i>Orgyia leucostigma</i>	KD Tr
American Hover Fly	<i>Metasyrphus americana</i>	KD LM
Red-tailed Flesh Fly	<i>Sarcophaga haemorrhoidalis</i>	KD LM
Greenbottle Fly	<i>Phaenicia</i> sp.	KD LM
Bull Thistle	<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	PD LM
Pigweed	<i>Chenopodium album</i>	PD LM

Phenology: Turtlehead coming into bloom