

Newport Forest

September 21 2004

1:50 - 7:15 pm

**Weather:** prec. 0 mm; sun/cld; calm; LM 30 C; FCF 26 C

**Purpose:** watering trees

**Participants:** Pat, Kee

We watered the gate trees, TS trees and while filling one of the cooler tanks, noticed that the Leopard Frog was back again, having turned green in the meantime. (Although I realize I could be seeing two different individuals, I suspect that the immediate vicinity would support just one Leopard Frog of that size.) I also checked the tree with the orange fruit closely enough to realize that it was simply a dead thorn tree in which every limb had a branch of the bittersweet vine growing along it. We took on a full load of water (84 litres) and proceeded down to the trailer.

When I had almost finished watering the SC, Steve & Karen showed up. Steve spent the next two hours bringing river drift back to the meadow to mulch trees. I went back for another load of watering and by 4:30, we were done. Everyone went down to the river, Steve, Karen & I continuing on to the rsf, where I showed Steve the scratch marks. Here are the measurements of the claw marks near the beginning of the front set of scratches: (like a cross-section)

0 mm; 23 mm; 43 mm; 55 mm; 78 mm; 88 mm; 105 mm; 115 mm

These scratches represent a repeated motion (such as I have often seen various carnivores (but particularly cats) perform. In this case, it may have been to stir the soil of the path to get a better sniff at a faint scent.

The width of the outstretched paw (claw to claw) is 105 mm (4 1/8")

There was no time to work on the trail after Steve & Karen left. We had supper in the trailer and discussed the fate of the black cat which has been hanging around the camp. It's a black male, now in better health than ever.

**Birds:** (13 - very casual)

American Crow (FCF); Black-capped Chickadee (Tr); Blue Jay (Tr); Catbird (RB); Cedar Waxwing (TR); Common Grackle (LM); Killdeer (TR); Mourning Dove (UM); Northern Cardinal (Tr); Red-bellied Woodpecker (Tr); Turkey Vulture (WM); White-breasted Nuthatch (Tr); Yellow Warbler (ET)