

Newport Forest

September 26 2004

1:50 - 6:30 pm

Weather: prec. 0 mm; clear; calm; LM 28 C; FCF 22 C

Purpose: watering trees and trail-making.

Participants: Kee, Erin Carroll

Erin Carroll is a biology graduate who is working for a government farm monitoring program while she decides where to do graduate work. We loaded up with 85 litres and took a few minutes to broadcast about 30 Hackberry seeds and 50 Shagbark Hickory nuts down onto the bare parts of the Fleming Creek bluffs.

We went to the RL, where I showed Erin the drift piles. I also instructed her to water the three cedars that have taken root beside the RL. While she filled the wheelbarrow with drift, I watered the trees in the North Core. We mulched the few remaining trees there that required it, then used the rest of the material to mulch about ten trees in the South Core.

During our break, we heard a buzzing noise coming from some boards I had cut up for the bridgelet. These boards had been rescued from a hundred-year old shed that our neighbour, Dorothy Cable, recently had demolished. Out from the boards flew one, two, then three Carpenter Bees. Erin, who has made a practice of collecting insects over the years, identified them as Carpenter Bees. I thought they were Bumble Bees. One was torpid and barely crawled. The other two were more robust and flew off, circling about in a purposeful manner, as if getting a navigational fix, then zooming off for parts unknown. If we didn't have this species before, we have it now. (Rules are rules.)

Erin scraped the first 30 m or so of trail clean, while I carved a few of the most uneven parts with a shovel. We then went and put in the bridgelet - two 7-foot 2x4s and about 9 decking boards.

New species:

Large Carpenter Bee
Meadow Grasshopper

Xylocopa sp. (Apidae)
sFam. Conocephalinae

Tr EC
LM KD

The latter species was about 1.5 cm in length, brown pronotum, orange eyes, yellow-brown legs, wings short of abd., ovipositor of medium length.