

Newport Forest

Saturday September 24 2005

1:50 - 7:35 pm

**weather:** prec. 32 mm; RH 60%; ovcast; calm; LM 22 C; FCF 19 C

**purpose:** maintenance

**participants:** Kee, William Cable

At the TS we finished moving the smaller trees (6 HB; 2RM and another 2 OBs) to Bed Two, then began to dig Bed One. As this was going on, Nina Zitani & family arrived to exchange bottles on the RL malaise trap. Nina told me that the first bottle from the RL trap contained some pleasant surprises such as two Mecopteran (different families, including a possible *Bittacus* sp.). As well, she found a giant ichneumonid with a 12 cm ovipositor! The body of the insect was about 4 cm in length. Nina knew of one such species that lays its eggs on the larvae of the Pigeon Horntail - which we have.

William and I added about 130' of liner logs to the two-bridge trail. Just below the gallery forest along the N side of FC, I found what I thought at first was a Pokeberry Bush. Whatever it was, the cluster of dark purple berries reminded me strongly of plentiful raccoon scat consisting of dark purple berries that were barely digested. William found another Hickory Tussock Moth caterpillar while we worked in the FCF.

During our extended break from trail-lining, William collected seeds of red and white Oak, as well as American Basswood, while I examined a new caterpillar which, thanks to Ian Carmichael's caterpillar manual, belonged to an Asteroid Moth.

On the TRT, William & I added another 200' of liner logs to the trail. We also sawed through three logs that had been blocking the trail. During the sojourn in the woods, we spotted two more Hickory Tussock Moth caterpillars, not to mention a couple of Woolly Bears near the trailer, later. William spotted an American Toad in the RSF.

**New species:**

Asteroid Moth

*Cucullia asteroides*

NK KD Sp24/05

**Phenology:** caterpillars of many species now common