

Newport Forest

Saturday October 15 2005

2:45 - 6:45 pm

Weather: prec. 0 mm; RH 51%; cld/sun; NW \leq 25 kmh; LM 17 C; FCF 16 C

Purpose: trail-making

Participants: Kee, Will Cable

We picked up 6 small cedars at Rae Axford's place south of the 401 and dropped them at the TS. At the trailer we put out birdseed and headed into the RSF carrying a hoe, brush-hook, bow saw and work gloves. As soon as was feasible, I "bent" the old trail straight into the wonderful wooded plateau near the river that I had been enjoying increasingly of late. First we "tagged out" a trail through the area with orange tape, rejoining the old trail some 96 metres along its length (96 metres therefore being abandoned to regrowth) then began scraping. The soil in that wood is quite soft and manageable, scraping readily and making it possible for us to complete 120 metres of the 170 metres tagged out. Obviously the new TRT will be some $170 - 96 = 74$ metres longer than the old TRT.

Some of the features of the new area are: a very large hole or pit in the forest floor (no mound anywhere), a large burrow not far from the pit (presumably abandoned), a closed canopy (which gives the area an open forest look - little or no shrub layer), large Sycamores, Hackberrys and Slippery Elms. The mystery tree I had planted there a year or two ago turned out to be a Spicebush after all.