

Newport Forest

Saturday June 3 2006

3:20 - 6:00 pm

Weather: prec. 14mm; RH 70%; cld/sn; N 5-15kmh; LM 23C; FCF 20C

Purpose: trail maintenance

Participants: Kee and Abid

We filled both tray feeders and unloaded a second full propane bottle, hooking it up to the trailer system. I also brought in a new windspeed indicator for the "weather station." We set to work on the two-bridge circuit, scraping and cutting.

In the midst of this, we were interrupted by the arrival of the Rob Newport clan, with Jordan and Karrissa in the lead, carrying a large white pail. Rob and Charlene came down to watch the release into the creek. I tipped the pail and a medium-sized snapping turtle went straight for the water, wasting no time disappearing into the depths of Fleming Creek. Snapping Turtles prefer quiet waters, even sloughs behind barns, where Jordan (?) found this one. Question (occurring to me only later): What would happen in the frog breeding season if a snapping turtle took up residence in the vernal ponds?

Once Rob & family had gone, there was time only for a half-hour stint at the TS, clipping the grass and weeding the two beds.

Birds: Blue Jay (Tr); American Robin (UM); Eastern Towhee (FCF); Field Sparrow (UM); Mourning Dove (Tr); Northern Oriole (GF); Red-bellied Woodpecker (Tr); Rose-breasted Grosbeak (BCF); Song Sparrow (LM); Tree Swallow (UM/Rd); Wood Thrush (FCF)