

Newport Forest

wednesday August 22

3:00 - 7:10 pm

**weather:**

prec. 32mm; RH 77%; BP 29.45" (or 99.45 kPa); sn/hz; calm; LM 30C

**purpose:** maintenance

**participants:** Kee

The meadow and woods looked lush and healthy after the recent rains. I filled the tray feeders and the one in the meadow, took the weather, then relaxed in the Nook to plan my "day." I was mildly entertained by two Northern Crescent butterflies that preferred my to light on my clothing, rather than than some (deliberately) spilled apple juice. I then returned my recent water/rock sample to Fleming Creek and walked the two-bridge trail, grooming lightly with the brush-hook as I went. I ran into (in one case literally) rather a lot of *Micrathena* spiders along the way. Does this habitat somehow favour them or is it just a "random" surge in the population?

I dug two soak-holes under the old Shagbark Hickory tree that we treated last year with three soak-holes. The treatment was quite successful (unless the tree recovered naturally) and we thought to reinforce the cure a bit.

I walked to the river, changing the film (and batteries) on both cameras, discovering that cam #2 was not broken, after all. It's batteries ran out sooner because it took more pictures than cam #1. (These pictures, by the way, were all triggered by an animal that walked right through the scene before the flash went off.)

I went out on the beach, watching a Spiny Softshell dive into the water and noting new tracks in the rain-softened clay. Beside the usual tracks, there was one set made by a large canid. The fore paw was 9 cm across. (3.5"+)

This much too large for a coyote and larger than the tracks made by most domestic dogs, including the Labrador and German Shepherd. Could be what Darren calls "a lone wolf."

**birds:** (10 -- few about) American Crow (FCF); American Robin (GF); Blue Jay (GF); Canada Goose (TR); Common Grackle (GF); Great Crested Flycatcher (EW); Mourning Dove (Tr); Northern Cardinal (LM); Spotted Sandpiper (TR); White-breasted Nuthatch (Tr)