

**Newport Forest**

Tuesday April 15 2008 2:00 - 6:45 pm

**weather:** prec. 18 mm; RH 57%; BP 99.9 kPa; clr; SSW 10-20 kmh; LM 16C

**purpose:** maintenance

**participants:** Kee & Steve

I put out birdseed, then took the weather as Steve rolled in. After a sit-down in the Nook, Steve and I set out for the river with his chain saw, gas can and a small hand-saw. The river is still over the beach and running muddy. (Steve says the Pickerel run at Moraviantown has been good this year.) On our way along the bluff trail, Steve pointed out a large fir tree that I had never noticed before. It's high up on the east end of the HB and looks like a pine.

We cut several overhanging trees and (dead) vines just inside the RSF, then proceeded to the bluebell patch, where the VB leaves were already 2" high. We stopped to eat some leaves of Wild Leek, then decided to work the whole trail, cutting several trees and branches where the big BH log is, then on up to the HB, where we both noticed a very large tree was down. Then back down into the BCF. Thanks to the recent rains, the ponds are still well-filled and the chorus frogs continue their singing. We cut several new deadfalls by the (now uprooted) rest bench. Further on, Steve spotted the first garter snake of the year, hunting frogs by the vernal ponds. Then on out, cutting the odd deadfall on the way. We frequently did extra cuts to make new liner logs available.

Later, Steve cut the big BH trunk that fell over the trail to the creek, as well as several smaller deadfalls closer to the bridge site.

**birds:** (13)

American Crow (EW); American Robin (UM/Rd); Black-capped Chickadee (Tr); Brown-headed Cowbird (Tr); Downy Woodpecker (GF); Great Blue Heron (FC/EW); Mourning Dove (Tr); Northern Cardinal (BCF); Red-bellied Woodpecker (GF); Red-winged Blackbird (EW); Song Sparrow (LM); Turkey Vulture (FCF); White-breasted Nuthatch (Tr)

**phenology:** first Brown-headed Cowbird, first Eastern Garter