

Newport Forest

Sunday July 20 2008

2:15 - 5:40 pm

**Weather:** prc. 8mm; RH 78%; BP 98.94kPa; sn/cld; NE 0-15kmh; LM 26°C

**Purpose:** trail and RZ maintenance

**Participants:** Kee and Will Cable

We arrived to discover that some thoughtful squirrel or chipmunk had deposited a lone Bitternut Hickory nut on the trailer deck, as if to let us know that some Bitternuts were still alive and producing fruit. There seemed to be more than one Tiger Swallowtail around -- feeding principally on Monarda. A few Monarchs were also about.

We went into the BCF to clean trail only to discover a humid environment clogged with mosquitoes and a riot of vegetation. After about ten minutes of hard work, we forgot to worry about mosquitoes, our copious sweat perhaps deterring them. We cleaned about 200 more m of trail, now taking us to the lower slope of the HB. We also brought in the third (and final) "newt hotel," (cover boards) installing it near the old Black Willow (still standing) about 10 m from the trail. We can start routine checking of the cover boards next week in order to assess the salamandrid populations.

Glad to be out of the Amazon, we took a break in the Nook, then cut approximately 400 thorn trees in the RZ. Will accidentally disturbed the same WT hen that I flushed from her nest last week. He was probably more startled than the bird. I also cut out three large Multiflora Rose bushes and two Russian Olive trees, as well as about 5 Black Walnuts, as these tend to be a weedy species in early succession in our area.

In the remaining time, I surveyed the next strip of the RZ, a strip about 80 m long and 10 m wide immediately adjacent to the track and on the north side. Unfortunately I forgot to record new growth, so I will have to do this over again. During this survey I ran into several RB grape vines infested with the nipple galls typical of Grape Phylloxera (now reclassified by some Homopteran experts with the Adelgids).

**Birds:** 14 spp observed; nothing remarkable

**New species:**

Grape Phylloxera *Daktulosphaira vitifoliae*

LM KD J120/08