

Newport Forest Sunday September 14 2008

2:10 - 8:30 pm

Weather: prec. 62 mm! ; RH 85%; BP n/a; sn/cld; SW 2-20 kh; T 32° C

Purpose: to collect new plants

Participants: Kee, Glen, Darren

Darren arrived first and when we got tired of waiting for Glen, we headed for the river. However, Darren got a text message from Glen that he had arrived on site, so we waited at the RL. We had a great walk, discussing trees, with Glen telling us the Delaware names for some of them. (no notes, unfortunately). Glen said the trees in the Bluebell forest were larger than anything on the rez. I retorted that they should quit cutting them all the time. That way, they'd have a chance to grow larger. (But the remark was gratuitous, since it ignored human ecology: the Indians need the money.)

I collected a number of flowering plants from the deep forest, an aster or two and some goldenrods for Pat to examine. On the other side of the HB, about half way down to the floor of the BCF, I spotted a nearly mature beech that I had NEVER noticed before! I had always assumed that the beeches all grew on the N side of the HB.

When we got back to the trailer, we sat in the Nook to rest. I noticed a Brown Snake crawling through the grass beside the Nook. The final remnant of Hurricane Ike made its presence known with a darkening sky, a drop in temperature, and a light but steady rain. I figured it was time for us to leave. That was when Glen discovered that he had locked his keys in his car during a senior moment on arriving. Darren left and I called a CAA tow truck while Glen & I waited in Hurdles' drive. We should have driven the tow operator down to Glen's car, since all we needed were his prys and hook-rod. Once he had freed Glen's keys, the tow operator tried to leave the property, but couldn't get up the big hill out of the LM. I had to wait with him there while a second tow truck came to rescue him. I left before the second truck arrived.

Later it turned out that the second truck could do nothing, so it drove both operators home that night. They retrieved the first truck in the daylight of the following morning. In the confusion I left the plant specimens in the trailer. The only plus of the day was the rainfall -- a record!