

**Newport Forest**

May 5 2002

1:45 - 8:15 pm

**Weather:** precip. 0 mm; sunny; winds SW/lt; LM 25 C\*; FCF 24 C

**Purpose:** to conduct a tour for the Thames-Talbot Land Trust

**Participants:** Pat and Kee plus TTLT board: Bill DeYoung; Christine Elliott; Terry Graley; Mary Kerr; Dave Morris; John Nicholson; Bernie VanDenBelt

I took the board members around the HB trail from the RL, over the HB and out through the BCF. Mary Kerr, who has been in constant pain with a hip problem for two years, experienced a sudden relief from her affliction while crossing the river bluffs and, far from being unable to finish the walk as she had feared, found it easy going. This put her in an exceptionally good mood for the rest of the afternoon.

A highlight of the tour was the extensive patch of Virginia Bluebells (aka Virginia Cowslip) in the RSF. There was much ooh-ing and aw-ing as well as several photographs taken.

The purpose of the tour was to acquaint the board with the property in case they became the ultimate recipients of title. During a small lunch break after the tour, we spelled out some of the maintenance needs of the property, operating costs, etc.

After the board had left, Pat and I took the same trail. Pat spotted a raccoon in a tree in the RSF, then later, another in the White Oak on the HB. I checked the Black Maple and found Lotor there with his room-mate, a total of four raccoons in one day -- a record!

**Birds:** (19 spp -- no counts)

American Robin (RSF); Baltimore Oriole (TR); Black-capped Chickadee (TR); Blue Jay (TR); Brown-headed Cowbird (TR); Brown Thrasher (ET); Catbird (BCF/E); Downy Woodpecker (TR); Eastern Towhee (BCF); House Wren (HBF/TR); Mourning Dove (BCF); Northern Cardinal (RL); Red-bellied Woodpecker (FCF); Rose-breasted Grosbeak (TR); Tree Swallow (UM/RD); Turkey Vulture (HB); White-breasted Nuthatch (TR); Wild Turkey (HB/W); Yellow Warbler (BCF)

\*LM temperatures with one reading are from new thermometer