

Hogweed on the Trail ...

Newport Forest Sunday July 11 2010 2:25 - 6:35 pm

weather: prec. 12 mm; RH 83%; BP 101.0 kPa; SW 5-10 kmh; sn/cld; T 34° C

purpose: to install trail markers

participants: Kee, Big Will, Little Will

It was encouraging to find another 12 mm in the rain gauge when we arrived. Once again we will be permitted to suspend the watering program for a week or so. Will brought along his son, William, who has long expressed an interest in coming with his dad to the "woods" one day.

We brought a supply of stakes, mallet, marker, and measuring tape with us to the Hole, where we placed "ooo." The next stake was labeled "100" and driven 100 m from the first, along Edgar's Trail. The stakes were thus planted every 100 m down to the River Landing, then up over the bluffs, through the Riverside Forest, over the Hogsback and down into the Blind Creek Forest, where we ran out at stake "1500." (I was sure the trail was not more than 1.5 km long!) Two more stakes, at most, will bring us out to Edgar's trail again. The total length of trail (shaped like a P) will therefore be about 1.7 km. The stakes permit us to identify locales and finds in relation to the trail.

Along the way, Will found a small, distinctive-looking caterpillar and I checked out a plant resembling the Giant Hogweed -- which everyone is on the lookout for these days.

Even though it involved no great exertion, the work produced copious sweat. It sounds paradoxical, but you can lose more water working in a very humid environment than a dry one, where perspiration produces an immediate cooling effect, reducing the perspiration rate.

Birds: most lying low due to heat & humidity

New species:

Diana's Choreutis Moth *Choreutis diana* RSF wc/KD J11/10

Note: This is a micro-moth, identified from the larva which I found on the web (worldwide, that is). Only a small percentage of moths in various ID-galleries are accompanied by images of their larvae!

Drought watch: precipitation shortfall 36%, down slightly [baseline 900 mm]

IMAGES:

(click on image to enlarge)



Big Will stands beside a Cow Parsnip, North America's only native Hogweed (*Heracleum maximum*), not to be confused with Giant Hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*) Will would have done well not to grasp the stem of this plant because even the Cow Parsnip can produce rashes and boils on the skin when touched. This particular plant is past its

(click on image to enlarge)



Little Will displays inexhaustible curiosity about nature, often stopping in the middle of his duties to bring me something new: "What's this?"

(click on image to enlarge)



Queen Anne's Lace flower head forms a mandala suitable for contemplation My best nature photos are almost all completely accidental!

*prime, however, and is likely not
producing sap. For a description of
Giant Hogweed, readers may consult:
[http://en.wikipedia.org/
wiki/Giant_Hogweed](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Giant_Hogweed)*