

**Newport Forest**

October 13 2001

3:00 - 5:30 pm

**Weather:** prec. 36mm, LM 26C, FCF 18C, cloudy w. sunny breaks, Sw breeze.

**Purpose:** maintenance - trails; tree nursery

**Participants:** Kee, Nic

When we arrived on site, we discovered the trailer was covered with (literally) thousands of Lady-beetles. Not only did they coat the outer walls, but they were flying toward us from everywhere in the LM. Perhaps the bright red of the van attracted them. We decided not even to open the trailer door, for fear that they would all fly inside and leave us with an enormous cleaning job some day.

Fleming Creek was up about a foot from all the rain we had recently. As long as the rain continues, the creek will continue to rise and the bridge will get a real test. As it stands, it stands as when it was first installed.

I had to return "Ted the Milliped" (a specimen I had retained for observation over the last two weeks) back to his log as we walked the FCT clockwise up Tower Hill and down into Harvey's Woods. We added liners to the barest spots as we went. On our inspection tour, we spotted a large orb-weaver (P) and some peculiar orange slime (P) (ID to come later, if possible). We continued adding liners, enhancing many portions of the trail but completing none of them in this respect.

We also added more logs beside the portion of the trail through the thorn scrub in the NCF. Here we were amazed by a really extensive tract of Garlic Mustard (already earmarked for destruction at the hands of Caleb the Barbarian).

We went up to the tree nursery and, while Nick measured and drove two more marking posts, I went up to Edgar's to pick up some of the 4x4s he had offered me last week. Soon, Nic and Edgar and I were running a shuttle service, carrying all six 4x4s down to the nursery site. Edgar has taken an interest in this project. He brought his post-hole auger and advised us how to set the posts in Sac-crete. I turned about 5 sq. feet of soil just to see what it's like: heavy clay loam (not quite as thick or dense as A'Nowaghi).