

Defoliation at Fox Hollow

PM 6/20/05

Monday

Section of trail hiked: From <sup>new</sup> Fox Hollow Panther Mtn. trailhead to Fox Hollow Lean-to, about 0.4 mile each way.

Photos: Looking at from Lean-to across Fox Hollow to Gavfield Mtn. and Fox Hollow Pinnacle. These ridges should NOT be visible in late-June during normal full-leaf.

Only Forest Tent Caterpillars seen on: SUB, ASH, BB, BASS, OAK  
Beech & MO understory only little defoliated, maybe < 20%, many leaves with holes in them. Same for CARP  
NOT defoliated: RM, KEM, KB

No Gypsy Moth or E. Tents seen here.

Defoliation allows shade-intolerant European weeds to <sup>temporarily (?)</sup> invade. When defoliation ends & trees leaf-out fully, weeds should decline. The first segment of trail, the new segment, parallel Fox Hollow Road down to the old trail head; this segment is dominated by a nearly pure stand of Alliaria. Further up ~~the trail~~ several weeds are plentiful along the trail in the register booth area & around the lean-to: Dandelion, Curly Dock, Mullein, Garlic mustard (Alliaria), & Galeopsis.

Defoliation is concentrated on the middle slopes & lower ridges, seldom in the valleys. This may be because valley bottoms, like Fox Hollow, have forest gaps [lawns, houses, old fields, etc] which make it more difficult for the larvae to move.

Fox Hollow looks more like Fleischmanns with local defoliation, >80% in Overstory & <50% in Understory, not severe as around Phoenixia. Maybe this is because the caterpillars are moving west & haven't had enough time for a more thorough defoliation before pupation.

WEEDS