

Newport Forest

Nv01/01

2:00 - 5:30 pm

Weather: prec.. 4 mm; LM 20 C; FCF 18 C; overcast, windy (S)

Purpose: maintenance & construction

Participants: Kee, Nic

The posts for the nursery were all feeling very solid, so we proceeded with the next step - nailing 2x4s across the width of the nursery at a height of 8' on both sides of the middle set of posts and on the inner sides (only) of the two end sets. We then nailed a second set of 2x4s edge-on over the first set. These acted as stringers to stabilize the structure somewhat lengthwise, but also to carry the lathe-frames (shade elements to be installed next spring). thus we set up two central 2x4s (end to end), each flanked by a set of lateral 2x4s coinciding with the roof line. Not all the posts were accurately placed, unfortunately, but they were close enough that the side-nailed 2x4s could successfully catch all the stringers.

Edgar brought his chain-saw down and I climbed the ladder, carrying this monstrous engine in the running state. It was somewhat difficult to hoist the angry dynamo over my head to make a perfect horizontal cut to lop off the top of each post at the same height. (premeasured to level)

Before leaving the nursery for more routine chores, we dug another two strips of sod, trimming them and turning them.

We went down to the trailer, visited the creek to test a flow-meter idea, and then headed off down Edgar's Trail. We went out to the RL, startling a Mourning Dove from an overhead branch on the way. At the river, we could just see the wake created by a fully submerged Nina's Rock - one of our "gauges." We headed up the riverside Trail, Nic startling a Cottontail barely ten metres along. Just starting along the River Bluffs, Nic started up a Ruffed Grouse - to which we both said "Hello." We added a few logs to the RST in the RSF, then climbed the Hb to rest a bit on the bench. I spotted what looked like a Raccoon sunning itself in a big Bitternut just 30 m to the N of us. Nic put the glasses on it: "Yup. It's a Raccoon."

Coming back through the BCF, I noticed a very large gap in the canopy just west of the power lines - about 3-4 acres of it. We also spotted an old downed Black Willow with lots of branches sprouting upward. The guess would be it came down less than a year before we bought the farm.