

Newport Forest

June 3 2002

2:10 - 6:30 pm

Weather: precip. 1.5 mm; overcast; LM 13 (11.5); FCF 11 C, calm

Purpose: to install benches, move Beech trees

Participants: Kee, Nic

I had intended to work on Plot # 8, but the vegetation was so wet, we would end up soaked from the waist down, so we skipped that particular activity. An intermittent light rain began around 5 pm and that added the 1.5 mm of precipitation recorded above.

We went into Harvey's Woods, fully intending to dig up several beech trees, transporting them, with root balls, to the NCF regen area. - I was quite surprised to discover, when we started digging, however, that every single Beech sapling was sprouting from a runner or horizontal root that came from one of the neighboring beeches. -We will therefore have to go back, cut the runners on about 20 selected saplings, and give them until next spring to establish their own root systems. -We also did an area count in the Beech zone of the woods, discovering an average of 1.3 saplings per sq. metre.

To fill our remaining time with something useful, we put in two birdwatching benches for Pat, one by the Pipe Bridge, the other at the River Landing.

We also watered all the trees in the LM regen zone, giving each a generous amount. Thanks to the wet spring, growing trees is enjoyable again! So far, we have lost two Box Elders (surprise!), two Tulip Trees and (perhaps) two Flowering Dogwoods. The Bitternut Hickories are still budding, being very slow to leaf out. The White Ashes have largely recovered from that killer frost, however.

Birds: (7 -- not much time was devoted to this activity)

Blue Jay (TR); Bank Swallow (?) (RL); Downy Woodpecker (TR); Eastern Towhee (BCF); Red-bellied Woodpecker (TR); Rose-breasted Grosbeak (TR); White-breasted Nuthatch (TR)