

Newport Forest

September 5 2002

2:00 - 6:45 pm

Weather: prec. 0 mm; sunny/clear, NNE < 5 kmh; LM 30 C; FCF 25 C

Purpose: maintenance and monitoring

Participants: Kee, Nic

We drove straight to the trailer because we had Junior with us. After releasing him, we drove up to the tree station where Nic watered the young trees while I spread three bags of sand and two bags of topsoil over the large, hard clods that I had been turning up over the last few months (a few at a time). Sand and topsoil infiltrated into the large gaps between the clods. I then proceeded to break up the clods with a shovel. They are as hard as bricks. No wonder people never grew many crops on this land!

Before I had fairly started on the soil treatment, however, Nic wondered what the big splash of white on the soil was. "Hawk or Owl," I said. Then he found a new "crayfish ball" as we've been calling them, probably the fourth one we've found up there. I always thought perhaps it was raccoons but this afternoon I realized they weren't pellets because crayfish don't have fur. Voila! So they could be from owls, after all. Meaow Crayfish. Then Nic found a baby rabbit lying between two clods, its hindquarters chewed away. The crayfish are nocturnal and the baby rabbit was probably caught in the evening, when rabbits go out to forage. So, yes. Probably an owl.

We filled 5 jugs and three portable tanks with water and took them back to the trailer. While I double-watered the trees in the island, Nic built a bottom brace for Junior's box, which needed the extra support. We went down to the creek to see if Junior was there. We watched a Ruby-throated Hummingbird flit over the bridge and down into the Spotted Jewelweed and other flowers along the bank. An early migrant?

We took two hoes, a brush hook and two bags of chips down Edgar's Trail and across the bluffs into the RSF. Somehow, Junior got wind of our departure and decided to tag along. He followed us all the way into the portion of trail that the bee had left uncompleted. He nosed around in the underbrush while Nic and I cleared 70 m in about 20 minutes. I expect that with the two-hoe technique we can groom 100 m in half an hour. Another contribution to increased efficiency was a new hoe with a very shallow but wide blade. Made for trail work! While grooming his portion of trail to the east, Nic said he heard what he is sure was a deer crashing through the underbrush just south of his position.

We then went into Plot no. 6 and finished the tree census there. It has taken us the devil of a time because of all the young saplings, all of which had to be logged. While working, we heard the sounds of a very loud woodpecker toward the river. A Hairy? Junior had accompanied us to Plot # 6, as well. When we were done, we went out to the RSF bench for a break. Junior looked a little dehydrated, so we invented a technique for him. We poured coke into a plastic ziploc bag and let him mess around inside the bag. Eventually he drank all the coke. Then we tried water and he drank all of that, too. I don't like Junior going around in the day like this, but what can you do?

We walked over the HB and down into the BCF, Junior accompanying us. We started up a Ruffed Grouse. Junior was clearly getting a bit fagged out, so I carried him out to Edgar's Trail. Back at the trailer, we took refreshments in the nook, while Junior hung around his water-tub. This made him easy to catch when we were ready to go out.

Plot # 6

species	angle	distance	size	condition
White Ash	200	5.7 m	< 1 cm	good
Box Elder	205	3.8 m	18 cm dbh	good
White Ash	210	3.4 m	1.5 m ht	good
White Ash	210	6.8 m	< 1 cm	okay
White Ash	210	6.8 m	< 1 cm	okay (20 cm ap.)
Hackberry	210	7.2 m	1.5 m ht	good
Hackberry	215	7.0 m	1.5 m ht	good
Box Elder	215	9.1 m	30 cm dbh	good
White Ash	215	7.6 m	2m ht	poor
Box Elder	220	6.4 m	1 cm dbh	good
Box Elder	220	4.8 m	1 cm dbh	good
Box Elder	245	6.7 m	34 cm dbh	good
Hawthorn	270	9.1 m	< 1 cm (doub.)	poor
Hawthorn	285	7.2 m	2 cm dbh	poor
Box Elder	290	4.1 m	23 cm dbh	good
Hawthorn	300	3.9 m	1.5 cm dbh	good
Hawthorn	290	7.7 m	1 cm (doub.)	poor
Hawthorn	290	9.3 m	1 cm (trip.)	poor
Hawthorn	310	4.2 m	1 cm dbh	poor

Box Elder	325	9.7 m	17 cm dbh	good
Box Elder	340	5.7 m	14 cm dbh	good

(This last tree had a 30 degree lean, its base past the 0 degree mark, so it may already have been logged.)