

Newport Forest

September 19 2002

1:50 - 7:15 pm

**Weather:** mixed sun/cloud; S < 5 kmh; LM 35 C; FCF 28 C

**Purpose:** to water trees and continue RSF survey

**Participants:** Kee, Nic

While Nic looked for Junior, I filled the jugs and tanks at the tree station. Half done, I got a call on the WT from Nic, who had spotted a Ruby-throated Hummingbird near the bridge. Nic also discovered a strange phenomenon while whistling from the "T." Every whistle was answered instantaneously by a birdlike voice that appeared to emanate from a nearby tree. The "echo" would begin even before the whistle would end. We decided it was a nesting bird. Later, Pat confirmed that she had discovered a Cardinal nest in the same tree, earlier.

We went as far as the bench, where Junior had found me two days ago, with no result. On the way, Nic spotted a cryptic moth on the bark of a bitternut. (P)

We single-watered the trees in the island, then Nic went to the station for a refill while I looked for Junior along the FCT as far as Eva's Haipin. No luck.

We single-watered the trees in the triangle. Nic took a slide or two of me watering (P), for the record.

Then we walked the entire FCT, whistling for Junior the while. Just inside Harvey's Woods, we found a rarity: A young Black Cherry beside the trail, dbh about 10 cm, the bark still streaked with lenticels and not yet broken into black cornflakes. Further on, Nic collected two mushrooms on logs beside the trail. Under the tower on Tower Hill, we watered the stressed sassafras and continued back to the trailer. No Junior.

Taking advantage of his absence, we proceeded to the RSF to continue the plot monitoring project. (See end of this report.) Taking a break on the HB, I noted that all the hickory nuts that we've been seeing for the last month are distinctly undersized, often about 2/3 of their normal diameter. Climbing the HB, I also noticed that the young beeches on the slopes seem to be packing it in early, the leaves turning their characteristically yellow-brown colour. At the bench, we amused ourselves by burning different types of leaves (under rigorously controlled conditions, of course). White Oak leaves, we discovered, have a wonderful aroma, almost rivalling sweetgrass.

Back at the trailer, Nic went down to the creek again to call Junior, while I went first to the mouth of Fleming Creek, then back to the trailer and on up to the Fleming Creek bluffs, whistling for junior all the while. We were taking our final break when, at 6:45 pm, Junior came panting into camp from the direction of the gallery forest that lines the Fleming Creek bluffs. He could have been far away all this time - or under the trailer! He appeared to be in good condition and ate voraciously, starting on the chicken and growling, when he suddenly changed his mind and went to the tub to eat cheetos and crackers. At first he was standoffish, which pleased me. But presently, after his feed, he suddenly attacked Nic, which pleased Nic mightily. While he foraged, we put away some food in his box. He did not hang around to say “goodbye” to us.

#### Plot #5

|      |           |     |          |            |
|------|-----------|-----|----------|------------|
| 67.5 | White Ash | 9.3 | 2.5 m ht | poor       |
| 70   | White Ash | 8.9 | 1.5 m ht | fair       |
| 70   | White ash | 7.7 | 2 m ht.  | fair       |
| 70   | White Ash | 8.0 | 1 cm     | fair       |
| 70   | White Ash | 5.7 | 2m ht    | nd         |
| 72.5 | Hawthorn  | 5.3 | 2 m ht   | fair       |
| 72.5 | Hawthorn  | 5.0 | 2 m ht   | poor       |
| 72.5 | White Ash | 8.4 | 1 cm     | fair       |
| 75   | White Ash | 6.9 | 1.5 ht   | fair       |
| 77.5 | White Ash | 6.8 | 1.5 m ht | poor       |
| 80   | White Ash | 9.9 | 1 cm     | fair       |
| 80   | White Ash | 9.8 | 2 m ht   | fair       |
| 80   | White Ash | 9.6 | 2 m ht   | nd         |
| 80   | White Ash | 6.4 | 2 m ht   | poor       |
| 82.5 | White Ash | 9.8 | 2 m ht   | poor       |
| 82.5 | White Ash | 7.3 | 1.5 cm   | fair       |
| 82.5 | White Ash | 7.0 | 2 m ht   | fair       |
| 85   | White Ash | 9.4 | 1 m ht   | poor       |
| 85   | White Ash | 9.1 | 1 cm     | fair       |
| 85   | White Ash | 6.4 | 2 m ht   | fair       |
| 87.5 | White Ash | 9.8 | 2 m ht   | poor       |
| 90   | White Ash | 8.9 | 2 m ht   | poor       |
| 90   | White Ash | 8.2 | 1.5 m ht | poor       |
| 90   | White Ash | 8.2 | 1.5 m ht | poor (sbs) |
| 90   | White Ash | 8.1 | 1.5 m ht | poor       |
| 90   | White Ash | 8.7 | 1 m ht   | poor       |

|   |           |     |          |      |
|---|-----------|-----|----------|------|
| 90  | White Ash | 7.3 | 1 m ht   | poor |
| 90  | White Ash | 7.1 | 2 m ht   | poor |
| 90  | White Ash | 7.9 | 1 m ht   | poor |
| 90  | White Ash | 7.4 | 1 m ht   | poor |
| 90  | White Ash | 7.2 | 1.5 m ht | fair |
| 90  | White Ash | 6.6 | 2 m ht   | poor |
| 95  | White Ash | 4.2 | 1.5 m ht | fair |
| 97.5  | Box Elder | 7.6 | 31 cm    | good |
| 97.5  | White Ash | 8.5 | 1.5 m ht | poor |
| 97.5  | Box Elder | 9.5 | 19 cm    | fair |
| 100   | White Ash | 8.9 | 1 m ht   | fair |
| 100   | White Ash | 8.9 | 1 m ht   | fair |
| 100   | White Ash | 7.8 | 1.5 m ht | fair |
| 100   | White ash | 7.1 | 2 m ht   | fair |
| 102.5   | White Ash | 9.3 | 1 m ht   | fair |
| 102.5   | White Ash | 8.8 | 1 m ht   | fair |
| 105   | Box Edler | 8.9 | 8 cm     | good |
| note: lean 45 deg, base touches trail, which makes 30 deg angle with tape |           |     |          |      |
| 107.5   | White Ash | 9.5 | 1.5 m ht | poor |
| 107.5   | White Ash | 4.0 | 1 m ht   | poor |
| 107.5   | White Ash | 8.5 | 1.5 m ht | poor |
| 107.5   | White Ash | 7.5 | 2 m ht   | fair |
| 107.5   | Box Elder | 5.1 | 12 cm    | nd   |
| 110   | White Ash | 3.7 | 2 m ht   | poor |