

Newport Forest

November 9 2002

2:05 - 5:15 pm

Weather: prec. 9 mm; overcast; SW < 30; LM 16 C; FCF 16 C

Purpose: transplanting and monitoring

Participants: Kee, Nic

We dropped 14 trees which I had potted from our home nursery off at the tree station for later planting. We drove to the trailer to offload and prepare for our work. On the way to rread the FCf thermometer, I noticed a very large and beautiful orange spider slowly crossing the path toward the thermometer tree. It turned out to be a Marbled Orb-weaver, a species already recorded for our site.

We went to the clay beach on the river to folow a suggestion of Mathis' that we move some of the Cottonwood seedlings that have sprouted there (and are consequently doomed) to another location. I selected the creek bluffs to help stabilize them (although I know perfectly well that natural erosion can only be delayed but not stopped). We dug up 20 seedlings, preserving the root balls intact. While on the clay beach, we noticed some very clear tracks of a buck. I showed Nic how to make a cast and then promptly forgot about it for the rest of our stay.

We went on into the RSF, where we started work on Plot #3, completing the survey to 30 degrees. We took a sample of the alleged Bristly Black Currant (which isn't supposed to grow around here) to take back for Pat to examine. (She thinks it's Bristly Gooseberry but we may wait until spring when it flowers to be sure.) As we logged Plot #3, I encountered the largest White Elm that we've found anywhere on the property so far; dbh = 59 cm. (See "RSF survey.")

After coming out (no Lotor on the HB) we drove to the UM and completed planting all 20 cottonwoods in short order. We may do another 20 on the next visit.

Note: I have been thinking a lot about the two forests in the RSF. I choose to call them, informally, the Box Elder Forest and the Black Maple Forest, resectively. The Box Elder Forest has HB WE SE BE SiM CW BW SY & WA, while the Black Maple Forest has BM SM BH WA AB and (up to the HB) adding RO WO BO CO SH & BA. Note that WA is the *only* species that occurs with any noticeable frequency in both forests. A clear difference!