

Newport Forest

April 25/03

4:10 - 6:05 pm

Weather: prec. 5 mm; sunny/hazy; calm; LM 17 C; FCF 16 C

Purpose: to install experimental watering system

Participants: Kee

Coming in to the property, I spot-watered at the tree station using jugs/tanks of water brought from London. Some of the young trees have started to break bud, including this year's planting (from the tree bed at home).

I filled the trailer feeder and put out cat chow for the raccoons and other mammals. I painted eight coffee cans green, punched holes in the bottom of each close to the side of the can, and placed them strategically with the Tulip Tree, ensuring that experimental pairs (with and without drought shields) each got a can. Filling the cans half full, they took about 2-3 minutes to drain which is perhaps a little fast. But the outgoing water did not form extensive spread, soaking quickly into the soil which had been loosened by the planting process. I placed four cans in the South Core (formerly the "island") and four cans in the north Core (formerly the "triangle").

I watered the four special trees along the gallery forest edge. With the remaining water, I watered about 10 other trees at random (this year's planting).

Note: among the planted trees now breaking bud was the Sugar Maple twin to the memorial tree for Lorne Newport. Some of the BEs, which I thought were dead, are re-sprouting from their bases.

Walking down to the creek, I noticed that the trout lily leaves were, on average, about half-grown. By the bridge I collected seed flowers from two trees, one of which was definitely a White Elm, the other (I thought) a White Ash. Lesson: Elm bark can be somewhat deceptive. It is capable of resembling a White Ash.

Birds: (8)

American Robin (1 LM); Blue Jay (1; Tr); Brown-headed Cowbird (1 Tr); Downy Woodpecker (pr+1 Tr); Mourning Dove (1 HW); Red-bellied Woodpecker (pr Tr); Song Sparrow (1 Tr); White-breasted Nuthatch (1 Tr);