

Newport Forest

May 4 2003

1:55 - 7:30 pm

Weather: prec. 35 mm; sunny/clear; SE < 5 kmh; LM 18 C ; FCF 16 C

Purpose: maintenance and birdwatching

Participants: Pat, Kee, Nic

While Pat went on a tour of Skunks' Misry with Edgar and Nina, Nic and I carried out a planting assessment and cleanup. The trout lilies are now full length and in full bloom. The rainfall pattern has so far been ideal for spring planting of trees!

South Core: 31 trees are still viable, the two-metre stems are leaging out: BH 1/8; WA 1/4; SM 1/3, three trees not yet budding: CT, WA & one unk.

North Core: 50 trees still viable, 8 trees with no leaf or bud, one FD leafing out, three WAs in "row" still viable.

While Nic did a "wild planting" of some 40 SY (recommended by Mathis), I used the pole pruner to cut most of the thorn trees, Multiflora Rose and Blackcap in the east end of the LM. During this walkabout, I discovered to my delight that Ninebark has established itself in the form of some 50 separate bushes, mostly along the edge of BCF. Also found a few elms.

Still waiting for Pat, we decided to pull down the old deer blind. We used the van and a new nylon rope purchased en route today. Nic went up the rickety ladder and secured the rope to the upper part of the structure. The first pull with the van brought the upper half of the structure down. But the second pull snagged in the tree itself (an old Bur Oak) and the rope snapped. After reattaching the rope to different parts of the remaining structure, we finally developed a respectable load of lumber.

Nic and I then went to the HB by Janik's property to collect flowers from trees. On the way, we spotted that Jackrabbit on ET again. I was able to confirm American Plum for the fruit tree growing along the property line. Going out, we also found a Common Shadbush along the Gallery Forest above FC.

Birds: (16)

American Crow (1 HBF); American Goldfinch (1 Hydro); American Robin (1 FCF); Black-capped Chickadee (2 Tr); Blue Jay (2 Tr); Brown-headed Cowbird

(2 Tr); Downy Woodpecker (1 Tr); Eastern Towhee (pr Tr); Grackle (1 FCF); Great Blue Heron (1 LM); Mourning Dove (2 FCF); Northern Cardinal (1f Tr); Red-bellied Woodpecker (1 Tr); Rose-breasted Grosbeak (pr Tr); Turkey vulture (2 LM); White-breasted Nuthatch (1 Tr);

New species:

American Plum	<i>Prunus americana</i>	HB/W
Common Shadbush	<i>Amelanchier arborea</i>	GF/FC
Wild Leek*	<i>Allium tricoccum</i>	RSF/TR

*found by Pat during our previous visit