

Newport Forest

May 16 2003

2:00 - 6:45 pm

Weather: prec. 17 mm; overcast, calm, LM 13 C; FCF 12 C

Purpose: tree planting, bridge work

Participants: Kee, Nic

Arriving at the gate, I was greeted by three Grackles all of whom croaked, then flew down the line. At the tree station, virtually all the trees had leafed out or were in the process of doing so. I am especially pleased that the Yellow Buckeye appears to have taken well. I can plant it out next year, perhaps.

Among the four trees planted along the GF, only the NB and the HB have leaves. The SF and NC may not make it. In the South Core, the following trees are leafing out: 1 RB; 5 LTA; 9 TT; 5 WA; 3 WE; 1 HB; 1 SM. Two WAs appear dormant or dead, the BH is still in shock (even though it was in apot), and lorne's tree has done nothing. In the North Core i took no survey, but about 10% of the trees with guards are either dead or still dormant. The BEs that I thought were dead have resprouted from the base.

We planted two TTs and 5 SYs down by the creek near the bridge. We moved a Sh from HBF over ot the South Core.

It took about 1.5 hours, using a newly purchased pulley block, to get the pipes up out of the water and onto the peg-trestle. Next visit, we can get the pipes up on the far trestle. The pulley block works fine, as long as you don't let it get twisted around itself.

We crossed the creek in boots, then walked the FCT. The Garlic Mustard is really ubiquitous in the thorn scrub of the new forest. One wonders if *anything* can be done! Nic found a Pocketbook Mussel on the banks!

Birds: (16 spp) (We made little or no effort to birdwatch)

American Robin (1 Tr); Baltimore Oriole (pr LM); Blue Jay (pr+1 Tr); Brown-headed Cowbird (1m Tr); Downy Woodpecker (1m Tr); Eastern Towhee (1 FCF); Grackle (3 UM); Hairy Woodpecker (1 FCF); Meadowlark (1 UM); Northern Cardinal (1m Tr); Red-bellied woodpecker (1m Tr); Red-eyed Vireo (1 FCF); Rose-breasted Grosbeak (1m Tr); Song sparrow (1 LM); Turkey vulture (1 FCF); White-breasted Nuthatch (1 Tr);