

Newport Forest

August 26 2003

2:15 - 6:10 pm

Weather: prec. 8 mm; sun/haze; W < 15 km/h g.t. 25; LM 30 C; FCF 28 C

Purpose: watering trees and photography

Participants: Kee

Driving along the Fleming Line, right at the boundary between Harvey's and Newport Forest, I spotted a young raccoon, dead on the S side of the road. It was about the size of a June kit, bearing out our theory that all raccoon breeding was a month or more late this year, owing to the prolonged cold snap over January/February.

I stopped by the TS to water the two gate trees, then filled all available tanks and jugs. (Note: one tank fills three jugs, one jug waters 3 trees.) While in the UM, I took pictures of the FCF (4P) and the bluffs there (2P), then walked right across the east and west meadows to the West Ravine, shooting the East Ravine (4P), the West Meadow (5P), as well as the West Ravine gallery forest (5P) from both outside (distance and CU) and inside.

At the trailer, I went down to FC to shoot the TTs (2P). I noted that the Giant Ragweed had grown about 12' tall along the creek bank and that an Eastern Cottonwood (2P) had taken root on the bank and had grown nearly 6'.

I watered both South and North Cores (after a second trip to the big tank) and noted in my book that "Everyone is happy."

I took a walk around the FCT, stopping twice to locate and define two new cores which i hope to start this fall and next spring. The first of these can be reached by walking to 153m mark, then turning left onto a 17m trail I roughed out to the first planting area (North Core). I then proceeded to the bench and decided that the area just behind and to the left of the GM plot would make a good location for the South Core. I took the brush hook with me, clearing about 100 overhanging black caps and other herbs.

Earlier I had spotted about 4 TVs circling the FCF near the road, but didn't think much of it. Coming out, I discovered the little raccoon had been half eaten already. A TV took off somewhat awkwardly as I approached the corpse.