

Newport Forest

November 25 2003

2:15 - 5:35 pm

Weather: prec. 41 mm; overcast; SW < 25 kmh; LM 3 C; FCF 3 C

Purpose: tree planting

Participants: Pat, Kee, Nic

During his most recent visit to Newport Forest, Steve Logan discovered that four of the pipe bridge deck modules had been swept away by the high water resulting from recent rains. He located the modules downstream from the bridge, so he and his wife, Karen, retrieved them by canoe. Our first order of business was therefore to install tethers for the eight modules, fastening plastic rope to screw eyes in the modules, thence to the pipes.

While in the vicinity of the bridge, I planted a flowering crab (CA) on the north bank about 10 m downstream from the bridge.

After a quick lunch in the trailer, Nic and I loaded the remaining trees into the van and drove up to the tree station, where we put the two mulberrys (RM) next to their two colleagues from last year. We planted a Juneberry and a Flowering Crab in the small group steadily taking shape around Lorne's memorial plaque. That left four CAs, two of which we planted half way down the adjacent creek bluffs, the other two at the terminus of a sub-ravine that drains the tree station ground into the Eat Ravine.

With little daylight left, we still had to install as many bud protectors as possible. While Nic walked the FC Trail, I visited both FCF cores, placing sections of soda straw on the narrow buds and sections of half-inch (OD) plastic tubing on the larger buds. I completed about 3/4 of the trees in these cores until it was simply too dark to see anything.

Pat did some bird-watching and performed an environmental scan of the upper creek bluffs adjacent to Harvey's bean field. She found an aging giant puffball, among other fungi, growing near the top of the slope.

Birds: (7)

American Crow (BCF); Black-capped Chickadee (Tr); Blue Jay (LM); Downy Woodpecker (Tr); Great Blue Heron (LM); Slate-coloured Junco (Tr); White-breasted Nuthatch (Tr)