

Newport Forest

January 26 2004

2:15 - 5:35 pm

Weather: hazy/ovcast; calm; LM -8 C; FCF -9 C; snow depth* 29 cm

Purpose: making property accessible (= 41 mm prec Mr18/12)

Participants: Kee and Nic

We spent the better part of an hour clearing snow away from the gate with some help from Edgar's tractor (with plow attached). When we finally got in, I initially intended to drive as far as the tree station, but found the prospect of a continuing drive too attractive to pass up. The problem was that I couldn't stop, so Nic had to trudge all the way down to the trailer behind the van.

As we set up the feeders with birdseed, we heard Edgar coming down the road with his tractor, plowing it nicely. After he left, blading up the other side of the road, I made bold to roll out the turnaround, quite forgetting about the large hole we had left in the soil during our last visit. (Strange that the soil has not really frozen yet this winter.) Thus, after several futile attempts by Nic and me to get us out, I had to call Edgar on the cellphone. Back he came on the old Case tractor, hooking a chain to our rear axle and getting us out in about 5 minutes.

By this time there was little time left to walk the trails, so we walked as far as the core in the FCF and inspected the young trees. We couldn't find half of them, thanks to the snow. Some also had new deer nips. Are the bud protectors not working?

We also walked as far as Blind Creek along Edgar's Road, then turned back to the trailer.

birds:

Black-capped Chickadee; Downy woodpecker; Northern Cardinal; Red-bellied woodpecker; White-breasted nuthatch

* depth measured as the average of three random probes in general vicinity of weather station.