

Newport Forest

May 23 2004

2:00 - 5:25 pm

Weather: prec. 26 mm; WSW < 40 kmh; cloud/sun; LM 20 C; FCF 19 C

Purpose: To check trees and look for new tree spp.

Participants: Kee

I parked initially by the TS and walked slowly down to the trailer, carefully examining each tree and shrub that I passed. I was in the midst of examining a Hawthorn, when I heard a terrific splashing noise from the creek below. I looked down just in time to see a large ripple in the flooded creek, but not the animal that had made it. Beaver are not normally that noisy. Dare I hope to see a river Otter?

Beside *C. compacta*, there are frequent Cockscur Hawthorns along the gallery at the head of the bluffs. I saw what appeared to be a few Wild Apples. Many Russian Olives were growing here, as well. I cut the smaller ones. Just past the swale, I happened upon an immense granite boulder that was deeply buried in the earth. It may well be six or seven feet in diameter. Further along and closer to the trailer, the larger trees start, Bur Oak, Red Oak, Black Maple, and Shagbark Hickory.

Fleming Creek has flooded again, this time higher than I've seen it for two years. The bridge is completely under water. How tiresome this is getting to be. I keep neglecting to tether ALL the parts. Thus with every flood I end up retrieving or rebuilding what's missing.

Checking the Lm trees, I discovered that at least four of the ROs I had planted as acorns a few weeks ago have now sprouted. (I like the idea of the disc nurseries.) About 3/4 of the TTs are alive and thriving, more or less. Walking the edge of the BCF along the LM, I noticed many Prickly Ash growing. Near the "corner," I also found about a dozen Gray Dogwood, something I hadn't noticed before. By this point, nearly all the ashes show several cm of new growth. On my way to the RSF, I checked the BCF core. I couldn't find a single tree, thanks to the overly luxuriant growth of plants like nettles and jewelweed thanks to the heavy rains. I installed new bench along the river bluffs.

Phenology: first Ebony Jewelwings, mosquitoes now getting abundant but not bothersome. Cockscur Hawthorns in full flower. Wild Geranium still in full flower, jewelweed about 2' high.