

Newport Forest

July 11 2004

1:55 - 6:35 pm

Weather: prec. 0 mm; clear; calm; LM 32 C; FCF 27 C

Purpose: watering trees

Participants: Kee

I stopped at the TS to water and weed: 4 jugs to the gate trees; 6 jugs to the TS trees plus hose on RMs. (doing great!) I replaced 10 chunks* with new topsoil/sand mix, noting a very large (4") Leopard Frog hunting for insects. I filled the two tanks, a spare water bottle/tank, and 8 jugs with water and headed down to the trailer.

Almost as soon as I began to water the trees along the GF, I saw a second Leopard Frog (3"). It does not seem to bother these aquatic animals to hunt out under the blazing sun (inside the grass-forests, of course). I watered the new young Basswood and his Bltternut companion, placing gards on both. After watering all the trees in the North Core, as well as as many nursery disks as I could find, I realized I was out of water! I went back for another load and finished the North Core by about 5:00. Today's watering was timely.

I found a large Yellow blusher growing under the young Basswood. As I watered in the LM, I saw a more than usual number of Great Spangled Fritillaries.

I took a break in the nook, ending by spending nearly 20 minutes contemplating a Wood Satyr resting on the laces of my left shoe. Then it flew to the handle of the plastic lunch bucket and spent over ten minutes probing the handle with its proboscis. More than probing, I realized, it might just be eating microscopic particles of sugar! The proboscis curled and recurved, probing delicately the sticky handle.

Birds: (10)

Blue Jay (Tr); American Robin (FCF); Common Yellowthroat (Tr); Field Sparrow (UM); Mourning Dove (BCF); Northern Cardinal (Tr); Red-bellied Woodpecker (Tr); Rose-breasted Grosbeak (Tr); Song Sparrow (LM); Turkey Vulture (FCF)

* A "chunk" is a 6" x 6" cube of hard earth removed. divided (weed layer gone), bottom broken and churned with mix.