

Newport Forest

Wednesday April 6 2005

2:10 - 7:25 pm

Weather: prec. 0 mm; calm; clear; LM 24 C; FCF 23 C

Purpose: planting trees

Participants: Kee

I was greeted at the gate by a Tree Swallow perched on the top bar. According to Nina, both Tree Swallows and Eastern Bluebirds have been investigating the "trail" of boxes we have mounted along the roadside.

I brought in the following trees, planted according to this scheme:

SC: 1 SiM; 1 KC NC: 2 BE; 1 KC; 1 HB RSF: 1 PP; 1 WH

This took a considerable time, as I had to cut disks for all the trees planted in the LM.

While taking a break in the nook, I heard the unmistakable sounds of baby raccoons whining up in the nursery box. This happened a total of three times. Because the whining soon stopped on each occasion, I infer that the mother is with the young. The kits must be no more than a few days old.

The creek water level has now fallen to the level of the near bank, now covered with wet, clayey sediment that looks very slimy and is difficult to walk upon without slipping. While staking up the two Tulips Treess, I noticed a Green Frog out hunting for insects (stone flies?) on the slime bed. Now would be a good time to install sediment deposition meters (i.e. graduated stakes) on both floodplains. (RSF and FCF)

The RSF planting involved carrying two heavy pots (one at a time) to the sandbar just downstream from the RSF point. More fine sand has been deposited in this area of slowing current. I planted the Pawpaws in a particularly sandy section, the Witch Hazel on a nearby clayey slope.

Birds: (14) American Crow (FCF); American Robin (HBF); Black-capped Chickadee (Tr); Blue Jay (GF); Brown-headed Cowbird (Tr); Dark-eyed Junco (Tr); Hairy Woodpecker (FCF); Mourning Dove (FC); Northern Cardinal (BCF); Red-bellied Woodpecker (Tr); Song Sparrow (LM); Tree Swallow (UM/Rd); Turkey Vulture (TR); White-breasted Nuthatch (Tr)

Phenology: Tree Swallows back