

Newport Forest

Saturday April 30 2005

3:30 - 6:40 pm

Weather: prec. 0 mm; N < 10 kmh; ovcast; LM 14 C; FCF 11 C

Purpose: to plant trees

Participants: Pat, Kee, Ann Cherry

The creek and river are slowly subsiding back to normal levels. The apron land below the bluffs by the bridge are once again high and dry(ing out). I brought a Yellowwood with me to plant along with the eight trees brought in on April: 3 HB; 1 RB; 4 BE; 1 CT; 1 HT. I planted the latter in the LM, mostly between the two cores. I planted the Yellowwood near the nook, just inside the drip line of the old BM.

Pat and Ann went down to the creek to look for plants. They stopped to discuss some items near the base of the old dead BM about half way along the trail to the bridge, when they heard a hissing noise from inside the snag. This was followed by a growl and then noises of raccoon kits. So now we know where Momma moved her kits.

We walked the TRT to the RSF to examine the Virginia Bluebells. Along the way, Ann took several pictures of spring ephemerals with her new digital camera. The Bluebells are still in the process of flowering, the process temporarily arrested by the recent cooler temperatures and overcast conditions. We went on to visit the sandbar. I was pleased to see the Witch Hazels doing well, but the PP looks a bit tentative.

On the way back to the trailer, Pat spotted a Red Squirrel at the Corner Feeder. This is only our second sighting of this species since taking over the property. We note that the LM is wet almost everywhere, currently, but tends to be drier toward the bluffs. This may be because a) the soil is relatively porous, and b) it drains close to the bluff before it drains from farther away.

Birds: (18)

American Crow (FCF); American Robin (UM); Black-capped Chickadee (Tr); Blue Jay (RL); Brown-headed Cowbird (Tr); Canada Goose (HBF); Chipping Sparrow (Tr); Common Grackle (UM); Downy Woodpecker (Tr); Eastern Towhee (ET); Mourning Dove (ET/LM); Northern Cardinal (RL); Red-bellied Woodpecker (Tr); Red-winged Blackbird (UM); Song Sparrow (RSF); Turkey Vulture (UM); White-breasted Nuthatch (Tr); White-throated Sparrow (ET/LM)