

Newport Forest

Wednesday May 4 2005

2:15 - 8:35 pm

Weather: prec. 2 mm; calm; cld/sun; LM 13 C; FCF 13 C

Purpose: to assemble mulch and water most recently planted trees

Participants: Pat, Kee

It didn't take us long, once we got down to the trailer, to discover that the momma coon moved her household down to the old Black Maple snag on the creek bluffs. Both creek and river are back down to near-normal levels. In the regen zone the White Ash and Tulip Trees are now breaking bud. It appears, however, that more trees are having a hard time in the North Core, whereas very few have problems in the South Core.

While Pat had her therapy nap, I went to the RL to pick up a wheelbarrow of river drift to use as mulch. On the way, I startled a pair of dark-coloured duck that flew noisily out of Pond C. (Wood Ducks? - they perched high in a nearby Walnut tree.) Also on the way, I removed two wands from the resprouting Black Willow (X) that fell down last year. The wands all have catkins on them now. I noted a complete absence of frogs calling. Have they finished their breeding? At the drift pile I filled the wheelbarrow with drift and brought it back to the LM - three times. I hope to have our Delaware friends in for a "mulching day" soon.

I watered the three cedars at the RL, then went on to the RSF, stopping to inspect the Virginia Bluebells. (Still only half open) At the sandbar (now twice as large as it was last year) (P) I watered the Pawpaw, the two American Hazels and the Witch Hazel. The Pawpaw looks a little iffy. Along the new Fleming Creek trail, Pat found a new purple violet and a new Wood Anemone. When we got back, I heard ONE chorus frog.

Birds: (20)

American Crow (FCF); American Robin (FCF); Black-capped Chickadee (Tr); Blue Jay (BCF); Brown-headed Cowbird (Tr); Chipping Sparrow (Tr); Common Grackle (SB); Downy Woodpecker (Tr); Eastern Towhee (BCF); Field Sparrow (LM); Hairy Woodpecker (Tr); Mourning Dove (FCF); Northern Cardinal (Tr); Red-bellied Woodpecker (FCF); Red-winged Blackbird (ER); (Song Sparrow (LM); Tree Swallow (UM); Turkey Vulture (HP); White-breasted Nuthatch (Tr); White-throated Sparrow (BCF);

Phenology: Garlic Mustard now growing and flowering, White Ash budding.