

Newport Forest

Wednesday May 25 2005

1:30 - 6:30 pm

Weather: prec. 12 mm; clear; NE < 20 kmh; LM 22 C; FCF 33 C

Purpose: to mulch & water trees

Participants: Kee, Erin Carroll

Although Eva had informed us yesterday that a very steady rain had fallen on the area, we registered only 12 mm in the rain gauge. Thus, besides mulching trees, we would also have to water them.

I showed Erin where the coon kits were in the old hollow BM. They seemed rather torpid, but attempts to assess their health further brought low growls from an invisible upper chamber where, apparently, the mother coon had been all this time. The torpor was not due starvation but perhaps the very opposite.

We mulched some 15 trees in the north core, bringing some five wheelbarrow loads of river drift from the RL. After a lunch break, we gave all planted trees in the LM a medium watering of 2L per tree, making two trips to the droughtbuster in the van.

Showing Erin the log bridge, I called out the woody species on the way. Suddenly I found myself calling out many, many SM saplings. Until that point I had been unaware of any such concentration on the property.

Birds: (14)

American Robin (FCF); Blue Jay (GF); Common Grackle (LM); Downy Woodpecker (Tr); Eastern Towhee (BCF); Field Sparrow (HBF); Great Crested Flycatcher (FCF); Mourning Dove (Tr); Red-bellied Woodpecker (Tr); Red-winged Blackbird (BC/BCF); Rose-breasted Grosbeak (GF); Song Sparrow (LM); Turkey Vulture (LM); White-breasted Nuthatch (BCF)

Phenology:

no mosquitoes to speak of yet, but lots of wood ticks, first one appearing some 2-3 weeks ago. This also indicates a dry condition.