

Newport Forest

Monday July 18 2005

3:00 - 8:50 pm

Weather: prec. 13 mm; RH 70%; sun/haze; S \leq 20 kmh; LM 32 C; FCF 29 C

Purpose: to water trees

Participants: Kee

I was late getting started because we had to replace the farm gate that the water-truck crashed into. Betty Purcell, it turns out, had two and Eva brought the great grandkids along to help out. We loaded the better gate, retrieved from a piggery that had been abandoned after Betty's husband died about a decade ago. At the property, Jordan distinguished himself by suggesting that I pull up even with the gap to be filled, saving me many steps as a result. Likewise, after many attempts of mine to get the nuts off the hinge-clamps of the new gate, Eva said, "It might just fit anyway." I looked at the pins on the post and compared them with the opening in the hinge-clamps. "Nope." I said. "I don't think they'll fit." Eva said, "Try it anyway." The new gate slid down into its resting position like a charm.

It was already late in the afternoon when I started watering, following as always, the same pattern: trees by gate, trees in tree station, fill all tanks and jugs at main tank. Drive down to LM and water trees along the GF, then most of the SC, when I run out of water. Back to the tank, etc. then water the NC and repair to the nook to rest.

And so today. After the break, I replaced the samples from the two malaise traps with new ones, carefully labeling the samples.

I noticed a garter snake racing across the track as I carried some jugs to the Sassafras/Basswood section. This is the first one of the year. It shouldn't be. Before leaving, I listened for birds for a ten minute period by the trailer, added a few I remembered hearing earlier, then made the following list.

Birds: (11)

American Robin (UM); Common Grackle (BCF); Common Yellowthroat (BCF); Eastern Towhee (BCF); Field Sparrow (LM); Mourning Dove (FCF); Red-winged Blackbird (GF!); Song Sparrow (LM); Turkey Vulture (EW); White-breasted Nuthatch (GF); Wood Thrush (GF);

Phenology: first Eastern Garter