

Newport Forest

Wednesday July 27 2005

3:00 - 7:30 pm

Weather: prec. 30 mm; RH 72%; cld/sun; NE \leq 15 kmh; LM 24 C; FCF 22 C

Purpose: site visit

Participants: Pat & Kee

What a joy to see rain the gauge! More frequently than we are led to believe by statistics, we've been getting a lot of multiples of 10. One has to believe it's simply a coincidence.

In retaliation for my failure to put out DBs during the last visit, raccoons overturned the garbage pail and ransacked the contents. (This happens maybe once a year.)

Before we set out for the river, Pat added fertilizer to her gourd plants and watered them. The first gourds are now forming. Since there was some fertilizer left over, I poured a small amount on the root systems of five of the planted trees in the SC: a small RB; 2 SiMs; 1 small TT; 1 small HB. In a few weeks, I will check these trees for any unexpected growth.

I checked the malaise trap in the LM and topped up the alcohol in the collecting bottle. It tends to evaporate rather quickly in this heat. Pat found a Giant Swallowtail in HBF and attempted to photograph it.

On her way to the RL, Pat found a black and white caterpillar suspended by a thread from a Daisy Fleabane plant, preparing to enter chrysalis. By the time we returned from the river, the chrysalis was complete and already a very different colour: yellow. At the RL I checked the malaise trap in the woods and added some alcohol there, too.

We strolled the clay beach to the end, where we looked for tracks, unusual stones, and insects. A doe and her fawn had come to drink at one of the temporary pools left by the recent rain. The gravel bars seem higher this year - or else the spaces between them have been excavated by the river. In any event, they also seem to be lengthening and each sports a row of young cottonwoods along its length. These undoubtedly serve to stabilize the bars.

We had supper in the trailer. It was somewhat remarkable that not a single bird came to either feeder the whole time we were there.