

Newport Forest

Sunday October 23 2005

1:50 - 6:20 pm

Weather: prec. 4 mm; RH 62%; cld/sun; calm; LM 14 C; FCF 13 C

Purpose: maintenance

Participants: Kee, Will

As he carried a bag of shelled corn to the deer-feeder, Will was boggled by the appearance of some "15" Wild Turkey's at the Corner (where ER enters BCF). We picked up our tools and headed to the TRT. On the way into the RSF, we were moving a heavy vine out of the path, when Will noticed a dead bird sitting on top of a branch overhead. It turned out to be a half-eaten Goldfinch, taken by a Cooper's or Broadwing, at a guess.

It took less than an hour to finish the new section of trail. It feels quite luxurious to walk the soft earth of a newly scraped forest path. [missing text] . . . er parts of the trail, there being only so many suitable logs & branches available. The new section passes a deep depression in the older forest, as well as a large burrow and many older trees of interest. As we finished up, a Kinglet showed up to inspect the work, but I could not see the head clearly.

Continuing along the older trail, we scraped here and there (dragged the hoe to remove leaves), taking particular care with the portion of trail near the bench in the beech/maple part. This part we scraped in earnest, refurbishing the liners and readying it for winter. Throughout our sojourn in the woods today, we could hear a shotgun going off across the river about every 10 to 15 minutes. (Will remarked the shooter could not be much of a hunter, since he spent so little time stalking.)

Back at the trailer, we walked the two-bridge trail, scraping the leaves. I noticed that the Greenbriar ("pokeweed") I got berries from a few weeks ago is definitely Bristly Greenbriar. (not new) For the first time I can remember, Fleming Creek is running clear. It was nice to stand on the bridge, look down, and see the bottom clearly.

On the way out, we re-watered the trees in pots and began to turn more of Bed One, when we disturbed a large, pale Leopard Frog, which went grumpily off in search of a new hibernation spot. (Could this be the leopard we saw so often in the summer of 04?)

Birds: (10)

American Crow (RSF); American Goldfinch (RSF); American Robin (RSF); Black-capped Chickadee (FCF); Blue Jay (Tr); Downy Woodpecker (Tr); Great Blue Heron (TR); Osprey (TR); White-breasted Nuthatch (Tr); Wild Turkey (BCF/ER)

Phenology:

Great Blue Heron still around