

Newport Forest

Sunday December 4 2005

2:05 - 4:45 pm

Weather: prec. 25 mm; RH n/a; clear; calm; LM 0 C; FCF -2 C

Purpose: to finish planting trees and putting on bud protectors

Participants: Kee & Will

While Will put out the birdseed, I assembled the potted trees, water and shovel. While Will walked the TRT to rake portions of it (and to put out some DBs on the HB), I took the first two pots and the shovel down to the creek, losing my footing at the same spot where Mary McLeod fell two years ago. I'm not sure why the trail should be so slippery after a fresh snow, but perhaps around zero degrees, my weight melts it, turning the clay beneath it slick.

The bridge had been messed with. One of the decking modules was entirely off the pipes and hanging by its tether rope. Another had been lifted and turned, but was still on the bridge. I retrieved the off-module with some difficulty (they're heavy!) and replaced it, as with the disturbed module. The far ramp had been lifted from its position and thrown to one side. I replaced that, too. I am at a loss to assign any but a human agency to the disarray. But there were no tracks. Perhaps it happened before the snow.

It took only about 20 minutes to get the three KCs and the one HL in the ground. The soil had not yet frozen (as I figured), so it was easy to dig.

In the process of putting bud protectors on the trees in the LM, I noticed that two smaller trees (including a Yellowwood!) had been severely nipped by a deer - or possibly a rabbit. (didn't check)

Birds: (6)

Black-capped Chickadee (Tr); Dark-eyed Junco (Tr); Downy Woodpecker (Tr); Red-bellied Woodpecker (Tr); Red-tailed Hawk (HW); White-breasted Nuthatch (Tr)