

**Newport Forest** Tuesday April 12 2006 3:40 - 7:45 pm

**Weather:** prec. 0 mm; RH 25% (!); sun/hz; calm; LM 22 C; FCF 21

**Purpose:** purchase & plant trees

**Participants:** Pat & Kee

We went to Mathis Natvik's Orford Ridges Nursery to pick up what I thought would be a small order of trees. But Mathis (silvertongue) Natvik got me interested in Pignut Hickories and pointed out that he had 3 yr American Beech on offer. I was dogmeat. Our final order looked like this:

25 Pignut Hickory  
25 Shumard Oak  
25 Swamp White (X Bur) Oak  
5 Pawpaw  
10 American Beach

We proceeded to the property and stopped at the TS for Pat to do some birding and for me to work a bit on the drain. (I still can't figure out why so many of the little trees in bed2 of the TS popped out of the ground during the late winter.)

At the trailer we could hear a weak but persistent frog chorus, a few Western Chorus Frogs and even fewer Spring Peepers. The poor chorus so far this year has us a bit worried. (We say nothing about it to each other.) From time to time a great gobbling would echo out of the BCF, apparently two groups at one point. After checking the trees in the lower meadow (the tension builds), we left for the river, Pat first. I brought three of the Pawpaws to plant at the sandbar and Pat brought a trowel and a pail. She noted impressive drift piles after that last flood and mentioned seeing an European Hare near the drift. (The mulch mine has been replenished.) Later, from the bluffs bench, she pointed out a Muskrat making its way slowly and steadily from the north shore to our side.

In the RSF, Pat confirmed that Virginia Bluebells were indeed sprouting all over the new trail area. We decided to call it the Bluebell Trail. She dug up a dozen from the trail itself. She will give several of these to Mathis in trade for seed. The rest she will propagate in pots and replant them back in this area next year. Meanwhile, I went on to the sandbar and planted my three pawpaws, making a row with the first one, all spaced about 20-30 feet apart. It was easier to water from the river today because it was just high enough to conveniently dip out of.

**Birds:** (16)

American Robin (HBF); Black-capped Chickadee (Tr); Blue Jay (BCF);  
Brown-headed Cowbird (Tr); Canada Goose (TR); Common Grackle (GF);  
Dark-eyed Junco (Tr); Downy Woodpecker (Tr); Great Blue Heron (LM);  
Northern Cardinal (BCF/ET); Red-bellied Woodpecker (Tr); Song Sparrow  
(LM); Tree Swallow (UM/Rd); Turkey Vulture (LM); White-breasted  
Nuthatch (Tr); Wild Turkey (BCF);

**Phenology:** Spring Beauty in bloom; Dark-eyed Junco still here; frog chorus  
in progress.