

Newport Forest Sunday April 16 2006

2:15 - 6:30 pm

Weather: prec. 29mm; RH 57%; calm; hz/sn; LM 16C; FCF 12C

Purpose: planting trees

Participants: Kee, Will, Latif, Abid

The rain was a blessing. It's interesting to compare precipitation to date (from Jan 1) with precipitation to the end of April for 2005 and 2004:

year to date	2004	2005	2006
precipitation	88	241	338

This is a heartening trend and leads me to wonder if 2006 will be a special year for growth in the LM.

At the tree station Latif found a dead Brown Snake. (#2 for that locale) Later, at the nook, Abid spotted a small brown milliped making its way across the soil - first of the season. Taking Abid down to the creek to show him where to fill the water jugs, I checked the hollow BM, surprised to find six sleeping kits inside. Abid was very interested and Latif & will came down to look as well. As we planted, I kept wondering whether the kits had been abandoned. I had checked their girth; Although not starving, they were a bit thin - but not crying.

In the BCF we planted the ten American Beech trees roughly in a long line that snaked from ET at the bend over toward the bench deep in the interior. Abid drew water from the surrounding ponds. On the way in, Will had spotted a Red Squirrel. Later, I spotted a Mourning Cloak in the LM and Will saw a Wild Turkey tom under the HL.

We planted no more trees this day, but spent a considerable time at the TS, wondering how to pull up the very heavy pipe we had wedged into the soil on our previous visit. The pipe needed to go down another 6" and we would have to dig under it to achieve this. I decided to wait for Steve and/or Darren to do this when bridge day rolls around. As for the baby coons, I decided to split the difference, taking two home.

Birds: (12)

American Robin (BCF); Black-capped Chickadee (Tr); Blue Jay (Tr); Dark-eyed Junco (Tr); Downy Woodpecker (Tr); Field Sparrow (UM); Mourning Dove (LM); Northern Cardinal (BCF); Red-bellied Woodpecker (Tr); Song Sparrow (LM); White-breasted Nuthatch (Tr); Wild Turkey (HL)

Phenology: first Mourning Cloak, Red Squirrel, first Trout Lily blooms