

**Newport Forest** Thursday April 27 2006 2:15 - 6:45 pm

**Weather:** prec. 0mm; RH 44%; cld/sn; N < 40kmh; LM 16C; FCF 16C

**Purpose:** to check trees

**Participants:** Kee

I spent nearly an hour tagging thorn trees in the UM that I DON't want cut. These will be the perching/lookout trees for the meadow birds. such as the Savanna Sparrow and the Bobolink. I selected a range of sizes, in keeping with the indefinite maintenance of the LM as open country nesting ground. Soon, a volunteer will be eliminating the untagged trees. Fleming Creek is back down to near-normal levels.

At the trailer I took the weather, filled one tray feeder, and spent some time listening/watching for birds. At one point I thought I heard a baby coon chirping in the "maternity ward." A tour of the LM core zones revealed that all trees are starting to leaf out, except for the BW, WA, KC, and HL. I am very pleased that the Black Cherry and Yellow Birch that I got from Mathis last year (bare root, no less) are doing very well. I watered the newly planted trees (only).

A close inspection of brach tips of the old SH by the trailer revealed leaf buds - enough to give shade this summer. We're praying for the old gal.

I took a 15-litre jug into the BCF and watered the 10 ABs from nearby vernal pools. Each beech had a hole dug beside the roots in about 6 cases, the last tree having been torn up. Squirrels? I replanted it with little hope it would recover from dryroot.

There was no frog chorus. It seemed ominous. Suddenly five crows came flying from behind me, heading south in hot pursuit of a Great Horned Owl. The owl flew low, weaving between trees with great skill. In the RSF/HB area, I shot several video pans of white Trilliums now in bloom. At the Sandbar (SB) I paused to gaze across the river at Delbert's shack. Delbert died last year. I noticed that the spit that used to hug his shoreline had somehow migrated to mid-river. Then I realized that the river had cut a considerable amount of bank in front of Delbert's. All the land behind the spit had been cut away. And our sand bar has benefited, accordingly. We may already have gained about half an acre since 2001. What a fascinating study it would make! I noticed a rather large number of Box Elder Bugs wandering here and there through the river drift that wreathed the sand.

I completed my TRT tour by passing through the bluebells (It still embarrasses

me to think I drove a trail right through one of our prime floral assets.)

**Birds:**

American Robin (GF); Black-capped Chickadee (GF); Blue Jay (ERav);  
Canada Goose (TR); Common Grackle (BCF); Downy Woodpecker (Tr);  
Eastern Towhee (BCF); Great Blue Heron (TR); Great Horned Owl (BCF);  
Hairy Woodpecker (Tr); Northern Cardinal (GF); Red-bellied Woodpecker  
(FCF); Song Sparrow (LM); Tree Swallow (UM); Turkey Vulture (UM);  
White-breasted Nuthatch (GF);