

Newport Forest

Sunday November 5 2006

2:15 - 5:45 pm

Weather: prec. 0mm; RH 80%; ovcast; calm; LM 12C; GF* 11C

Purpose: maintenance and tree-planting

Participants: Kee, Brian, Abid, Latif

Brian went down to the bend in the creek at Eva's Hairpin to retrieve the one missing piece of deck. We had the bridge back together in a manner of minutes after that. The creek is down to about 10cm above normal - and it's running very clear now.

I divided us up into two crews: Brian & Latif went off along the TRT to lay new liners and clear trees & branches from the trail. Abid and I remained in the LM to plant trees. We planted two butternuts and three White Oaks. This may not seem like much, but I let Abid do most of the work. Brian called on the WT to say they were "lost." He and Latif showed up 15 minutes later.

While the others had a lunch break, I went off for a tramp through the FCF over towards Tower Hill, looking for raccoon trees. I was amazed to see that the thorn scrub in the main part of the FC floodplain has developed a closed canopy! Only a few White Ashes and Black walnuts have been able to poke their way through. I followed the old creek bed and found myself pondering the ancient (I exaggerate) course. I would like to map it this winter with a GPS guy.

By the time I got back, the sun had begun to set, so we worked for only half an hour more.

* the change from FCF to GF is only a change of name. It is more accurate to give the thermometer's location as the (mid-slope) Gallery Forset (GF) than as the Fleming Creek Forest (FCF).