

Newport Forest Saturday May 20 2007

2:15 - 5:30 pm

weather: prec. 0 mm; RH 54 %; SW 0-20 kmh; cld/sn; LM 22 C*

purpose: to check on trees

participants: Kee

Glancing at the empty rain gauge, I was reminded that our precipitation shortfall (over previous four years) now stands at roughly 100 mm. I hope this is not the early sign of a yearlong trend.

I carried out a thorough inspection of the trees in the regen zone & elsewhere, finding twig growths of 3 to 12 cm on all species except the Tulip Trees (still spinning their wheels) and the Kentucky Coffee Trees -- currently breaking bud. Of the Tulip Trees by the creek, one is slowly leafing out, the other seems to be in trouble.

At 3:50 pm, a very light rain ("spitting") accompanied my walk around the TRT. The Thames is up over the beach again and the water has turned muddy. At 5:15, the drizzle stopped and the sun began to break through.

birds:

American Crow (FCF); American Gold Finch (LM); American Robin (RSF); American Tree Swallow (Rd); Blue Jay (GF); Brown-headed Cowbird (LM); Common Grackle (HBF); Common Yellowthroat (BCF/LM); Great Blue Heron (LM); Great Crested Flycatcher (FCF); Eastern Towhee (GF); Mourning Dove (LM); Northern Cardinal (GF); Red-bellied Woodpecker (GF); Rose-breasted Grosbeak (GF); Song Sparrow (LM); Turkey Vulture (UM); Wood Thrush (BCF)

phenology: Chickadees & Nuthatches nesting; mosquitoes now flying, but in small numbers.

* Since the temperatures on the GF thermometer nearly always bear a predictable relationship to the LM thermometer, I have decided to stop reporting those temperatures and remove the thermometer from the tree it is attached to.