

Newport Forest

Saturday September 1 2007

2:50 - 7:50 pm

weather: prec. 6 mm; RH 62 %; BP 100.1 kPa; calm; sn/cld; LM 30 C

purpose: watering trees, maintenance

participants: Pat & Kee

While Pat painted a new coat of stain on the trailer deck, I went to the RL to retrieve camera 2 for relocation to the FC bridge area. While passing some bushes at the RL, I noticed that the grapes were ripened. I sampled a few. Still tart, but some sweetness will come after a frost or two. Reemerging in the LM, I spotted a dead Short-tailed Shrew on the trail. (Shades of A'Nowaghi!) Pat put it on the ground near the base of the old BM, to see if any sexton beetles would come. Meanwhile, I took Camera # 2 down to the bridge, attaching it to an elm snag where it could look toward the bridge.

We drove up to the TS where I loaded up on water (500 litres+) and Pat set to work digging and planting trees. I watered all the new trees and the 2-3 year olds, as well. The White Elms are suffering the most, so most of them got a good dose of water. The TTs, on the other hand, are all doing well, but one -- and that's with very little water! Having completed all but the north side of the RZ, I drove back to the TS to pick up Pat and another 14 jugs of water.

While I completed the watering, Pat noted that a sexton beetle had come for the corpse and was busy moving it to a more favorable location. It would burrow right under the shrew and "hump" it forward a centimetre or two. Then it would leave the corpse and explore the terrain in the general direction of the relocation project. It did this, presumably, in order to map out a trouble-free route.

Pookie lurked in the vicinity of the trailer, coming to eat the kibble from its "dish" when we weren't looking. I caught only one glimpse of the brown & white coat. We had supper after I had finished watering the north section of the RZ.

phenology: river grapes ripe