

Plantin' Time!

Newport Forest Sunday October 17 2010

Weather: prec. 36 mm; RH 87%; BP 101.6 kPa; calm; sn/hz; T 19° C

Purpose: planting trees

Participants: Kee, Will

Yesterday Pat & I drove to the Van Den Nest tree nursery to pick up this year's load of recruits for the Regen Zone. The Nursery is in E. Elgin Co. near Eden, Ontario. Surrounding villages have names like Sparta, Corinth, New Sarum, etc. (Quaker Country). Further west, near Aylmer, there is a scattered Mennonite community.

While Will filled the jugs at the water tank, I thought hard about where to plant the Box Elders, our most plentiful sapling. I finally decided on a broad, diffuse band across the east side of the Regen Zone, planting well into the Blind Creek Forest to "hook up" with the Box Elder community there. When Will brought the tanks and jugs down to the planting area, he set right to work. It was all we could do (with only one shovel) to plant the Box Elders and four other trees: two American Beeches in the Copse, and a Red Oak and Shagbark Hickory up at the gate. The remainder will go in soon.

Except for reduced plantings along the road, this is about it for the Regen Zone and our planting activities generally. Now all we have to do is just sit in a chair for 50 years and watch it turn into a forest! The area now contains about 300 trees, most of them not yet clear of the long-stemmed field veg, but coming up fast!

In a future bulletin, I will review planting policy and include a statistical summary from the planting and field survey records. It is normal in wild plantings to lose up to 50% of your young trees. Most of our species have done better than that, although only one has shown a 100% survival rate: the Tulip Tree. Even the two we planted down by the creek are going gangbusters. They must love it here!

There were no birds to speak of today. Edgar Hurdle came down for a walk to the river. "Funny," he said on his return. "I didn't hear a single bird except one Chickadee!" The river is up from recent rains and Mussel Beach was completely covered.

Tree purchases:

species number height

American Beech 5 2-3'

Box Elder 14 3-4'

Red Maple 2 3'

Sassafras 2 2'

Shagbark Hickory 8 1'

Sugar Maple 2 3'

White Oak 2 3'

total 35 [total cost: \$237.30]

New species:

Rough Speckled Shield Lichen *Punctelia rudecta* FCF/FC BP Oc11/10

Note: New lichen will be added to list pending Parker's report on his specimen.

Phenology: goldenrod entirely in seed -- heads grey

Drought watch: precipitation shortfall 18 % -- still falling and we're on track to come in at over 700 mm, the drought limit.

Thames Talbot Land Trust director to move on:

In a recent general missive, Don Gordon, current TTLT Director made the following announcement: "At the most recent meeting of the Board of Directors I announced that I will be leaving TTLT in April 2011 and moving to Victoria BC. I will be working with the Board to recruit a new Executive Director and provide for a smooth transition over the coming months. As part of this transition the TTLT will be moving into a new office in December. This office is in the Bruce Pavilion on Western Counties Rd behind Parkwood Hospital and adjacent to Westminster Ponds."

Don will be very hard to replace and we shall miss him, but we wish him well in his new life in Victoria.

IMAGES:



Bruce Parker found this Rough Speckled Shield Lichen on tree bark near Fleming Creek. photo courtesy of Bruce Parker



Julie Van Den Nest checks off the tree order. No bare root this time -- all pots.



We pass a mennonite buggy coming into Aylmer. Pat: "For God's sake, don't hit the horse!"



Our fastest-growing tree is the Big-toothed Aspen, with three 15-20- showing here. (plus Tulip Trees behind the leftmost & rightmost)