

Newport Forest

August 22 2004

1:50 - 6:50 pm

Weather: prec. 4 mm; sun/cld; SW < 25; LM 26 C; FCF 24 C

Purpose: maintenance

Participants: Kee

I spent a little over half an hour weeding at the TS. It turns out that at this stage of development, it's easier to move saplings holus-bolus into a freshly turned bed than to weed around them. Given the heavy clay matrix, the root systems stay intact and one could say that the saplings don't even know they've been moved.

Down in the LM, I inspected both cores, seeing the first signs of drying stress, particularly on the elms and maples. The ashes continue to look poor. A Leopard Frog was out hunting. I found a Black-horned Tree Cricket on the (new) Balsam Poplar and discovered that Wingstems seem to do well under young Black Walnuts, whereas many other spp. are killed by the Juglone. Speaking of Wingstem, I found it virtually everywhere today. It has invaded the FCF, grows in an extensive patch all around the BCF bench, and lines both ET and the GF edge, not to mention the LM. We have Pat to thank, in part, for this development, since she has sowed the seed in various places.

Harvey's corn is now tasseling in HBF and the first tall sunflowers have reached full height and bloom. I went down to FC to bring the canoe back over to the near side and noted that both TTs are going gangbusters. They seem to like the mix of sun and shade, not to mention the softer, siltier soil. I found a gall on a young WA (S), but could not identify it later.

At the RL I added another 20 m of mulch to ET, now more than halfway to the bench. I walked the TRT into the RSF, noting one lone squirrel out foraging. I collected three mushrooms on my way up to the HB, but none were new. "Lotor" was home in the old Black Maple - looked like a subadult with a solid mask.

When I returned to the trailer, I saw the little black barn cat up the road. It paused to look at me then scurried off the trail. I had a notion it would sneak through the GF to inspect the food dish, so I put in some DBs before it got there. I sat inside to relax on the bench and ended by watching what I thought might be a Spider Wasp bumbling along the ceiling, with special attention given to corners. This behaviour made sense when I realized that spiders live in trailers, too. Back outside, I checked the kitty dish. Empty.

By this point I was worried enough about the gradual drying that I drove up to the TS and loaded up with enough water for one core. One of the large blue tanks ruptured shortly after I loaded it into the van. All around the bottom I found mouse nibbles! I watered most of the trees in the SC, leaving the rest for next visit. Saw another Leopard frog hunting near the front gate.

Birds: (8)

American Robin (GF); Blue Jay* (Tr); Cedar Waxwing (TR); Common Grackle (HB); Northern Cardinal* (Tr); Red-bellied Woodpecker (Tr); Spotted Sandpiper (TR); Turkey Vulture (UM); White-breasted Nuthatch (FCF)

* about 12 - population climbing . . .

** carrying a worm!

New species:

Tar Spot of Maple

Rhytisma acerinum

LM KD

[Ascomycetes/Phacidiales/Phacidiaceae]