



RESEARCH:

1. Botany Interns collected and mounted 576 specimens during the 2006 field season.
2. Botany Interns collected data on Egler's research plots.
3. Bill Moorehead completed the rare plant survey and identification of their potential habitats.
4. Shelly Harms completed 6th year of Bird banding – MAPS.
5. John Anderson and Bob Moeller completed 6th year of the Breeding Bird Survey
6. Shelly Harms presented a report entitled: Bird Studies of Aton Forest 2001-2006.
7. John Anderson and Botany Intern , Eliza Little, start an old-field vegetation study.
8. Mike Aurelia completed 2nd year of data collection for the CT DEP Ruffed Grouse survey.

CONSERVATION:

1. Grant of conservation easement on AF to the Norfolk Land Trust completed.
2. Purchase of the 8.5 acre Koch Property on South Sandisfield Rd. finalized.
3. Corrective action on State Line Road erosion problem analyzed and planned.
4. Brush management through Whip Grant around Headquarters continued.
5. Meadow renovation with LIP grant in the Lone Oak Field planned.

THE ATON FOREST CONSERVATION EASEMENT

The board of AF, Inc. began the process of granting a conservation easement in 2001 shortly after the probate court distributed the assets of the estate of the late Dr. Frank E. Egler (May 15, 2001). This was to fulfill the wishes of Dr. Egler as expressed in his last will and testament to create a two-organization ownership to watchdog each other. A conservation easement, or restriction, gives rights to the land to both the donor and the donee, with both having to work cooperatively to fulfill their respective missions and responsibilities. The Norfolk Land Trust was asked by the AF, Inc. Board of Directors to consider such a grant in 2002, at which time a first draft was submitted to both boards along with a survey of the property.

A great amount of thought and discussion was put into the drafting of the documents by both organizations. The final version of the conservation easement was signed at the 2007 Open House. By agreement with the Norfolk Land Trust, AF, Inc. will make annual payments of \$1,000 for 5 years as its donation to the Land Trust's stewardship fund.



KOCH LOT ACQUISITION

In the spring of 2006, the Koch property (including a small hunting cabin) located at 233 South Sandisfield Road, Norfolk, came on the market. This 8.5 acre parcel connects AF to large forested expanses of Doolittle Lake Company to the west and another large forest block to the north and was considered an important parcel to protect by our board.

On November 15th, AF, Inc. closed on this property. All of the NAWCA, FRCC and matching grants were put towards this single acquisition.

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH:

1. Connecticut Entomological Society Field Trip hosted.
2. Monthly local naturalists' gatherings hosted.
3. Enhanced web site created.
4. Vernal pool work shop offered for local folks.
5. 6th annual open house event held in October.

GRANTS:

1. NAWCA Grant for land preservation project (Koch property purchase)
2. Norcross Wildlife Foundation 1-yr. interest-free loan (bridge-grant to purchase Koch property)
3. Farmington River Coordinating Committee Grant (covered legal fees for land preservation)
4. Land Owners Incentive Program (LIP)
5. Wildlife Habitat Improvement Program (WHIP)
6. ESRI ArcView software grant (geographic information system)

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD:



Michael Aurelia, President (2007, board member since 2003)
Glenn Dreyer, Vice-President (2007, board member since 1990)
Shelley Harms, Secretary (2005, board member since 2007)
Paul Lagel, Treasurer (2001, board member since 2003)
Roland Clement (board member since 1990)
William Urban (board member since 1990)
Carol Lemmon ((board member since 2003)
Robert Moeller (board member since 2007)
John Anderson, Executive Director (board member since 1990)

Past Board Members:

Peter Pinchot (2000-03)
John Raabe (2000-02)
Michael Lefor (1990-2000, deceased)
William Niering (1990-1999, deceased)
Frank Egler, Founder (1990-1996, deceased)