

ATON FOREST, INC.

20th Anniversary

ACCOMPLISHMENTS
November 2009 TO November 2010

RESEARCH:

- Deadwood survey and bird habitat assessment.

Aton Forest was awarded a Conservation Stewardship Program grant from the NRCS (see GRANTS below). With the assistance of intern/assistant Dan Watrous, we completed an inventory of snags, downed wood and den trees as part of the grant requirement for a new wildlife habitat enhancement project. The amount of deadwood found satisfied minimum requirements, negating the need to create additional deadwood. The data gathered in the inventory will be incorporated into a bird habitat assessment being done along the AF Breeding Bird Survey lines. These habitat descriptions will be used in future bird studies and vegetation research. We will re-inventory each year over the next four years with the help of citizen scientists and student interns.

- Rare plant survey was completed by Bill Moorhead.
- 9th year of the Breeding Bird Survey, June, 2010, was completed by Bob Moeller, Ayreslea Denny and John Anderson. 9th year of MAPS bird banding was completed, May - August 2010, with Meredith Torrey as the AF student intern. Bird data has been added to the E-Bird website.
- Vernal pool & amphibian field inventories and monitoring continued, including programs supporting the Colebrook and Norfolk natural resource inventories and continuation of the Connecticut Amphibian Monitoring Project by Joe Markow.



CONSERVATION:

- Sandy Brook Conservation Corridor project and other regional land preservation projects continue with Colebrook Land Conservancy, Norfolk Land Trust and the Litchfield Hills Greenprint Collaborative.
- Lone Oak old field restoration project was begun with an in-kind donation of services

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH:

- Invasive plant and sedge identification workshops.

Consulting botanist Bill Moorhead organized and provided instruction for two AF, Inc. sponsored workshops on plant identification. In April there was a 1-day workshop on distinguishing between invasive plants from native lookalikes in late winter/early spring. In July a 2-day workshop on field identification of Sedges (the genus *Carex*) of Northwestern Connecticut was held, primarily at White Memorial Conservation Center. Both were well attended. In 2011 we have scheduled seven workshops led by Bill Moorhead and are planning others. Check our website for schedules and more information.



- The 8th annual Open House event was held October, 2010, highlighting AF programs.
- AF was part of a middle school enrichment program organized Joe Markow.
- Local talks were co-sponsored with Great Mountain Forest and Norfolk Conservation Commission.
- A walk to identify invasive plants for Doolittle Club members was led by John Anderson.

GRANTS AWARDED IN 2010:

- ◆ Conservation Stewardship Program Grant, Natural Resource Conservation Service, for past land conservation management and initiating a new project for wildlife habitat enhancement.
- ◆ Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program Grant, Natural Resource Conservation Service, for invasive plant control and old field brush removal for wildlife.
- ◆ Community Foundation of Northwest Connecticut Grant to purchase a digital projector for workshops and other education programs.
- ◆ TechSoup Software donation of QuickBooks accounting software.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:



If you are interesting in volunteering at AF with any of the following, please contact the office (see contact information below):

- Natural history/citizen science projects
- Trail clearing
- Gardening
- Archive and museum organizing and cataloging

DONATIONS:

Aton Forest, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit charitable organization dedicated to natural history study and education, land preservation and the maintenance of the legacy of our founder, Dr. Frank E. Egler.

Contributions may be made to: Aton Forest, Inc., PO Box 509, Norfolk, CT 06058.

We also accept in-kind donations of services, equipment and supplies. Presently we are looking for donations of one or two kayaks, dissecting scopes and illuminators, and a spotting scope.

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD:

Name, Office (Board member since)

- John Anderson, Executive Director (1990)
- Michael Aurelia, President (2003)
- Glenn Dreyer, Vice-President/Secretary (1990)
- Paul Lagel, Treasurer (2003)
- William Urban (1990)
- Robert Moeller (2007)
- Stan Civco (2008)

Welcome to our newest board members:

- Linda Raciborski (2010)
- Bill Moorhead (2010)
- Nels Barrett (2010)

Past Original Board Members:

- Frank Egler, Founder (1990-1996, deceased)
- William Niering (1990-1999, deceased)
- Michael Lefor (1990-2000, deceased)
- Roland Clement (1990-2008)

*Magnificent Failure
Frank Egler and the Greening of
American Ecology
An Epistolary Biography
Author: William Drtschilo
Now available online at
www.atonforest.org*

CONTACT INFORMATION

Office & Fax: (860) 542-5125
E-mail: contact@atonforest.org
Website: www.atonforest.org

