

## **RGT 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting**

June 8, 2014 on Long Hill

It was the afternoon of the Rattlesnake Gutter Trust's Annual Meeting. Participants ambled, and a few were driven, up the winding trail of the Long Hill Natural Area. Varied hues of green lined the path as streaks of light filtered through the hemlocks adding touches of gold to the leaves below.

Steve Weiss trucked party implements to the summit over the steep road. Chairs were set up looking over the pond with the steeple of Leverett's Congregational Church and the town center in the background. Cookies and drinks to refresh the thirsty hikers were laid out on a table replete with table cloth and flowers. Cynthia Thomas sat on a nearby log surrounded by ferns and half hidden by overhanging branches. On her violin she played a series of soft songs. Her face was obscured shadows but sun lit up her violin and flashing bow. People talked, exchanging stories of the recently purchased 100 acre Cave Hill property, and commenting on the beautiful day and view. Guests of Honor included Les and Terry Allen and George Lockwood: Jim Allen and John Field regrettably could not make it. These five individuals have over the years have been the backbone of our recycling program which has raised over \$60,000 for the Trust.

The Business Meeting was presided over by co-Chair Steve Weiss. He reviewed the impressive accomplishments of the Trust this past year. Joan Godsey, of the Nominating Committee nominated 4 present board members for another 3-year term (Eva Gibavic, Sheila seaman, Brooke Thomas, and Steve Weiss) and recommended that Rocky Adriance join the Board of Directors: all approved of this wise choice. Steve, then, reviewed the dedicated contributions of the Guests of Honor and presented each with a certificate of appreciation, a beautiful and elaborate calligraphed scroll in the form of an eagle done by Julie Collier.

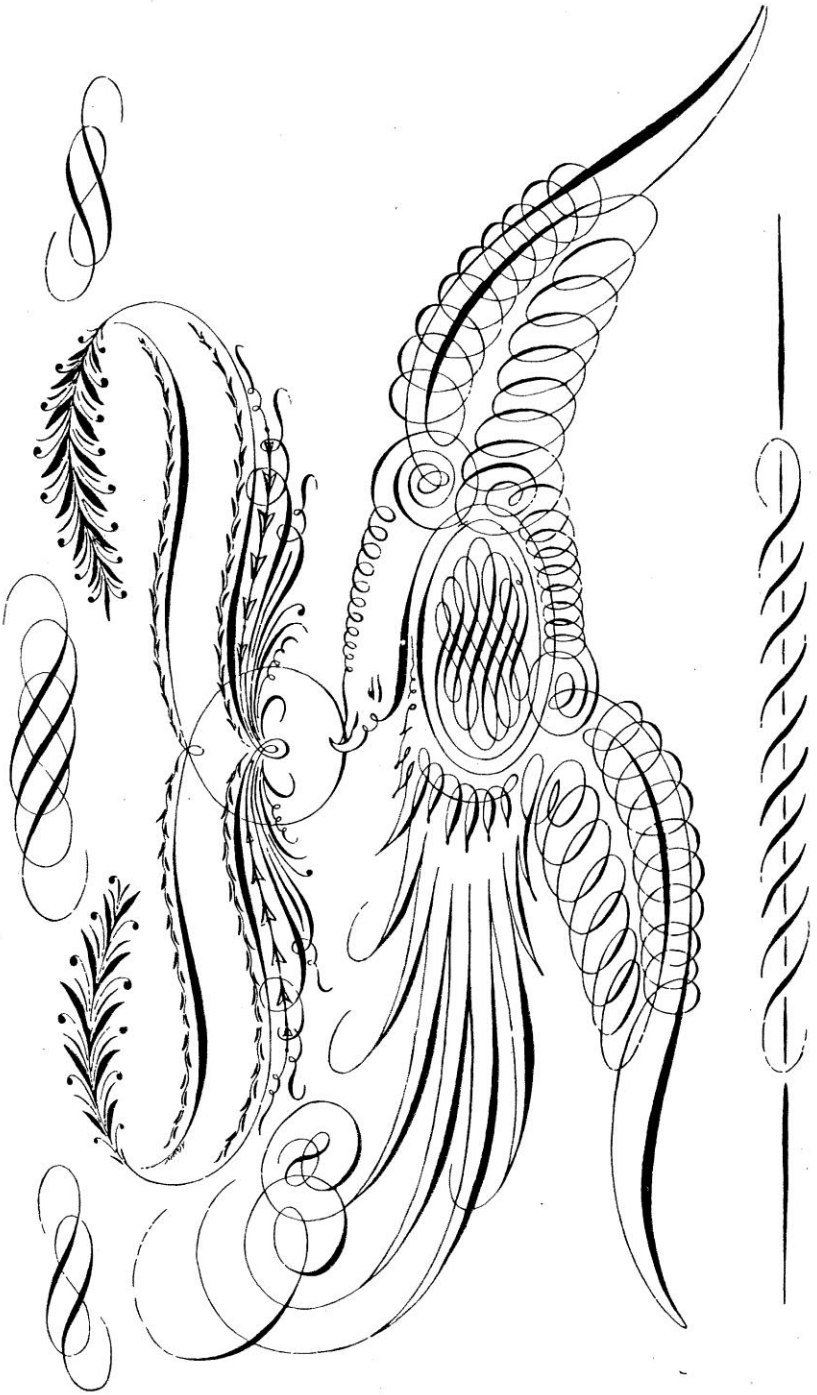
Brooke Thomas, then, presented a bit of history on a past recycling award entitled the "Royal Odor of the Dump." This was last presented to Dave Field and Gordon King in 1996 and took place at the dump before it was nominally sanitized and renamed the "transfer station" (see past notes on details). History behind us, he addressed the present Guests of Honor informing them that they would be the second series of inductees into the Royal Odor, 18 years after the first awardees. Though the ceremony was in jest it nevertheless reflected a strong appreciation by the Trust for their generous and ongoing efforts.

They were first presented with scepters consisting of an old ski pole with a florescent painted beer can on the end. Soloist Cynthia Thomas then sang the Gutter Gals with melodramatic gestures. This was followed by a morality play where Goldie Good chides Evil Eddie about his inability to recycle beer cans. Having endured this low-grade humor the guests, in all their glory were crowned. Crowns consisted of a

gallon, plastic milk bottle painted gold. A slit in the back accommodated an all size fit. These were embellished with a faux leopard skin band on the base signifying bravery in pursuing stray cans and bottles from the depth of the odiferous dumpster, and two milk bottle cap eyes to spot cans along roadsides. Finally, the crowns were capped with a RGT boundary marker signifying that all recyclables in Leverett are ours and should be brought, without question, to the Recycling Center. The crowns were graciously accepted thus ending the formal, and not so formal, part of the annual meeting.

Conversation between members resumed and continued as groups headed back down the hill. And thus a small gathering on a small hill which looked out over the town of Leverett and the Pioneer Valley came to an end. In the 26 years of its existence this little group has accomplished some amazing things and the green vistas from Long Hill reflect these efforts.

Respectfully submitted by Brooke Thomas



Presented to John Field, dedicated volunteer  
With gratitude from the Quiltsmaker's Gutter Trust

**THE RATTLESNAKE GUTTER TRUST**

*(not a Texas Savings and Loan Assn.)*

**PROUDLY PRESENTS THE 2014**

**ROYAL ODOR OF THE DUMP AWARD**  
TO

**JOHN FIELD**

FOR HIS PERSISTANT AND GALLANT EFFORTS IN MANAGING  
LEVERETT'S DRINKING HABITS AND REMOVING THE EVIDENCE  
TO OTHER PLACES.

HIS YEARS OF EFFORTS IF MEASURED BY CANS STACKED  
ONE UPON ANOTHER WOULD REACH OVER 100 MILES INTO THE SKY,  
THIS A TOWERING TESTAMENT TO THE  
GENEROSITY AND CONCERN FOR PEOPLE, SODA POP AND BEER.



**WE THANK YOU HEARTILY**



