

RATTLESNAKE GUTTER TRUST

P.O. Box 195

LEVERETT, MASSACHUSETTS 01054

1993 ANNUAL REPORT - RATTLESNAKE GUTTER TRUST

What are the places that make Leverett special to you? We are finding a growing awareness of these special places and a desire to keep some places as they are now.

The town center is one such special place. The view toward the hills is free of utility lines. At the request of the owner, the Trust has purchased an easement on a parcel of land along Putney Road, so that the view will also be free of structures. The final details and financial aspects of the Long Hill Natural Area have been completed. While our Annual Meeting hike to the top in April was rained out, a lovely late fall observance of the deed transfer was enjoyed by trustees, neighbors and Valley Land Fund representative Terry Blunt, who was so instrumental in the success of this venture. With the gift to the town of a lake parcel on Montague Road, we are moving toward our goal of a walkway around the pond.

In East Leverett conservation easements are being worked on in several areas with landowners, as we gain knowledge of the potential and procedure for this kind of preservation.

Negotiations continue with W.D. Cowles to work out mutually satisfactory preservation of the Rattlesnake Gutter area. We are pleased that the planned small development off old Cave Hill Road includes conservation land and buffer zones.

We have had several meetings with school officials to assist and encourage environmental knowledge, tapping the rich source of local experts. We are also reestablishing contact with the Hitchcock Center, which had its roots in Leverett.

We continue to depend heavily on our membership for our funding and we were pleased with the response to our annual membership appeal in January. The 1993 LEVERETT CALENDAR was a beauty. And our new T-shirt design is worn from here to Australia and Russia, thanks to our travelers and hosts at home. Less exotic but wonderfully dependable are the proceeds from our recycle bin at the town dump, which have netted us over \$10,000, thanks to everyone.

Membership to the Friends of Rattlesnake Gutter Trust is open to all Leverett residents. We invite, welcome and need your assistance.

Annette N. Gibavic, Secretary