

RATTLESNAKE GUTTER TRUST

NEWSLETTER

1996 ANNUAL REPORT

This year RGT created the membership status of Trustee Emeritus to honor those who have devoted exceptional time, energy and skill to promoting the Trust's goals. Two Trustees, Gordon King and David Field, were unanimously voted this honor. Both Gordon and Dave have been Trustees since RGT's beginning in 1988. Both have given invaluable service to our organization.

This 1996 Annual Meeting centers around recognition and appreciation of these two Trustees Emeritus as we crown them "Kings of the Dump." A look around makes it evident that the term "dump" is affectionate. The Transfer Station, as it is now officially designated, is meticulously clean and neat. Through the efforts and guidance of Gordon and Dave, RGT's returnables bin has earned over \$15,000.

Our celebration of Gordon and Dave is long overdue and tremendously well-deserved. With help from Carlyle Field and Charlie Good, Gordon and Dave have kept up with the sorting and transportation of the returnables you so generously donate to the work of the Trust.

During the past year, the Trust has had sub-committees working on preservation of Rattlesnake Gutter, management of the Long Hill Natural Area, expedition of conservation restrictions, mapping and preservation of hiking trails, and integration of educational programs for Leverett children with the goals of the Trust.

Our management responsibilities in the Long Hill Natural Area led us to clear the view from the top of the hill, which an estimated twenty to twenty-five people enjoy hiking each week. RGT has also filled the well on the Long Hill trail to lessen

the danger to animals and children.

Following the annual monitoring of the Laurel Hill development, the Trust met with Sid Poritz, Laurel Hill's developer, to discuss boundary adjustments on two lots which abut common land.

RGT continues contact with landowners along Rattlesnake Gutter with the goal of preserving and protecting the unique character of the Gutter.

RGT has been involved with several landowners interested in donating conservation restrictions. The Trust has established criteria for its acceptance of CR's, first and foremost that clear public benefit must result from donation and acceptance of any CR.

A substantial memorial gift was anonymously given to the Trust in honor of RUBY HEMENWAY and MAURICE GLAZIER. This gift also honored the "22nd" birthday of LOYCE DUNBAR.

We invite all Leverett residents to join RGT as a Friend, to offer suggestions, to give assistance. Let us know if you would like to serve on a committee or as a Trustee.

Annette N. Gibavic, Secretary

