

RATTLESNAKE GUTTER TRUST

1999 ANNUAL REPORT

Report of the Secretary

The activities of Rattlesnake Gutter Trust this past year have been mostly in the area of East Leverett. Under the leadership of Bill Healy, the management of East Leverett Meadow has involved several work party days when selective tree and brush clearing was accomplished. Plans for a parking area and a foot bridge across Roaring Brook are underway, to be completed this spring, making the Meadow more accessible. The Meadow, with its variety of wildlife, especially bird life, has been much enjoyed. Bluebird houses, made and put up by Bill, will provide further enjoyment. Bill has been our guiding light in this project, and we will miss him greatly.

Trail work and a foot bridge on the Roaring Brook Conservation Area was completed during the summer by Americorps workers, part of an \$8,400 grant. Steve Schmidt was retained as a summer intern to work on trails and the development of a cultural resource package.

A Conservation Restriction on a small parcel off Shutesbury Road was given to the Trust by David Smith.

The Leverett Elementary School Nature Trail is being partially relocated because of the school addition. Joan Godsey applied for and received a grant to help relocate the trail.

The Trust was pleased to accept a 20-acre strip along Old Whitney Road from Richard Roberts and William Pearson of Hidden Acres Development. This is a significant addition to the preservation efforts along the northern side of Rattlesnake Gutter. We are in discussion with two other owners of land abutting this property.

Trustees Peggy Sanders and Joan Godsey provided a real service to two gatherings on a very hot July 4th when they served lemonade (Gutterade, that is!) at the Interfaith Service on the King lot and later at the celebration on the school grounds. At the fall Harvest Festival, our booth's usual features were expanded to include toy plastic snakes which were very popular.

Trustees decided to express our sympathy to Gordon King on the loss of his wife by establishing a *Frances King Memorial Nature Program*, to be performed annually for all classes at LES. The first program was a live raptor program by Tom Ricard, arranged by Peggy Sanders for March 24. It was much enjoyed and appreciated.

Membership to the Rattlesnake Gutter Trust is open to all Leverett residents. We invite your participation.

Respectfully submitted,
Annette Gibavic
Secretary