

RATTLESNAKE GUTTER TRUST

2000 ANNUAL REPORT

Report of the Secretary

The activities of the Rattlesnake Gutter Trust this past year have been largely focussed on East Leverett Meadow. Under the leadership of Bill Healy, work parties have accomplished selective tree and brush clearing. Through an Americorps grant, a foot bridge was built across Roaring Brook. A parking area on Cushman Road, to be completed next spring, will make easier access to the Meadow. The goal of developing the Meadow as a wildlife sanctuary was furthered by the addition of bluebird houses. Bill has been our guiding light in this project and we miss him greatly. We are fortunate to have Sheila Seaman and Steve Weiss continue with this work.

On March 24th, we held the first Frances King Memorial Nature Program at the Elementary School. Tom Ricardi's live raptor program was enthusiastically enjoyed by all grades.

The planting of several trees in memory of Frances King next to the ball field on Montague Road led to the re-creation of a stone wall between the trees and the road. The Trust joined this volunteer effort by agreeing to build one section. After a start by Glen Ayers and Annette Gibavic, they were joined by Jim Perkins, who did much of the remaining work of the third section.

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

The Trust was pleased to accept a 20-acre strip of land from Richard Roberts and William Pearson along Old Whitney Road. Most recently, we purchased another 20 acre lot on the south side of Old Whitney Road from Pascal Marvell and Alberta Cronen. These two parcels are significant additions to our preservation efforts on the north side of Rattlesnake Gutter Road.

The Trust led three October walking tours to celebrate the fall foliage in properties purchased and preserved through efforts of the Trust. On October 1st, Sheila Seaman was tour leader at East Leverett, our bird and small animal sanctuary. The following Sunday, Brooke Thomas led a tour of the Long Hill Natural area, which boasts views of five Valley towns. And on October 22nd, Annette Gibavic was tour leader for a loop of three historic Leverett roads – up Old Cave Hill Road, over Old Whitney Road and down Rattlesnake Gutter Road, where the Trust's efforts began and continue.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Annette Gibavic
Secretary