

## RATTLESNAKE GUTTER TRUST

# 2001 ANNUAL REPORT

On a lovely spring afternoon, 45 persons found their way up the Long Hill Natural Area, hearing strains of music as they approached the top, for the 2001 Annual Meeting of the Rattlesnake Gutter Trust. It was the second Annual Meeting planned for this location. The first, in 1993, was rained out. It was worth the wait. The coolness of the day meant no mosquitoes; the Wranglers provided music to listen to (or to dance to!); the view was delightful; picnic suppers appeared. Our business meeting consisted of passing out copies of our annual report, electing Jean Bergstrom as trustee and reelecting Lou Bannister, Susan Sheldon and Sheila Seaman

During the year East Leverett Meadow saw much activity. Work parties cleared the perimeter of the field and a grant provided funds for working on a parking area and signage. Field observations identified 58 different birds and 35 different butterflies in the Meadow. Sixth grader Neil Brazeau did a project of recording vegetative growth over the summer, with an end product of pictures and data. He has offered to repeat this work again, giving us an important source of comparison. The Trust appointed him Junior Trustee in recognition of this work.

Our second annual Frances King Memorial Presentation was April 6, when Bob Marstall of Northampton gave a slide presentation of his illustrations of non-fiction children's books to the entire school, with special invitations to senior citizens. It was fascinating to see how he worked from observation, photos and knowledge to produce his lovely artwork.

Another series of fall hikes provided opportunities for friends and neighbors to explore and learn about our special Leverett surroundings. On September 16 John Foster led an historic hike to visit 6 mill sites along Roaring Brook. On October 21 Al Shane led a three hour hike which started at the Leverett Elementary School, went through the Woodard property to Brushy Mountain, emerging on the east end of Rattlesnake Gutter Road. And on November 4 Bill Wilson gave an informative walk identifying trees in winter.

Many hours were spent during the year in pursuing possible land purchases, discussing different aspects of Leverett growth, concerns of protecting our water resources and vernal pools.

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

Annette Gibavic, *Secretary*