

## RATTLESNAKE GUTTER TRUST

# 2004 ANNUAL REPORT

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Rattlesnake Gutter Trust had another busy and productive year, balancing our attention on preserving Leverett lands, providing educational activities and keeping financially afloat.

We gratefully accepted a land gift from Howard and Eleanor Mosher of a 14 acre lot on Rat Hollow Road. On the same land, we completed an agreement with the Berkshire Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club to relocate a section of the M&M trail. We continue to be in touch with the owners of several other parcels of land in that area. An annual responsibility of our Trust is the monitoring of lands we own and conservation restrictions we hold.

Outstanding among our educational activities is the continued gifts of time and talent by Julie Collier, who this year presented the Trust with an original drawing of a saw-whet owl. Most grateful of this gift, the Trust produced a limited edition of 120 prints signed and numbered by Julie. Julie also gave an "All Owl" presentation at the Elementary School on December 11. Each year our school enjoys a special program in memory of Frances King. This year on April 13, well-known naturalist Laurie Sanders brought a 72 foot giant paper fin whale to the gym, to the delight of the children and adults.

Outdoor activities included hikes with Al Shane to the Doolittle Brook beaver pond, and on another occasion up Rat Hollow road. Matt Kelty led a well-attended hike up Mt. Toby. And each fall the 5th and 6th grades hike Brushy Mountain.

Enabling us to carry out these activities is our supporting community. The Recycle Shed at the Transfer Station enriched us by \$1,786.90 this year, bringing our total to an amazing \$37,439, thanks to the efforts of Gordon King, Dave Field and George Lockwood. Keep those bottles and cans coming! Accompanying our fall fund drive letter was our lovely new brochure. Together they very successfully brought new members as well as more dollars. Thank you, Leverett friends.

At our Annual Meeting on June 16, Brooke Thomas joined Joan Godsey as co-chairs to guide us through another year. We enthusiastically invite our townspeople's involvement in our programs and activities.

Annette Gibavic  
*Secretary*