

RATTLESNAKE GUTTER TRUST

2007 ANNUAL REPORT

ANNUAL REPORT 2007

This year the Trust's efforts were focused on developing two new conservation restrictions, monitoring protected lands, and offering fall and spring programs of educational activities.

The 10th anniversary of the acquisition of East Leverett Meadow was celebrated with a birthday bash for 50 guests hosted by Sheila Seaman, who, along with Gwyn Mitchell and Mary Alice Wilson, oversees this wonderful wildlife refuge.

Our annual fundraising efforts were rewarded with \$6,790.00 in gifts and many new members. Again we recognize the weekly contributions of Gordon King, Roy Kimmel, George Lockwood, Les Allen, Rich Addelson, Matt Kelty, and Sheila Seaman to keeping the recycling of bottles and cans going at the Transfer Station. This program has been a tremendous source of income for the Trust.

Sheila Seaman was instrumental in the defeat of the proposed 45-house subdivision on the Leverett-Amherst town line called Haskins Meadows. Close coordination between the Rattlesnake Gutter and Kestrel Trusts brought about the purchase of much of this important wildlife corridor. That too was cause for celebration.

We rejoiced with Annette Gibavic and Mary Alice Wilson when their many hours of work on the 40-acre Gibavic homestead led to state approval of a significant conservation restriction. This lovely parcel, site of our 2006 annual meeting, includes meadow, pond, stream, vernal pools, and woodlot. The acreage was first described in a 1790 deed by two of Leverett's earliest settlers. It has long been Annette's goal to preserve this land, expanding the wildlife corridor on Rattlesnake Gutter to 137 contiguous acres of protected land. In addition, we accepted the conservation restriction on six acres of land donated by Fred Cheyette.

Al Shane, our trailblazer and inveterate leader of hikes, has retired from the Trust, although he promises to continue hiking with us. We thank him for his tireless efforts to keep us moving and appreciating our lovely views and landscapes. Jean Bergstrom continues to provide us with wonderful week-end programs each spring and fall.

This year's Annual Meeting was moved from mid-June to mid-May to honor all of the founding Trustees on RGT's 20th anniversary. We are here to celebrate your contributions and your support.

We are all greatly saddened at the loss of our mentor, friend, and founder, Annette Gibavic. With vision and wisdom, energy and vitality, she guided this organization through two decades. Her legacy to Leverett will live on.

Joan Godsey
Matt Kelty
Co-Chairs