

*Rattlesnake Gutter Trust*  
2008

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

Our annual winter fundraising efforts were rewarded with \$5732 and some new members of the Trust. Again we recognize the weekly contributions of Gordon King, George Lockwood, Roy Kimmel, Glen Ayers, Les Allen, Rich Addelson, Matt Kelty and Sheila Seaman who keep the recycling of bottles and cans going at the Transfer Station., another source of income for the Trust.

We were thrilled to accept a conservation restriction on 105 acres off of Shutesbury Rd. which has been maintained by a professional forester and abuts existing conservation land. There was a beautiful hike through this forest on one of our programs last fall.

East Leverett meadow continues to be maintained and has been enhanced by a kestrel box which was put up in the meadow in October.

Our programs in 2008 included a watch for the woodcock mating ritual in April, a presentation by Chris Kilham, a UMass ethnobiologist on searching for natural cures, a wetlands exploration for grades 3-6 at the Leverett Library led by Dawn Ward, a butterfly walk with Dottie Case, and a stone structure exploration led by Eva Gibavic. We are indebted to everyone who contributes to the educational goals of the trust..

Al Shane, our trail blazer and inveterate leader of hikes for many years 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 weekend programs in spring and fall. We welcomed 2 new members, Steve Weiss and Julie Shively, both of whom have served on the Trust in the past.

The Annual Meeting was moved from mid June to mid May to honor all of the original Rattlesnake Gutter Trust's founders on its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. We had a grand hike on Rattlesnake Gutter complete with theater and a fascinating lecture on its geology by Sheila Seaman & Mike Williams. This was followed by a meeting at the Leverett Library and a slide show by naturalist John Greene.

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