

RATTLESNAKE GUTTER TRUST

2010 ANNUAL REPORT

Secretary's Report

This was another productive year for RGT as we continued to maintain properties that are in conservation and to join with the town in making land accessible to the public. At the Annual Town Meeting in April, the town voted to use CPA funds to purchase 18.1 acres at the top of Rattlesnake Gutter, now known as Rattlesnake Hill. RGT plans to connect existing trails in that area that will ultimately lead to Rattlesnake Hill.

We are really excited about working with the town on various trail projects. The Leverett Conservation Commission (LCC), the Select Board (SB) and RGT combined efforts to apply for a trails grant from the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR). This grant is for a trail system in East Leverett that will connect trails on land protected by the Town of Leverett and by RGT. It would start in the north in the 4-H Forest and the Woodard Corner property (recently acquired by the Conservation Commission) and go all the way to East Leverett Meadow (owned by RGT). We will hear in June or July whether this proposal is accepted. Other organizations in town also lent their support to this effort in the form of letters which were included in the grant application.

This project represents the first formal partnership between the LCC, SB and RGT. LCC and RGT have been active in preserving land in town for decades and we see this as the start of a concerted effort to combine our energies to provide recreation on preserved land. Long range goals include construction/rehabilitation of trails in several areas in town, including Rattlesnake Gutter, Leverett Pond, and Brushy Mountain. This project is likely to span years as we seek to identify the public trails in town, improve and connect trails, add signage and create maps and descriptions.

RGT hosted several programs this year, including a hike in Dan Glazier Forest, a sunset hike in the Bill Rivers Memorial Forest, "Birds in Leverett: Recollections and Reflections" by Ted Sargent, "Around the World" with Susan & John Stoffolano, and a program on National Burial/Green Cemetery. Last fall trustees Brooke Thomas and Julie Collier led the 5th grade in a hike up Rattlesnake Gutter and Brushy Mountain. The Frances King Memorial Program featured Julie Collier and her Raptor Program – always an exciting time for all!

Julie also did a Raptor Presentation at our annual meeting in June. About 50 people attended the meeting which also included a ceremony to honor Gordon King who started our recycling program 20 years ago which has netted RGT over \$50,000 in revenue. An addition to the recycling shed at the Transfer Station has been constructed to accommodate the increased volume.

At the 2011 Town Meeting RGT is proposing the purchase of a small landlocked piece with 220 ft. of frontage on Leverett Pond. It abuts two pieces of preserved land on the pond and will add to the existing network of trails.

We invite everyone to attend our 2011 Annual Meeting on Sunday, June 19. There will be a walk on the Friendship Trail from the Town Hall to Long Hill starting at 1 PM. The meeting, a Raptor Presentation, and a reception will be held at 34 Long Hill Rd. at 2:30. We hope to see you there.

We will miss Matt Kelty and Gwyn Mitchell who, after many years of dedication, are no longer on the Board of Trustees.

Finally we would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your response to our Annual Fundraising Letter and for your support over the years without which we could not function.

Respectfully submitted,
Julie Shively, *Secretary*