

RATTLESNAKE GUTTER TRUST

2011 ANNUAL REPORT

Secretary's Report

At the Annual Town Meeting in the spring, town residents voted to purchase 1.1 acres of land with 220 feet of frontage on Leverett Pond from Carl and Edith Field with Community Preservation Act Funds. This land is contiguous to other conserved land and completes the protection of all the undeveloped land in the southwestern section of Leverett Pond. It is now known as the Carlyle & Edith A. Field Conservation Area; RGT holds the CR and is responsible for monitoring the land. The preservation of this piece added another link to the Friendship Trail along Leverett Pond. In June at our Annual Meeting we hiked from the Town Hall along this trail to our meeting on Long Hill Road. This trail, starting at Depot Road near the Leverett Pond inlet channel, is open to the public for walking, and from it you can walk to Long Hill Natural Area by way of Cider Mill Road and Camp Road.

The Leverett Conservation Commission and RGT are working together on the Leverett Trails Committee, improving and mapping existing trails in town. A grant awarded to the town from the DCR enabled work on a trail system in East Leverett starting in the 4H Forest and ending in East Leverett Meadow. There were trail workdays in May & October at the 4H Forest Trail and a guided hike along this trail at Harvest Festival.

In last year's report our spring 2011 programs were listed; all upcoming programs for spring 2012 are now listed on our website, www.rattlesnakeguttertrust.org, and on Leverett Listings which can be accessed from the town website.

RGT has a new T-shirt which has been a big hit. You can find it at the Leverett Library. It features a barn owl named Saggara, owned and drawn by Julie Collier. At Harvest Festival Julie gave a Birds of Prey presentation featuring this owl so folks got to compare the art work with the real thing.

Kestrel Trust and RGT have been working with the Mitchell family on the Teawaddle Hill Farm Conservation Restriction which will come before town meeting on April 28, 2012. Sixty percent of the cost of the CR will come from a Massachusetts Land Grant; additional funding of \$170,000 will come from CPA funds, pending town approval. RGT and Kestrel are committed to raising \$25,000 to complete the purchase of a CR on this beautiful 147 acre working farm. We thank all of you who have donated so generously to this project. The recycling program at the Transfer Station continues to support our efforts; our thanks go out to all who volunteer there each week.

Respectfully submitted,
Julie Shively, *Secretary*