

RATTLESNAKE GUTTER TRUST

THE

RATTLER



CHANGES

For this issue of The Rattler, we asked you all to think about "changes." Autumn is a time when it's easy to see changes all around you each and every day. The temperature grows cooler. The leaves change from green to brilliant red, yellow, orange, brown. The crickets slow their tempo, then chirp only on the warmest days, then fall silent as winter nears. As leaves fall from the trees, the landscape changes. Every day, our Leverett hills look a bit different than they did the day before.

Have fun reading what you were thinking about just a few weeks ago.

FALL

by Mrs. Ellis' first grade class

Fall is a time to:

pick apples,
rake leaves,
jump in the leaves,
put away the picnic table,
make and put up Halloween decorations,
get ready for the winter,
have turtles and geese migrate,
get cold,
chop wood,
have leaves change colors,
have birds fly south.

Fall is all that!

KINDERGARTEN THOUGHTS
ON CHANGE

"The leaves are turning colors."

"The leaves are falling down."

"No more apples."

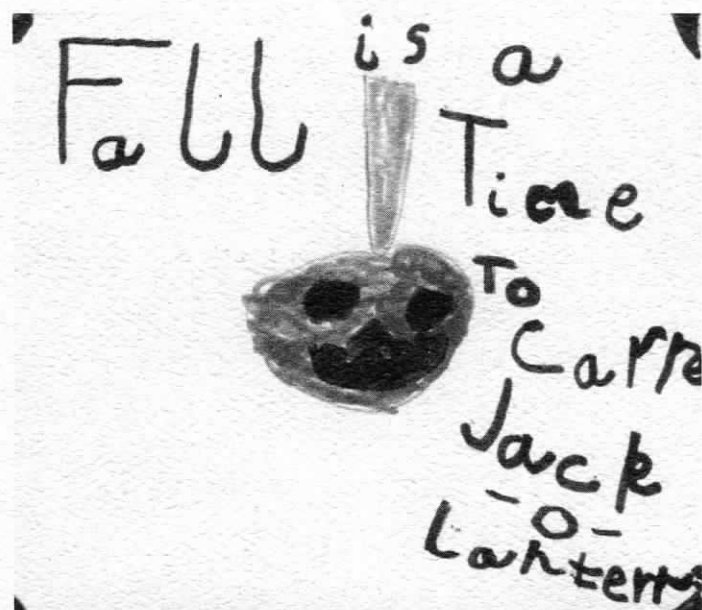
"No more strawberries."

"There are blueberries still. And raspberries.
And blackberries."

"All of grandma's berries are gone, even the
blackberries."

"The weird thing at my house is that the
strawberries are still growing!"

"It's getting colder, much colder."



Julia

FALL

by Kaela Dougan

Hot fall sun shining on the cold crispy air,
Willow tree weeping in the windy cold.
Winter is coming soon.
Raccoons will be stealing your garbage.
Winter is here.
Raccoons are stealing your garbage.
You are sad.

Spring is here.
Snow is going by.
Soon no more raccoons.
Phew!
Summer is here.
Soon fall will be here
again.

SNOW

by Avery Tiner

The mountains
are crispy,
the snow is white,
the water is calm.
The rocks are
colorful under the water.



Turner

CHANGES

by Daniel Lieberman Plimpton

The changes from the beautiful colors of
the leaves changing on the trees.
I can hear the wind in my ears
taking the leaves off the trees.
Then there is a big breeze
from the fall coming.
Changes.



Ariel

LEAVES

by Annalynn Marden

In the fall the leaves change color
to red, orange and yellow.
In the fall the winds blow cold.
In the fall the weather changes
from hot to cold.
In the fall birds fly south.
In the fall Halloween comes...
That is called Autumn.

FIFTH GRADERS WRITE ABOUT INSECTS

DRAGONFLY

by Glenn Wong

The dragonfly looks around with its
big bulging eyes
Looks tense but fierce and never scared
Clutching on leaves and tall grasses
It flies from spot to spot on silky wings
Delicate and fragile
Its brown tail with yellow streaks
Like lightning striking an abandoned island

SPIDER

by Eddie Murphy

Spinning and spinning
rapidly working
making a silk pattern
like none other.

Bigger and bigger
ever changing
"Now come, Fly!
Come."

ANT MISSION

by Jasper Fine

Go on I must,
an everlasting lust
to please my queen
for she reigns supreme.

Generations to be depend on me.
The young shall not rise if she dies.

My mission is clear.
I proceed without fear
Onward I trudge
to bring her some fudge.
A delicious sweet
to place at her feet.

CAPTURED

by Adrienne Jacobson

A butterfly was flying in mid-air. Suddenly,
two strong fingers grabbed its delicate wings.
It used all its strength to pull its light wings
apart. The fingers just pinched the delicate
wings tighter. A cold feeling of eternal death
ran up and down its little body. Suddenly the
fingers opened and the butterfly happily flew
away.



Drawing by Andrew Tiner

NAME THAT TRAIL!

Now that the Outdoor
Classroom loop trail has been
cleared and marked, it's time
to give it a name!
Please put your ideas on a
piece of paper and drop it in
THE RATTLER box in
Marilyn Putnam's office.
Make sure you include your
name. If a whole class is
entering one name, please
include your teacher's name.
The last day for entering the
contest is December 12th.
Give us your best ideas and
get them in soon!

MOUNTAIN DAY II

On October 17th, the fifth and sixth graders celebrated Mountain Day II. About 50 students, accompanied by teachers and two RGT trustees, climbed the western flank of Brushy Mountain, exploring the forest and the cellar-holes along the Metacomet-Monadnock Trail.

BRUSHY MOUNTAIN ROUNDEL

by the Anonymous Six

Dear Brooke Thomas and Steve Schmidt:
Thank you for your time,
The Conifer's still standing—
A five-needed White Pine!

The trip up Brushy Mountain
Ah what a glorious day!
The maples and the oaks
In red and gold arrayed.

Sheep bells in the meadow,
Cart ruts up the hill.
The ghost of Joseph Bartlett
Drawing water from his well.

John Glazier built a homestead
The Pike boys settled too,
Their children grew and prospered—
Helped build a dam and slew.

Cedar is a fragrant wood.
East points the Hemlock's lead.
White Oak leaves have rounded lobes,
American Chestnuts are diseased.

The lips of Rattlesnake Gutter
Could tell tales of Leverett town,

And a mighty water fissure
May have torn the Gutter down.

We won't know all the answers
But like the seeds of Pioneers—
Your wisdom has been planted
And will bear fruit as we bear years.

Rattlesnake Gutter Trust
Leverett, Ma 01054
October 20, 1997

Dear Brooke and Steve,
Thank you very much for taking us up
Brushy Mountain Friday. We appreciate it
very much. My favorite part was learning how
many needles on a white pine and the answer
is 5.
Thanks again,
Clay Delano

Dear Brooke and Steve,
Thank you for taking our class on this field
trip. It was a lot of fun. I hope the fifth
graders had as much fun as our class did. I
learned that white pines are not white.
Sincerely,
Patrick Lannon

Dear Brooke and Steve,
I had a great time.
I learned that a white pine has five needles.
It was interesting that the foundation of the
houses were still there.
It was fun sitting outside together eating our
lunches.
Sincerely,
Jerome Maczka

RATTLESNAKE GUTTER SPELUNKING

by Stewart Buck

Last summer I went to a camp called Adventure Camp which took place at a private school called Bement. One day we took a trip to Rattlesnake Gutter to go spelunking. We walked down the Gutter for about 45 minutes. When we reached our stopping point, our instructor told us to go find a spot to sit while we ate our snack.

One person found this giant hole that was formed by several fairly large rocks. Immediately we all filed into this hole. Lee, our instructor, who just happened to have a light, went first.

When we got inside the hole, we had to shimmy down a smaller one that had a little waterfall running down it. Inside the cave we had three rooms to choose from. We only had time to go in two of them. In one room the light reflected in every direction. It was really cool! The other room was big and kind of boring.

I recommend trying to find the caves.