

Rattlesnake Gutter Trust, Annual Monitoring Report

Portia Weiskel Conservation Restriction, Putney Road
August 2, 2006

Present: Annette Gibavic and Mary Alice Wilson (Rattlesnake Gutter Trust). Portia Weiskel (owner) was not able to join us.

Weather always seems to be a factor in this annual trip, after 2 years of rain, it was hot and sunny last year, and very hot and sunny this year (headed to 100 before the day was over).

We walked along the road and down to the pond.

The area to the north of the right-of-way had been identified as a possible community garden area. There is one thriving fenced-in garden. The rest was not used this year.

The smaller northerly enclosed area was brush-hogged last year. There do not appear to be goats grazing at present.

The larger fenced area was also partially brush-hogged last year and part of it near the gate seems to have been mowed (or grazed) this year. The southerly portion of this area is growing up to oaks. There is a major patch of sumac at the back - it always seems to thrive after brush-hogging. More worrisome is invasive species, especially autumn olive and bittersweet, along the roadside fence line.

Maintaining open land in New England is a never-ending process. We are so fortunate that this land is kept open - and even more fortunate that it is protected from development.

Mary Alice Wilson and Annette Gibavic, August 2, 2006