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## **Springer Family Conveys Second Easement in Sandown and Danville**

*This conservation easement protects 14 acres in two towns and gives access to Sandown town conservation land*

(Sandown, New Hampshire) – The Southeast Land Trust announced the completion of a conservation easement with the Springer family of New Castle and Danville on 14 acres of family land south of Cub Pond in Sandown and Danville. Curt Springer conveyed an easement on his property, which is located at the end of Morrison Lane in Sandown.

The land has been in the family for four generations since its purchase in 1845. It is the remnant of larger holdings that were in the family until the turn of the twentieth century. The land was given to Curt's aunt, Betty Judkins Ayer, when she was a child. Betty, in turn, gave the land to Curt in 1978. Betty, who was associated with the family business, the Pentucket Shoe Store in Haverhill, Massachusetts, died on March 24, 2007, at the age of 88.

The property will now be known as the Betty Judkins Ayer Conservation Area. "This land will be protected forever as a memorial to my aunt," says Curt Springer. "I will work with my forester to develop a management plan that reflects her keen interest in birds and wildlife."

A unique feature of the easement is that Curt has reserved the right to grant one or more municipal trails to the Town of Sandown to allow public access to its property that is adjacent to his land, and which currently has no access from the public road system. A municipal trail is a form of a public way, defined by New Hampshire law.

"Curt has gifted a conservation easement on a wonderful property with trails that wind around steep wooded hillsides of oak, hemlock, and pine that are dotted with rock outcrops," explained Ellen Snyder, Community Land Protection Specialist with the Southeast Land Trust. Snyder noted that vernal pools, shrubby wetlands, and mature forest throughout the property offer habitat for frogs, salamanders, songbirds, and other wildlife.

"We thank Curt for his diligent work to preserve the rural character of Sandown and Danville," said Paul Carey, Chair of the Sandown Conservation Commission. Carey further commented that, "Curt continues to set the standard for proper land stewardship while opening his land to the public and we thank him for his guidance and insights in support of open space conservation in Sandown."

As with other conservation easements, the Springer family continues to own the land and may sell it to another party. The easement is a permanent legal agreement that is transferred to all future landowners. Under its terms, they may conduct forestry, agriculture, and enjoy non-commercial outdoor recreation. Other commercial and industrial uses, as well as the construction of residences, are prohibited.

This is the second easement granted by the Springer family. The first easement was granted in 2004 on 32 acres in Danville, in honor of Curt's mother, Francesca J. Springer of New Castle, the sister of Betty Judkins Ayer. Both easements were total donations, with no public funds used to pay the transaction costs.

### **About the Southeast Land Trust of New Hampshire**

Formed by the merger of the Rockingham Land Trust and Seacoast Land Trust in the fall of 2006, the Southeast Land Trust of New Hampshire's mission is to conserve the significant land and natural resources of southeastern New Hampshire, including water, working farms and forests, wildlife habitat and natural areas, and community landscapes. As a regional land trust, the organization serves 39 communities of greater Rockingham County. The Southeast Land Trust has helped landowners and communities conserve nearly 5,100 acres of land through conservation easements and full-fee ownerships. For more information, contact us at 603/778-6088 or visit our website [www.seltnh.org](http://www.seltnh.org).

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