



Pumpkin Brook Link

Forest Legacy Tract, Massachusetts

August 2001

Dignitaries gathered on October 9, 2001, to celebrate the addition of a new link in a 2,300-acre land protection effort. This important link between the Squannacook Wildlife Management Area and the Hunting Hill Conservation Area has been protected with the help of the USDA Forest Service's Forest Legacy Program. On August 22, 2001, funds were transferred to the town of Shirley for the protection of a 136-acre forested property known as Pumpkin Brook Link.

"The Pumpkin Brook Link is a critical piece of this larger effort, connecting over 900 acres of protected land on the Squannacook River with over 1,000 acres in Shirley, Townsend, and Lunenburg."

Peter C. Webber, Commissioner, Massachusetts Department of Environmental Management

The \$250,000 Forest Legacy grant represents one-third of the cost of the Pumpkin Brook Link acquisition. The town of Shirley contributed \$250,000 to the project and received a \$250,000 Self-Help Grant from the Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs Division of Conservation Services. The Pumpkin Brook Link tract, located within the Nashua River Greenway Forest Legacy Area, is part of a larger project that will create a corridor of over 2,300 acres of wildlife habitat.

Owner William Haines had purchased the land, along with a house and farm, in the 1960's. The farm and house were eventually sold off, but Mr. Haines wanted to do something different with the forest that remained. He decided that the best use of the land would be to conserve it. Mr. Haines passed away unexpectedly, leaving his heirs no choice but to sell the property. The Forest Legacy Program enabled them to fulfill their father's dream of protecting the property from development and preserving its resources.

"The Pumpkin Brook Link is a critical piece of this larger effort, connecting over 900 acres of protected land on the Squannacook River with over 1,000 acres in Shirley, Townsend, and Lunenburg," said

Commissioner Peter C. Webber of the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Management at the celebration of the project's completion.

Located along Pumpkin Brook, the property contains a 15-acre vegetated wetland. It offers prime habitat for fish and wildlife, including threatened and endangered species. A cellar hole on the site is all that remains of the homestead of William Bennett, one of the signers of the 1747 petition to separate the land west of the Squannacook River from the town of Groton to create the town of Shirley.

The Forest Legacy Program protects important forests from conversion to nonforest uses. These forests provide essential wildlife habitat, protect water quality, offer outstanding recreation opportunities, afford outstanding scenic views, are home to historic sites, and/or provide the opportunity to continue traditional forest uses. A Federal-State partnership allows landowners to keep their land private while ensuring it remains forest forever through the use of conservation easements.



Massachusetts Chief Forester Warren Archey (left) speaks about the Massachusetts Forest Legacy Program to gathered participants at the Pumpkin Brook Link closing ceremony.
Photo by Neal Bungard

USDA Forest Service
271 Mast Road
Durham, NH 03824

Partners in forest conservation

Massachusetts Department of
Environmental Management
PO Box 1433
Pittsfield, MA 01202

The USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.