



Field Notes

Newsletter of the Great Barrington Land Conservancy

Spring 2006

“A Water Ethic: Cure for the Coming Crisis” Kirkpatrick Sale at the 2006 Lecture

Come join us to hear author Kirkpatrick Sale speak on “A Water Ethic: Cure for the Coming Crisis” at GBLC’s Spring 2006 Lecture at 7:30pm on Friday, June 2nd, at First Congregational Church of Great Barrington, 251 Main Street, Great Barrington.

At GBLC’s Spring 2006 lecture, Mr. Sale will speak about how for centuries humans have attempted to have control and dominance over the forces of nature, most especially of water, but in the 21st century we have come to the point where our control and use of water has reached a crisis. We depend upon water even more than we do oil, but what isn’t being polluted and defiled is being used up, in this country and around the world, at a disastrous rate. It is no exaggeration to say that the wars of the coming century will most likely be about water, and when they are over there still won’t be enough to go around.

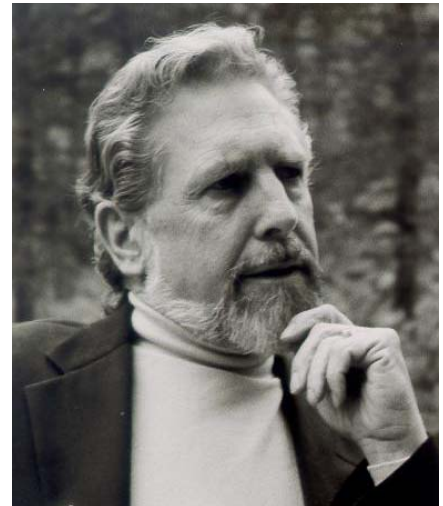
“The only way we can escape from the coming crisis is by developing a “water ethic,”

similar to Aldo Leopold’s land ethic, but about this precious and vital resource.”

Kirkpatrick Sale is a contributing editor for *The Nation* and the

author of nine previous books, including *Dwellers in the Land: The Bioregional Vision*, *Conquest of Paradise: Christopher Columbus and the Columbian Conquest*, *Rebels Against the Future: The Luddites and Their War on the Industrial Revolution*, and *The Fire of His Genius: Robert Fulton and the American Dream*. He was named by *Utne Reader* as one of the 100 living visionaries. He is a founding board member of the E. F. Schumacher Society and makes his home in Cold Spring, New York.

“I write my books to help save society and the planet; I’m actually trying to influence the public psychology and policy of this and other industrialized societies, before it is too late...It’s very important to me that my books be read, not for reputation or money, but because of what I am trying to do - influence people in a profound way.”



Kirkpatrick Sale

Look Inside . . .

- ~ River Walk: Upcoming Events
- ~ Lake Mansfield Alliance
- ~ Help Us Achieve Our Goals
- ~ Neighborhood Initiatives

The Great Barrington Land Conservancy is dedicated to preserving and enhancing the community’s natural resources and distinctive character. Through promotion and fund-raising endeavors, GBLC enables the dedication of open space to agricultural, recreational and scenic purposes through acquisitions, conservation easements, and agricultural preservation restrictions.

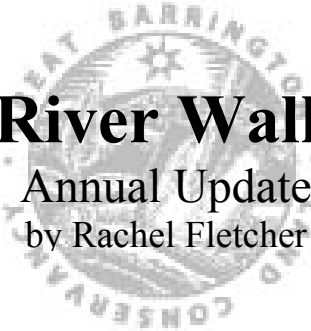
GBLC Spring 2006 Lecture

Friday, June 2nd, 7:30pm

First Congregational Church of Great Barrington

251 Main Street, Great Barrington

Admission \$10 donation to the Conservancy



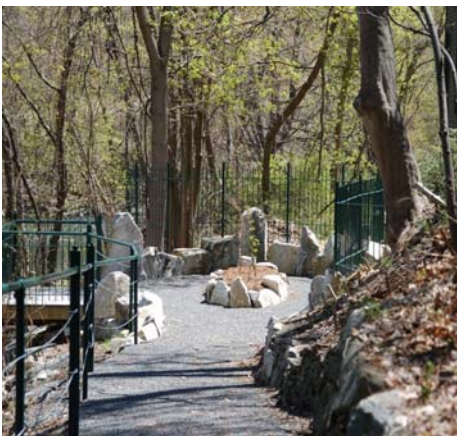
River Walk

Annual Update

by Rachel Fletcher

River Walk will celebrate the accomplishments of electrical inventor William Stanley, Jr., when we dedicate a new section of trail—the William Stanley Overlook—directly across from the site of the historic Horace Day rubberwear factory. It was here in 1886 that Stanley successfully transmitted high voltage alternating current electricity. The Overlook, designed and built by Peter Jensen, extends the upstream River Walk trail approximately 50 feet and culminates in a cul-de-sac. A new 6 ft x 8 ft observation platform cantilevers over the riverbank, where the public may view for the first time the ruins of the rubberwear factory, and enjoy dramatic river views. Interpretative signage tells the story of Stanley’s experiments and his role in Great Barrington’s industrial history.

Please join Stanley’s

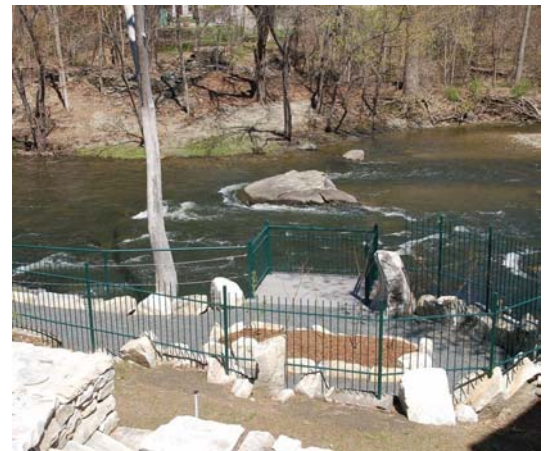


The William Stanley Overlook

Drew has prepared for the occasion *Fifty Sites in Great Barrington, Massachusetts Associated with William Stanley, Jr. and the Emergence of the Modern Electric Age*. The publication is a companion to *Fifty Sites ... Associated with the Civil rights Activist W. E. B. Du Bois*, which Drew prepared for the 2002 dedication of the W. E. B. Du Bois River Garden park at the Church Street entrance to River Walk.

At the William Stanley Overlook, we are removing exotic-invasives while planting native species, propagated from local seed. Over time, the Overlook setting will be defined by river birch, silver and striped maple trees, hay scented and bracken ferns, aster species and other native perennial herbs and vine species. To improve poor soil conditions, we continue to use “compost tea,” a proven concentration of aerobic microorganisms and fungi that promotes disease and drought resistant plant growth. We have shared our knowledge of this product’s effectiveness with the EPA in Pittsfield, where they face similar conditions at PCB remediated sites.

In addition to landscaping the William Stanley Overlook, we continue to remove exotic-



The Observation Platform

invasives, plant native species propagated from locally collected seed, and apply “compost tea” at other sites, with special enhancements planned for the W. E. B. Du Bois River Garden park and rain garden. Interns from Simon’s Rock College will be on hand to perform these tasks and to monitor our native plant and compost tea installations, so that we can quantify our results. Educational programs are available for students, with workdays, tours and lectures about ecology and the river’s rich historical heritage.

River Walk is demonstrating the potential for developing riverfront access along trashed and abused areas, so that more pristine riparian areas may remain forever wild. River Walk has shown how public access need not compromise river ecology and water quality, by creating vegetative buffers of native species, mitigating non-point source pollution with drop inlets, installing a rain garden and permeable trail surfaces, and addressing degraded soils with “compost tea”. Most important, the process of building the River Walk trail continues to build

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community stewardship.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank recent contributors to River Walk, including: the Robbins-de Beaumont Foundation; the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation; the Town of Great Barrington; Katherine L. W. and Winthrop M. Crane III Charitable Trust; Lenox Garden Club; Turkeybush Foundation; Windy Hill Farm; Wheeler & Taylor; Berkshire Bank Foundation; Pittsfield Cooperative Bank, Reistan Enterprises, and Berkshire Corporation. *Fifty Sites* is co-sponsored by the Great Barrington Historical Society and the Great Barrington Land Conservancy.

If you go:

What: William Stanley Overlook Dedication and Reception & Walking Tour of William Stanley Sites in Great Barrington

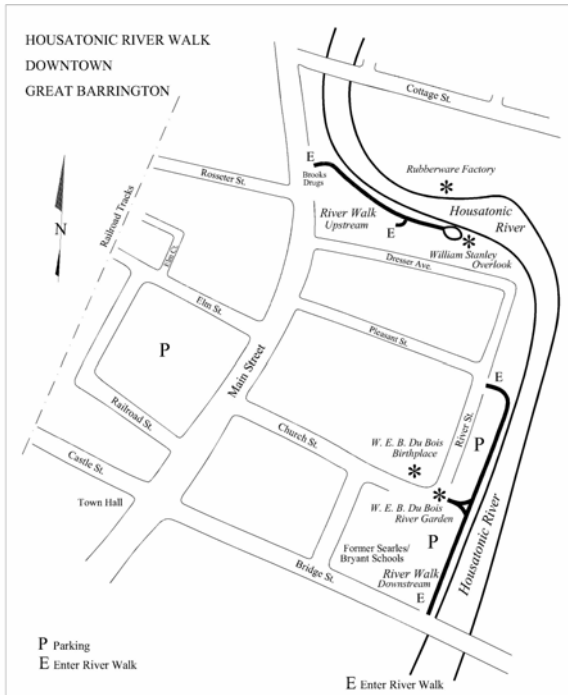
Cost: Free

Where: Great Barrington River Walk via 39 Dresser Avenue, Great Barrington

When: Saturday June 3, Dedication at 11:00 A.M., Walking Tour at 12:30 A.M.

Info: Rachel Fletcher, 413-528-3391, river@gbriverwalk.org

Reservations: (Walking Tour only) Bernard Drew, 413-528-4953, drew24@bcn.net



Membership Form

Enclosed is my tax-deductible **membership** contribution to GBLC to support efforts to preserve and enhance the community's natural resources and distinctive character.

- \$20 Individual
- \$35 Family
- \$50 Supporter
- \$100 Conserver
- \$250 Guardian
- \$500 Steward
- \$1000 Sustaining
- \$_____ Other

CHECKS PAYABLE TO: **GBLC**

In addition to my membership, I would also like to support my favorite projects:

\$_____ RiverWalk for protection and stewardship of the Housatonic riverbank.

\$_____ Pfeiffer Arboretum for forest stewardship and the study and management of invasive and native species.

\$_____ Farmland Fund for the preservation of agricultural land and working farms.

\$_____ Lake Mansfield Alliance for the stewardship of the lake and its surroundings.

\$_____ Neighborhood Initiative for establishing preservation programs in communities.

\$_____ Conservancy Endowment Fund to ensure future preservation of Great Barrington's natural resources.

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY/STATE/ZIP

PHONE

EMAIL

GREAT BARRINGTON LAND CONSERVANCY
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GREAT BARRINGTON, MA 01230

Help Us Achieve Our Goals

by Peter Flemming



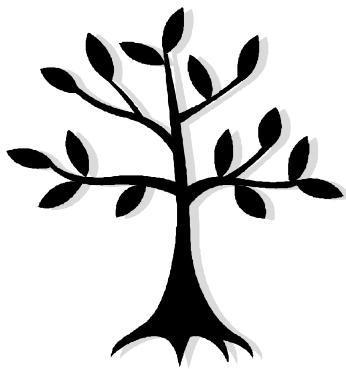
Great Barrington Land Conservancy is a volunteer organization dedicated to the preservation of farming, scenic, recreational and historic land and properties in our community. A vital component of our activity is encouraging the gifting, the partial gifting, and the purchase of properties or the development rights of properties having significant farming, scenic, recreational or historic values. To this end we need to build an endowment fund to enable us to publicize and advocate these goals both in general and in specific cases; and most significantly, to form the monetary base to initiate the purchase or partial purchase of properties or development rights when such occasions arise.

*TO THIS END WE NEED TO
BUILD AN ENDOWMENT
FUND TO ENABLE US TO
PUBLICIZE AND
ADVOCATE THESE GOALS
BOTH IN GENERAL AND IN
SPECIFIC CASES*

Generally speaking, membership dues and donations up to \$250 are applied by us to annual operating expenses for part-time consultant or editorial assistance, for printing and

and mailing expenses, accounting and insurance costs, and for rental and honorarium lecture expenses.

Those of our supporters who can make more generous contributions on the order of \$500, \$1,000, \$2,500, \$5,000 or more will help us develop the scale of endowment which land trusts require to become meaningful "players" in the land conservation "game." To this end we encourage not only cash contributions, but also gifts of appreciated stock, and inclusion of the Great Barrington Land Conservancy in one's will.



Please feel free to contact our accountant, Katherine Killiard, at (413) 644-9949 or by email to m.killiard@verizon.net for assistance.

And we would be pleased to develop ideas for conserving farming, scenic, recreational or historic properties with land owners in our community. Please feel free to contact our President, Anthony J. Barnaba, at (413) 528-2583, or by email to abarnaba@bluelinedesigninc.net, to work out "ways and means" to accomplish *your* conservation goals!

G B L C Board of Directors

Anthony Barnaba, President
Peter Flemming, Treasurer
Dale Abrams
Dennis Downing
Shep Evans
Jonathan Hankin
Peter Jensen
Dorrie Margolin
Lou Oggiani
Barbara Witschonke
Susan Witt

Treasurer's Report

Ordinary Income/Expense
2005
(Exclusive of Special Projects)

Income

Donations/Mbrshps	\$6,124
Interest Income	124
Lecture Income	<u>1,160</u>
Total Income	\$7,408

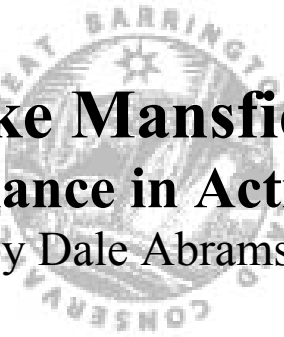
Expense

Fees	\$ 95
Advertising	132
Dues	350
Insurance	1,149
Lecture Expense	1,465
Postage	74
Printing	986
Professional Fees	1,983
Rentals	100
Supplies/Materials	181
Real Estate Taxes	<u>616</u>
Total Expense	\$7,131

Net Ordinary Income \$ 277

Lake Mansfield Alliance in Action

by Dale Abrams



Selectman and Town Manager to encourage the formation of a new town task force charged with developing a lake Mansfield improvement plan. It has always been an LMA goal to bring together the diverse governing bodies associated with the lake, road beach, and town forest. The task force will do just that, with members coming from the Select Board, Conservation Commission, Parks and Recreation Commission, the Prudential Commission, the Department of Public Works, along with LMA and citizens at large. The group will hold public meetings throughout the year to research and compile a new document focused on public safety, accessibility, and water quality. Particular attention will be placed on finding solutions to long-standing concerns about the safety of pedestrians, lake users, and vehicles on this narrow town road. Please bring your innovative ideas to the upcoming meetings.

Animal Proof Containers

Through half a decade of lake clean-ups, LMA volunteers have noticed that some of the garbage we collect each year has spilled out of the containers designed to hold the litter. A tell tale ring of scattered litter often surrounds the existing open bins, especially at the forest edge where raccoons and other animals roam at night. After exploring a number of options, LMA found an effective solution for this problem. With LMA's support and encouragement, the Parks and Recreation Commission has purchased two "animal-proof"



New animal-proof trash container

combination trash and recycling bins to replace open barrels now in use. LMA will be donating half the cost of this expensive, but necessary, purchase. Bins will be added each year until the beach and park are fully outfitted.

Thank You!

Thank you to everyone who helped LMA accomplish many improvements and encouraging developments at Lake Mansfield this year. We couldn't do this without your contributions, volunteer labor, donated materials, and your presence at key town meetings. Please continue to be an active lake advocate as you remind your friends and neighbors about the importance of protecting and preserving Lake Mansfield for future generations.



Welcome to Lake Mansfield

For the safety & enjoyment of all:

- This is a smoke-free zone
- Please recycle/discard of trash properly
- No alcohol/illegal substances
- No glass containers
- No dogs in park and beach areas
- Be considerate of others

For water safety:

- Lifeguard has authority to enforce rules
- Adults must supervise children in water
- Bathing suits required
- No fishing in swimming area
- No diving/head-first entries
- Swimming outside buoys is at your own risk
- No boats in swimming area
- Do not disturb underwater weed control fabric

LAKEMANSFIELD WATERSHED
A Watershed of the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection

Neighborhood Initiatives

by Anthony Barnaba

The Great Barrington Land Conservancy recognizes the importance of neighborhood initiative and community based planning by supporting specific projects that enhance our natural and built environment. From a project's conception thru its completion, our board has the collective experience to offer a broad range of problem solving skills.

The basis for defining ones neighborhoods around environmental, historical and even economic principles is fairly well proven as both a science and an art. By organizing ourselves around the enhancement of our immediate surroundings we create a context for broader civic involvement and problem solving. As we look at our town, and identify the physical attributes that define our unique sense of place we should note that the built and natural beauty that surrounds us were in fact the results of well planned initiatives.

Organized neighborhood initiatives can embody effective change. Neighborhood initiatives require balancing short term goals with long term planning that can be documented for future generations.

If you have concerns about future development pressures on your neighborhood or would like to initiate a community project please consider working with the Great Barrington Land Conservancy.

For more information contact abarnaba@bluelinedesigninc.net.

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