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# FIELD NOTES

Newsletter of the Great Barrington Land Conservancy

## Riverfront Trail Work Resumes

Final construction of Riverfront Trail will take place this summer and fall. Once completed, the trail will provide access to cherished natural areas and a new walkable route near town.

Riverfront Trail will feature a five-foot wide crushed stone pathway from Bridge St. through Olympian Meadows and a six-foot wide pathway from Brookside Road to the Fairgrounds boundary which will accommodate assistive devices.

The trail will have exciting views of the Housatonic River with opportunities for outdoor recreation, education, and birdwatching. It will feature river viewing areas, informational signs that note important local historical and natural features, and a 20-foot long footbridge.

Two wooden benches with custom engraved plaques will be available to adopt on the Riverfront Trail near Brookside Road. You may honor a loved one in your life by making a gift that will last for years to come. Contact [info@GBLand.org](mailto:info@GBLand.org) to learn more about how to dedicate a bench to someone special.



*Adopt this Bench!*

Envisioned by GBLC and local planners for several decades, this new trail has been made possible through the generous permission of the property owners, The Great Barrington Youth Foundation, The Town of Great Barrington, the John Dewey Academy, Lido Property, LLC, and Bostwick Gardens. Funding was provided by the Community Preservation Act program, the Recreational Trails Program of Massachusetts, the Fields Pond Foundation of Waltham, and many private donors.

## GBLC Team Tackles Invasives at Ladd

The Conservation and Stewardship Committee of the Great Barrington Land Conservancy has recently decided to take action against the exotic invasive *Phragmites australis*— also known as the common reed— at the Ladd Property, a recent generous gift of the Ladd family which is north of the Barrington Brewery & Restaurant. Currently there is one small patch of this aggressive, perennial wetland grass at the property, but left unchecked it will spread and displace native plants and animals. This summer, committee members will undertake control measures including hand clipping and weed whacking and continue until the fall. The population of the invasive common reed will be mapped in order to measure the efficacy of the control measures. A successfully protected ecosystem will contain cattails, nesting mallards, frog and salamander egg masses, and muskrat lodges.

## Pfeiffer Arboretum Gets New Leader



Devan Arnold, a newly elected GBLC board member, has been named the Project Leader at GBLC's Pfeiffer Arboretum. Devan is the owner and manager of Sassafras Land Care LLC, an ecological landscaping company that specializes in working with native New England perennial species and other hardy perennials to create more ecologically functional landscapes while enhancing the human experience and connection to those lands. A native of Great Barrington, Devan received his bachelors in Agroecology and his PDC (Permaculture Design Certificate) from Prescott College in Arizona. He was a nursery staff member at Project Native for five seasons before he left to start his own company in 2015.