



# LIVING WITH NATURE

## West Bald Hill: 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

It was the Spring of 1990. A dozen people gathered in a living room in Philomath to talk about a property adjacent to Bald Hill Park, 54 acres on the west slope of the hill were on the market to be sold as 2-acre allotments. The Park's main hiking trail looped through these acres, and the vistas across the valley were unparalleled from its summit, with visibility to the peaks of the Cascade and Coast Ranges. The trail passed through carpets of wildflowers in early summer, including the largest known population of the threatened native Willamette Daisy.

These community members were coming together because they recognized the importance of this property, and knew that they had to do something to protect it. They decided to act. Twenty years later our entire community is indebted to the foresight and swift action taken by this active group in the yearling youth of the Greenbelt Land Trust.

Within 6 months Greenbelt managed to raise nearly \$200,000 to acquire the west side of Bald Hill, successfully purchasing the property in December 1990. More than 300 people responded with contributions ... amounts ranging from \$5 from an elementary school student as a gift to his teacher, to three donors who met the challenge to "adopt" two acres for \$7,500. In 1993 Greenbelt deeded 41 acres of this site to the City of Corvallis, while retaining a conservation easement on the property in perpetuity. Greenbelt now coordinates with organizations like the Institute for Applied Ecology and the City of Corvallis to facilitate native plant restoration and trail maintenance with volunteers on the site.

In 1990 a third of all local residents were visiting Bald Hill Park at least annually ~ over the past twenty years its popularity among hikers, bicyclists and equestrians

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Bald Hill Natural Area

FALL 2010

## *leave a legacy*

In 100 years what will the Willamette Valley look like?

Make a difference in the lives of our future generations by investing in open spaces in this community. By including Greenbelt Land Trust in your estate planning, you are investing in a healthy future for all of our children.

Planned gifts include:

- ✦ Bequests
- ✦ Trusts
- ✦ Annuities
- ✦ Real Estate

When you make a gift of your estate to Greenbelt, you are not only leaving a legacy for a great organization, but you are contributing to the great good of our community.

What will your Legacy be?

Contact us to learn more about including GLT in your will.

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*The Greenbelt Land Trust acts to conserve and protect in perpetuity native habitats, working lands and lands of natural beauty, which provide a connection to the natural world for the residents of the Mid-Willamette Valley.*

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## West Bald Hill: 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

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has grown exponentially. Though its namesake ‘baldness’ has long ago succumbed to the hardiness of encroaching conifers, there is still something unique and special about this park that continues to draw us in.

“This is one of my favorite parks”, says GLT volunteer Anthony Stumbo, who hikes Bald Hill daily ... plus, he says “If you come out and do this, you don’t get old.”

Until recently, Bald Hill’s treeless top and grassy slopes served as testimony to the annual planned burning of the Willamette Valley by the Kalapuya Native Americans to facilitate hunting and harvesting of seeds and acorns. Oral history refers to an Indian camping ground in the shadow of Bald Hill, and trappers with the Hudson Bay Company followed a trail that passed near the base of the west side of the knoll. In 1845 the second white settler to ‘Marysville’ was Johnson Mulkey, claiming the north and west side of Bald Hill in the Donation Land Claim Act of 1850, and later building one of the first schoolhouses in the region on this land.

Over the past 150 years the landscape has changed, roads and houses built, but the importance of Bald Hill and its place among this community has only been strengthened.

“There is something amazing about being able to walk out your front door, and be in a natural area within minutes. Greenbelt Land Trust is proud to have played a part in the protection of Bald Hill.” – GLT Executive Director, Michael Pope

The next time you are hiking amid legacy oaks as you ascend to the summit of the hill, looking out over Marys Peak and the swales of its westward slopes, remember that a dozen people in a living room in Philomath made the protection of these acres possible. At the 20th anniversary of this project, we celebrate the living legacy that they have gifted to us all.

“Heroes are not statues framed against a red sky; they are people who say ‘this is my community and it’s my responsibility to make it better.’” – Tom McCall

## Willamette Valley Birds

These rare bird species have been documented on several Greenbelt Land Trust properties. Look for them during your next visit!



Downy Woodpecker



Bald Eagle



White-breasted Nuthatch



Great Horned Owl



Western Wood Pewee

# Land Restoration

Initial restoration efforts at the Evergreen property began in 2010. This 220-acre property, south of Philomath, was purchased in 2009 with funds from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board and the US Fish and Wildlife Service for the purposes of restoring native plant communities and wildlife habitat. Hardworking volunteers removed invasive Armenian (Himalayan) blackberry from a riparian area and removed debris from an old paint ball course, while heavy equipment began restoring altered hydrology.

Prior to Greenbelt owning the property drain tiles were installed to remove water from moist soils to make the land more suitable for farming. Drain tiles are perforated pipes buried in the soil that capture water from the soil, draining it to a nearby waterway. While this improved the farming, it has now become necessary to return the hydrology in order to restore wetlands to the site. With help from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife a backhoe dug up and removed portions of the buried drain tiles so that water will now stay on-site, allowing development of wetland vegetation.



# greenbelt's Summer Facts

5321

\$ RAISED THROUGH TRUST THE LAND EVENT



Trust the Land Wine Event

1257

PEOPLE ON GLT PROPERTY AND EVENTS



Run for the Hills

600

# OF TREES HAND-MULCHED AND WATERED AT LITTLE WILLAMETTE PROPERTY



Little Willamette

108,000

\$ FROM GRANTS RECEIVED FOR HABITAT RESTORATION & CONSERVATION PLANNING



Lupine Meadows

274

# OF PEOPLE WHO ATTENDED OUR QUARTERLY LIVING WITH NATURE LECTURE SERIES



Wolf Lecture



NON-PROFIT  
ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
CORVALLIS, OR  
PERMIT NO. 217



## Get into Nature

# Calendar of Events

### **Saturday, October 30<sup>th</sup>, 9 am – 2 pm** **Weed Mapping course w/Weed Spotters, BSWCD** **Weed Mapping at Owens Farm, Corvallis**

Weed Spotters will host a 2-hour class on weed identification at the Benton Soil & Water Conservation District (BSWCD) office at 9 am (456 SW Monroe Ave, Suite 110, Corvallis). Then we will carpool to Owens Farm for a hands-on Weed Mapping exercise followed by a festive lunch.

### **Tuesday November 2<sup>nd</sup>** **Oregon Election Day - Vote 'Yes' on Measure 76**

For over a decade, 15% of Oregon's Lottery funds have worked to restore wildlife habitat, protect our water supply, and make our state and local parks safer and more accessible for all Oregon families. In November Oregon will be voting to renew this ongoing support. Join us, and Vote Yes on Measure 76.

### **Wednesday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1.30 pm–3.30 pm** **Artists Reception for Elsie Fitton Ross, Corvallis**

"Through the Years" - An artist reception for Elsie Fitton Ross. Join us at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship (2945 NW Circle Blvd.) for a reception honoring the artwork of GLT founding member, Elsie Fitton Ross. The retrospective will review Ross's paintings from the 1930's - 2000's ~ Elsie will present a short talk on her artwork and journey's from the Northwest to the South and back again.

### **Saturday, November 13<sup>th</sup>, 10 am – 2 pm** **Evergreen Volunteer Workday, Philomath**

Join us as we partner with OSU Geo 300 class for a volunteer workday to clear woody debris along fence lines.

### **Wednesday, November 17<sup>th</sup>, 7 pm** **'Living with Nature' Lecture Series - 'A Look at Oregon Moose', Corvallis Library**

Come listen to Pat Matthews, Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife's State Wildlife Biologist, talk about Oregon's moose population and ecology.

### **Saturday, December 18<sup>th</sup>, 9 am – 12 noon** **Birding Field Trip, Little Willamette**

Join us and Don Boucher & Lisa Millbank of Neighborhood Naturalist to view winter birds along back waters of the Willamette. Don & Lisa will teach us about the birds we see and will provide a spotting scope to get a close up view. Be sure to bring your binoculars, extra warm clothing and boots. We will meet at the Greenbelt office at 9am to carpool to the property. Space is limited so be sure to RSVP for this event!! RSVP to 541.752.9609.

For more information on events, visit [www.greenbeltlandtrust.org](http://www.greenbeltlandtrust.org) or 541.752.9609. For volunteer workparties contact contact Steve Lilly at [steve@greenbeltlandtrust.org](mailto:steve@greenbeltlandtrust.org) or: 541.207-5529 (c). For workdays: tools, gloves, snacks & water will be provided. Greenbelt office is located at 101 SW Western Blvd. (by riverfront), in Corvallis.