

Restoration Work Begins at Owens Farm

Look out for heavy machinery! Driving past Owens Farm this summer you may see something unusual. Not your typical farm machinery, this equipment is designed to reduce trees and shrubs into chips. This August, working under the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Private Lands program, we will begin restoring a 5-acre piece of dense, overgrown oak woodlands to a more open oak savanna, typical of this area before Euro-American settlement in the mid-1800s. Kalapuya tribes, who inhabited this part of the Willamette Valley for hundreds of years, were largely responsible for the existing habitat in the foothills and plains of the Willamette Basin at the time of EuroAmerican settlement. The Kalapuya managed the valley through annual burning. These fires kept oak savannas in an early successional stage, preventing their evolution into coniferous forest. The fires were beneficial to the tribes for flushing out game and stimulating the growth of Camas, a Kalapuyan dietary staple. The cessation of annual fires has allowed conifers and noxious species to invade oak savanna habitat where they shade and eventually choke out oak trees. Oak savanna, an increasingly rare habitat type in the Willamette Valley, is important for the wildlife habitat it provides. For many bird species, particularly white-breasted nuthatch, healthy oak savanna is integral. These large machines called timber cats will be employed to clear out invading species like Himalayan blackberry, wild cherry and Douglas fir. We will also remove smaller diameter trees to decrease competition with the older established oaks.

The riparian forest along the Jackson and Frazier Creeks is an important remnant of the once extensive network of riparian forests along the Willamette River and its tributaries. Often these forests were one to two miles in width and contained a diversity of species. According to botanists, and



Timber Cat on the prowl...

other plant experts who have been to Owens Farm, the riparian forest is in very good condition. As such, we have no plans for restoration. Within the riparian forest lies an island of ground that has been farmed for many years. This year we allowed the field to lay fallow and already native plants are shooting up. It is our goal that the surrounding Oregon ash trees will begin reclaiming this area to riparian forest with a rich understory of native plants. We are hopeful that this habitat will also continue to support the federally threatened Nelson's checkermallow. Dick Brainerd, a local botanist, walked the forest recently and found twenty of these elusive flowering plants.

The lowland field visible from Highway 99 is slated for restoration as well. This piece, typically planted in rye grass, will be returned to a native wetland prairie, another extremely rare habitat type in the Willamette Valley. This site remains wet through much of the year, in fact standing water was observed until late this spring,

which makes this a prime site for wetland prairie restoration. The field is currently laying fallow, and all sorts of native forbs have started popping up. In the fall we will broadcast seed a native wetland prairie mix with a high grass seed content. Also blended into this mix will be American sloughgrass seeds collected by GLT staff and a few dedicated volunteers. The funding for this portion of the project will come from the

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Private Stewardship Grant submitted in partnership with The Nature Conservancy and the McKenzie River Trust. We were awarded the grant this summer. *See page 3 for more information about this grant.*

Many of you have probably observed herons, egrets and other bird species that frequent wetland areas. Returning the field back to a wetland prairie will not only benefit these birds but will offer habitat for many more. ❖

*Thank you Owens Farm
 Volunteers!*

Bob Altman
 Bobb Brown
 Deborah Clark
 Phil Hays
 Ester & Peter McEvoy
 Ann Megowan
 Barbara Mykrantz
 Roberta Smith





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The Greenbelt Land Trust acts to enhance community livability by protecting open space.

For more information, to volunteer, make a donation and/or receive the newsletter on a regular basis:

Write:

Greenbelt Land Trust
PO Box 1721

Corvallis, OR 97339

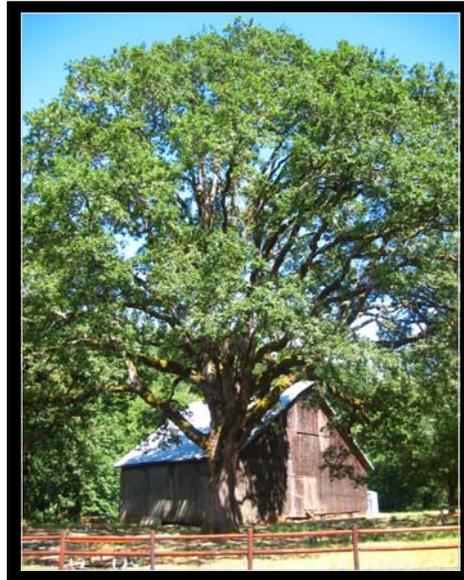
info@greenbeltlandtrust.org

Call:

541.752.9609

Or Go To:

www.greenbeltlandtrust.org



Barn located near entrance of Beazell Memorial Forest

GLT member instrumental in Beazell Donation

The Greenbelt Land Trust is co-hosting a potluck at Beazell Memorial Forest on **Sunday, August 3rd, 2003, from 1 to 4 pm.**

We are delighted to have Allen Throop attend the potluck to share with us his experience of how he and others worked with Fred Beazell and the county to make the forest donation a success.



The Greenbelt Land Trust is pleased to share this important history with our members and those who know Allen. Over the years, Allen Throop has played an important role in the Greenbelt Land Trust. He has been a member since 1991 and served on the board of directors for 6 years, 4 1/2 of those as president. Allen has given so much of himself to work on Greenbelt issues such as leading the fundraising campaign to purchase Owens Farm, working to make the Beazell land donation happen, working with and encouraging land owners to protect their important properties in the community, stewarding the land trust's easement program, and leading the Greenbelt Land Trust in transitioning from it's founding board members to the next generation of leaders in land conservation.

Please join us for this event! Bring picnic blankets, your picnic lunch and a food or drink item to share with the group. For carpooling, or questions, please contact Claire Fiegner at the GLT office (541)752-9609 or by email *claire@greenbeltlandtrust.org*. ❖

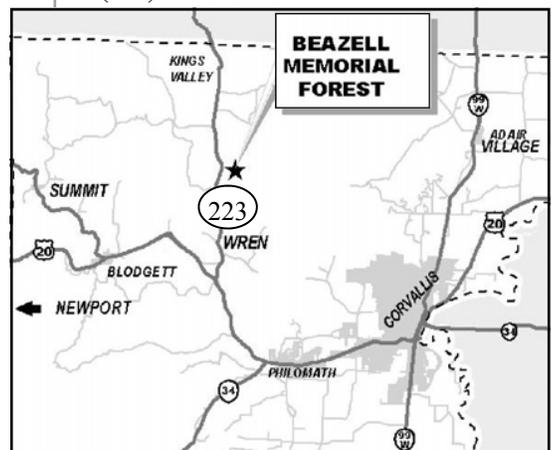
*Beazell Memorial Forest—
Grand Opening*

Beazell Memorial Forest is the most recent addition to the Benton County Park system. This 586-acre forest was donated to the county by Fred Beazell as a memorial to his wife, Dolores May. A grand opening ceremony will be held on **Saturday, July 26, 2003 from 10am to 2pm** at the forest. Festivities planned include speakers, music, history of site, research and education activity opportunities, and walks on recently built trails.

Over the last few months county employees have worked hard to open this site to the public. They have developed day-use facilities including new restrooms, picnic areas, parking, interpretive signs and trails. They have also worked to restore the exterior of the historic Plunkett House located at the park entrance.

The county plans to build on Fred Beazell's love of the land and his commitment to stewardship of this land by developing a facility for educational programs, in partnership with local schools. On-going efforts laid out in the management plan include oak preservation, meadow enhancement, habitat restoration and selective harvesting.

Please join us at this free event to celebrate the grand opening of Beazell Memorial Forest on July 26th. Beazell Memorial Forest is located on Kings Valley Hwy (223), five miles north of the Hwy 20 turnoff, west of Philomath. For more information about this park please visit the Benton County Natural Areas and Parks Department website at www.co.benton.or.us or phone (541)766-6871. ❖



Greenbelt to Head Restoration and Enhancement Efforts for Endangered Plants

The Greenbelt Land Trust will be receiving approximately \$60,000 in grant funding from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to restore native prairie and oak woodland habitats on private lands near Corvallis. The funds are part of the first grants awarded by the USFWS Private Stewardship Grant program, which provides funding to individuals and groups working on private lands to protect endangered, threatened and other at-risk species.

The Greenbelt Land Trust partnered with The Nature Conservancy and McKenzie River Trust on submittal of an application to the USFWS. The overall grant for \$289,760 was the second highest award in the country. The funds will be used at multiple locations to benefit 21 populations of nearly two dozen plant and animal species of concern to federal agencies and conservation groups.

Our work will target four sites near

Corvallis and Philomath. A portion of the funds will go toward our restoration activities on oak woodlands and wet prairies at Owens Farm. That work will target enhancing and restoring habitat for Nelson's checkermallow which was recently found on the property and Bradshaw's lomatium. Other sites are wetland and upland properties near Philomath that contain federally listed species including Kincaid's lupine and Fenders blue butterfly, Nelson's checkermallow, Willamette daisy and Bradshaw's lomatium.

Ninety six percent of the Willamette Valley is in private ownership. As such, private landowners are critical to addressing conservation needs in the valley. Several landowners have agreed to work with the Greenbelt on conservation and restoration efforts on their properties. One of the sites is already under a conservation easement held by the Greenbelt and another site is slated for acquisition by the



Seed pods from a Kincaid's lupine

GLT in the near future. Work on all properties will begin this fall. Initial restoration work is expected to be completed by December 2004. ❖

I'D LIKE TO SUPPORT THE GREENBELT LAND TRUST
with the following tax-deductible contribution.

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Volunteer Opportunities

I am interested in participating with the following committees:

- Education/Public Relations
- Trails
- Finance/Fundraising
- Geographic

More Information

- Please contact me about an educational presentation to my group or organization.
- Send me information about the tax benefits of land gifts and conservation easements.
- Send me information about including the Greenbelt in my trust or will.

Send in your
membership
donation
TODAY!



Earth Share
OF OREGON



Calendar of Events

'Walk with the Doc'

The Corvallis Clinic is encouraging women to get out and walk at Bald Hill during this summer's "Walk with the Doc" series. Join the clinic's OB/GYN staff for a casual walk and learn about current women's health issues. These free 45



Midge Cramer Path Gateway

minute walks are held from 8 – 8:45 am on July 12th, 19th, 23rd and August 16th, 23rd, and 30th. Call (541)754-1374 with questions or visit www.corvallis-clinic.com. The group will meet at the Benton County Fairgrounds, Midge Cramer Path.

The Greenbelt Land Trust is very pleased to see that the clinic has developed this series and is encouraging women to walk and utilize this valuable community resource. ❖

Interested in getting notified of upcoming trail and restoration workdays? Send an email to claire@greenbeltlandtrust.org and ask to be added to the email workday notification list.

Don't miss out on these great events!

- Beazell Memorial Forest Grand Opening. July 26th from 10am to 2pm. *See page 2 for more info.*
- Celebration Potluck at Beazell Memorial Forest. August 3rd from 1pm to 4pm. *See page 2 for more info.*
- 'Walk with the Doc' at Bald Hill. Ongoing throughout July and August.

Look for upcoming trail/restoration opportunities with the Greenbelt Land Trust!



Summer 2003 P.O. Box 1721, Corvallis, OR 97339

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