



Get into Nature Calendar of Events

Friday, July 27th, 7 pm Benefit Concert @ Interzone Coffee

5 local rock bands, including Michael Thomas, Exiles Among You, Tiger Island, Blood on the Banjo, and Abolitionist are playing a benefit concert for Greenbelt Land Trust! Tickets are only \$5, with all proceeds going to GLT.

Wednesday, September 5th, 9 am - 4 pm Cascadia Cave Tour

Join us on a day trip to one of the most visually impressive archaeological sites in western Oregon. Read event description on front page. Spaces limited: RSVP to jessica@greenbeltlandtrust.org.

Saturday, September 8th, 12 pm - 7.30 pm Willamette River Float Trip

Join us as we raft from Crystal Lake Boat Ramp to Hyak Park. Tour leaders Patricia Benner (River Ecologist & Historian) and Jeff Mitchell (Biology & Ecology Instructor) will discuss the River's historical ecology and channel characteristics. At selected stopping sites we will get hands-on, learning about aquatic invertebrates, what factors are risking the River's

biodiversity, and projects targeted at enhancing the quality of water and wildlife. Spaces limited (\$34/person). RSVP: jessica@greenbeltlandtrust.org.

Friday, September 14th, 5 pm - 8 pm Willamette River Celebration

Help us celebrate the acquisition of over 500 acres of Willamette River frontage protected by GLT in the last year. This event will include tours, local food, and River musings from honored speakers. Additional details TBA.

Are you passionate about preserving the ecology and livability of the mid-Willamette Valley?

If you are committed to leaving a legacy for future generations, consider becoming a candidate to serve as a member of GLT's Board of Directors or as a Committee representative. For more information about the Board or Committee application process, contact Board President Ethan Hasenstein at ethan.hasenstein@gmail.com.

For more information, visit www.greenbeltlandtrust.org or 541.752.9609.

10 Years of Restoration: *Owens Farm*

Has it been 10 years already? A decade ago our community came together to protect Owens Farm through an Open Space Bond Measure and Community Fundraising Campaign. Drivers heading south on Hwy 99 into Corvallis are welcomed by a vista of undulating meadows, riparian corridors and legacy oaks as they pass by the 312 acre Owens Farm. Since GLT's purchase of 95 acres of the Farm's wet prairie, oak woodlands and Jackson and Frazier Creeks, we have labored intensively to restore the biodiversity and ecology of the Farm's historical habitats and provide ecological linkages throughout the Jackson-Frazier Watershed.

WET PRAIRIE

Merely months after purchasing the land in 2002, GLT retired two ryegrass fields and seeded a native wetland prairie mix that included American sloughgrass seeds hand-collected by staff and volunteers. Upon establishment of the native grasses, the fields were then planted with

herbaceous seedlings and bulbs such as camas, Nelson's checkermallow, and Bradshaw's lomatium, starting in 2006.

OAK SAVANNA

A priority habitat for restoration at Owens are the 31 acres of oak savanna. Surveyor's notes from the General Land Office survey in the 1870's indicated that most of Owens was occupied by oak savanna, but as we look at aerial images between 1936 and 1969 nearly all of the savanna and prairies were eliminated by encroaching woody vegetation or agricultural development.

In 2003 Greenbelt, through habitat restoration contractors, began methodically clearing the oak understory in small increments. Where ten years ago stood an impassable 20 ft. high wall of blackberries and dense brush, there are now light-filled openings scattered with mature Oregon white oaks, and a largely native, herbaceous ground cover. In 2011, 350 maple stems were cut in a final canopy

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Volunteers collecting native seed from Owens Farm.

SUMMER 2012

Cascadia Cave Tour Preserving Our History

On September 5th join us on a day trip to one of the most visually impressive archaeological sites in western Oregon and to an ancient camas harvesting prairie area that is under restoration. Used by people for 8000 or more years, Cascadia Cave is located along significant indigenous travel routes and provided important cultural functions to more than one tribal group. Here the largest group of rock art panels in western Oregon remains in excellent condition.



Participants will learn about the importance of protecting and restoring the cultural and ecological values of the mid-Willamette Valley that GLT is committed to. Forest Service Archaeologist and guide Tony Farque will lead this two mile round trip hike through the woods along a flat river terrace.

Spaces limited: RSVP to jessica@greenbeltlandtrust.org.





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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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Hiking the Pacific Crest Trail at 80 years young

A Fundraiser for Greenbelt Land Trust

Alsie Campbell is hiking the Oregon section of the Pacific Crest Trail this summer as a benefit for GLT's Trails Fund.

★ How many miles is the hike?

The OR section begins south of Mt. Ashland and ends 465 miles later at the Bridge of the Gods.

★ How long will it take?

Alsie is planning on completing the hike in ~2 months, departing in July and reaching her goal by September.

★ Will I get updates?

Yes! Greenbelt Land Trust will be sending out photos, musings from the trail, and progress updates throughout the summer.

★ How can I help support Greenbelt and the fundraiser?

Make a PLEDGE or DONATION in honor of Alsie's momentous journey. All proceeds go directly to the Greenbelt Trails Fund to manage and build upon our region's beloved trail systems. Visit www.greenbeltlandtrust.org to find out more about contributing.

"The work of the Greenbelt Land Trust has brought wilderness within reach of all of us – without having to take a leave from our 'real' lives. There are trails within 3 or 4 miles of everyone in Corvallis. It takes a lot of work and money to bring the 'out there' within reach of all, but I am thankful for it." – Alsie Campbell



Wet Prairie Habitat Spotlight

A Sea of Forbs

"... prairie all luxuriantly clothed in a rich and heavy coat of vegetation ... the upland in yellow and the valleys in purple. The quantity of small flowering vegetiles is very remarkable and beyond conception." – James Clyman, 1845

The Wet Prairie habitat is a seasonally inundated wetland dominated by herbaceous plants that historically covered much of the Willamette Valley bottomlands - current estimates suggest that less than 1% of this fragile habitat remains today, making it one of the rarest ecosystems in North America. Early Western settlers were astounded to see the vibrant flowering plants that carpeted the Valley floor - purple camas, Oregon Iris, Bradshaw's lomatium, Nelson's checkermallow, Willamette daisy, peacock larkspur, golden paintbrush, showy milkweed, and yarrow nearly blanketed the wet prairies.

The soil types found in wet prairies allow for water to collect and remain saturated through the winter and early spring months, drying during the summer drought. When these habitats are in good condition they provide breeding and nesting grounds for a broad range of wildlife, including Western meadowlarks, marsh wrens, and Western pond turtles. Over 30 at-risk or endangered wildlife species are dependent upon the use of wet prairies at some time in their life cycle.

Greenbelt is actively restoring Wet Prairie habitat at Lupine Meadows, Owens Farm, and Little Willamette.

VOLUNTEERS + GREENBELT

A New Perspective

The GLT Volunteer Program is in the process of being re-visioned. We will continue to have public Stewardship Workdays, while also beginning to integrate specialized projects through 'Job Descriptions' found on our website, with projects updated as the needs of the organization evolve.

Examples of Volunteer Opportunities:

- ★ Public Tour Leader
- ★ 'Adopt a Property' Weed Monitor
- ★ Photography Volunteer
- ★ Outreach Specialist

Do you have an idea for a project that is not listed? Email info@greenbeltlandtrust.org to connect with the right Staff member who can help make your volunteer concept a reality!

10 Years of Restoration

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thinning phase, with the wood being donated to Philomath Gleaners and CSC Wood Share program.

ON THE HORIZON

In the next year Greenbelt will be planting 12,600 forbs across the upland savanna, and converting 6 acres of grass to upland prairie. We have also partnered with the Institute for Applied Ecology to enhance plant diversity in the wet prairies at both Owens Farm and the adjacent Jackson-Frazier Wetlands by mowing competing vegetation and planting 11,400 wetland plants.

"From a regional perspective, Owens Farm and Jackson Frazier Wetland are important stepping stones that will help connect the northern and southern populations of Fender's Blue Butterfly. What that means on the ground at Owens Farm is that we will be clearing brush and controlling invasive species in order to prepare the site for wildflower plantings and eventual endangered species re-introductions." – Matt Blakeley-Smith, Institute for Applied Ecology

The work of restoration is never really complete, requiring continual stewardship to maintain the enhanced habitats, amid the ever-looming threat of encroaching vegetation and invasive weeds. While the work of Stewardship sometimes seems like a Sisyphean task, the rewards of restoring these native landscapes for our community are well worth the effort invested. We invite you to take a walk with us at Owens Farm this summer and see what a difference a decade makes!

The restoration of Owens Farm would not be possible without the assistance of the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, Natural Resources Conservation Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service (Partners Program), the Institute for Applied Ecology, and GLT volunteers!

Volunteer Spotlight



If you come by our office on a Tuesday or Thursday, you will likely run into volunteer Jennifer Ward. What compels someone with limited free time to use it as a volunteer? Let's find out!

"Land conservation has always intrigued me and I find conservation at the local level especially compelling. Last fall I found myself with a few extra hours in my week and a desire to get current on my GIS skills and to expand my understanding of local ecosystems and conservation issues. Getting involved with GLT seemed like a good fit.

I first encountered Greenbelt at the Albany Farmers Market a few years ago. Last fall I contacted Jeff (Stewardship Manager) to see if they could use me.

The project I am working on is an atlas of 1996 Willamette River flood photos. Greenbelt has about 90 digital aerial photographs covering the flooded Willamette and its major tributaries from Monmouth to Springfield. However, even though the photos are of places, there is no actual geographic data attached to them. Through georeferencing I am assigning correct geographic information to each photograph. This will allow them to be viewed and analyzed, separately or together, in their correct geographic locations."

"With the chocolate brown floodwaters, these photos easily communicate the full extent of the River. Results are expected to be shared with a variety of partners to better understand the Willamette floodplain and plan ecosystem restoration. Jennifer's dedication is really appreciated - without her efforts this project really would not have gotten off the ground."
- Stewardship Manager Jeff Baker