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Bald Hill Farm Purchased!
A Talk with Andrew Martin & Michael Pope

Today we come to you with the tremendous news that Bald Hill Farm has been purchased. This iconic property lies at the very heart of our community, and we are overjoyed that it will continue to be trod for generations to come.

Three years ago the two of us met for the first time, pouring over maps and talking about the future of Corvallis. Both of us knew that we were in the midst of a truly once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Since that first meeting this feeling has only deepened as we have witnessed the outpouring of support for this project and as we have traversed the pastures and hillsides more times that can be counted.

“I remember the first time that I walked the entire property. From wetland swales filled with camas and checkermallow to unparalleled vistas atop Mulkey Ridge with clear views to Cascade peaks, I marveled at the diversity and bounty of Bald Hill Farm. Twenty five years ago Greenbelt’s founders identified Bald

Hill Farm as one of the most important properties for preservation in Benton County, and as I sign closing papers, it feels like coming home.” – Michael Pope.

Over the last three years there have been innumerable meetings, farm tours, lawyers, property evaluations, grant applications, technical advisors, and on and on. This is the business of conservation – it is complex and takes time. Throughout everything, we have always held close the values of Bald Hill Farm: Ecology. Trails. Sustainable Agriculture. Education.

“In my life I have a few key priorities about the legacy I want to leave. Trail corridors and sustainable agriculture are at the top of that list. I grew up in Corvallis, and feel a sense of responsibility to this community to help realize the vision of a comprehensive trail system around its edges. These are some of the reasons that my family purchased Bald Hill Farm twenty years ago. This is a landscape that

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Symphony
on the
Land

SATURDAY
JULY 27TH
6:00 PM
BALD HILL FARM

MOZART
RODRIGO
DVORAK
BACH

Come celebrate the purchase of Bald Hill Farm with us! The Willamette Valley Symphony will treat you to an amazing playlist that you will enjoy amid the pastoral beauty of Bald Hill Farm. We hope you can join us!

Food, wine, and beer will be sold on-site ... or bring a picnic! An optional twilight tour to take place after music.

Tickets
\$20 - General
\$15 - GLT Member
Free - 16+Under

greenbeltlandtrust.org

Get into Nature
Calendar of Events

🌿 **Saturday, July 27th, 6pm** 🌿
Symphony on the Land

Celebrate the completion of the Bald Hill Farm Campaign with us! Our second annual ‘Symphony on the Land’ will be an epic evening. Come out to Bald Hill Farm and enjoy a great line-up of music from the Willamette Valley Symphony, including works by Bach and Mozart. See GLT’s homepage for full details and to purchase tickets.

Saturday, August 17th, 9am - 1pm
Marys River - Headwaters to Confluence

What is a watershed? Why is it important? Come find out! Greenbelt Land Trust and Marys River Watershed Council are co-hosting an outing that takes us from the highest point of the Marys River Watershed to the confluence of the Marys and the Willamette rivers. On our way downstream, we will visit an active restoration project and a property utilized as a learning laboratory for local schools. Spaces limited to 30 – reserve your spot now! Contact jessica@greenbeltlandtrust.org to secure a space.

Saturday, September 7th, 12pm - 8pm
Willamette River Float Trip

Raft from Crystal Lake Boat Ramp to Hyak Park. Tour leader Patricia Benner (River Ecologist & Historian) will discuss the River’s historical ecology and channel characteristics. 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. (\$34/person). RSVP: jessica@greenbeltlandtrust.org.

Thursday, September 12th, 5pm
Volunteer Appreciation Event

This is a time for volunteers from numerous natural resource organizations and agencies to come together and get recognized for the incredible impact they make in our community. RSVP to elizabeth@greenbeltlandtrust.org.

For more information:
www.greenbeltlandtrust.org or 541.752.9609.

BALD HILL FARM STAFF MUSINGS

"When I look back over the last three years, I can't count the number of times someone has stopped me at the grocery store to talk about Bald Hill Farm. The excitement in our community about this iconic property cannot be overstated. I feel so fortunate to have been a part of protecting it for all of you."

- Claire Fiegenger

"One of the best parts of this project has been hearing the stories of how people enjoy Bald Hill Farm. From the neighbor who walks Mulkey Trail every morning at 5am, to the OSU student on his weekly monitoring check of swallow boxes, to the 3 year old squealing with delight at the cows quietly chewing their cud... I feel like I have become a collector of Bald Hill stories. It is a role I take gladly."

- Jessica McDonald

"Just last week I was investigating wetlands on the property with a botanist searching for the elusive Willamette Daisy. With eyes peeled we came across a patch of this critically endangered plant, little tufts of purple managing to survive amid the encroachment of invasives too numerous to count. When I think about the restoration possibilities at Bald Hill Farm for species like the Willamette Daisy, it reminds me why I went into Restoration Ecology to begin with."

- Matt Blakeley-Smith

"I took my 6 year old daughter out to Bald Hill Farm a few weeks ago to help band blue-birds with the Corvallis Audubon Society. The look on her face as she got to hold a bird and peek into the nesting boxes was priceless. I really look forward to sharing Bald Hill Farm with more children."

- Jeff Baker

A Volunteer's Perspective

(Oh, and did we mention he's 9?)

As the youngest recruit of Greenbelt's newly launched Volunteer Naturalist Program, Keegan Hoblit is working hard to put other kids his age to shame. This violin and piano-playing Jefferson elementary student is hitting the trails at Bald Hill Farm this summer with his mom, Tracy, to educate passerby about the property.

* You bicycle everywhere - what do you like about it?

There's a hill I biked up, and we had to walk up because it was so hard. But when we got to the top, it was just beautiful. The sun was going down, and then we got to ride downhill, which was really fun!

* Do you have favorite plants or animals?

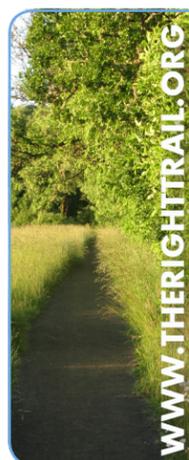
I really like cows and horses. My mom and I were at a park and found these flowers that had spiky stems, but on the top you feel them and they are really soft. Those were really cool.

* What else do you like to do outside?

My mom and I backpacked last year near Mt. Jefferson and I carried my own pack the whole way (28 miles total!). We camped at a lake and I could sit on a rock and put my toes into the water. On one side of the rock the water was pooled, and the other side it rushed by. I can't wait to go backpacking again.

* Why did you become a Volunteer Naturalist?

My mom told me about it, and said we would have to do a training and then go out in the field. I liked the training, especially when we saw the rough skinned newt and the garter snake. I'm looking forward to educating people about flowers, animals, invasives, and talking to people about the land. We are also trying to get other kids to get involved and get outside!



WWW.THERIGHTTRAIL.ORG



THE RIGHT TRAIL

Explore nature in the mid-Willamette Valley

Visit this interactive website that brings together ALL TRAILS IN BENTON COUNTY to discover new trails, find photos and descriptions of pathways, read trail user stories, and discover hiking tips and resources.

This website is seen as a template that will be accessible to regions throughout Oregon, enabling more people to EXPLORE MORE and get outside! This important project is the culmination of three years of work led by GLT, Benton County Natural Areas and Parks, City of Corvallis Parks and Recreation, and OSU College Forests. Critical grant funding was provided through OPRD's Recreational Trails Program.

EXPLORE MORE

www.therighttrail.org

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Jessica McDonald (Development Director), Elizabeth Records (Conservation/Stewardship Coordinator),
Denise Richards (Administrative Assistant)

A 24 Year Journey the highlights...



Bald Hill Farm: Protected

...continued from front page.

was meant to be preserved for trails and as open space." – Andrew Martin.

As we celebrate the culmination of this epic project, we both understand that this is one stepping stone amid a larger vision for connectivity. While Greenbelt's feet are firmly rooted in the tasks of stewarding and maintaining Bald Hill Farm, our eyes are turned towards the horizon and the possibilities of fitting together the final pieces of the trail system puzzle.

In 1979, ten years before Greenbelt Land Trust formally convened as an organization, our founder, Charles Ross made a speech at the dedication of Chip Ross Park stating that "there is a beautiful dream for our city that envisions up to 3,000 acres or so of close-in open space to be held permanently in that condition. Then, should the Philomath-Corvallis-Albany complex grow, each person would still be able to rest his eyes upon a natural scene, and to refresh his spirit, and be reminded that life is good."

"Though Greenbelt Land Trust has grown significantly since these words were spoken, now working throughout the mid-Willamette Valley, we are still inspired by this grand vision of 'jewels on the necklace' around Corvallis. It is through partnerships with people like Andrew and through the support and investments of individuals in our community that we are able to accomplish this long-standing dream of Greenbelt Land Trust. What a wonderful thing to be a part of." - Michael Pope.

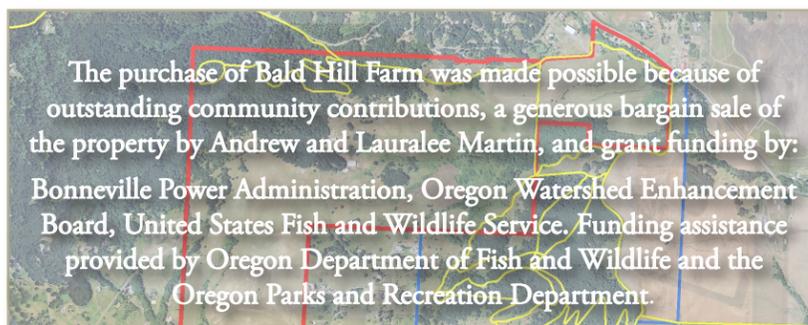
Here's to Bald Hill Farm, and to YOU, DEAR READER for helping make this vision a reality.

Michael Pope

Michael Pope, Executive Director

Andrew Martin

Andrew Martin, Landowner



What's Next for Bald Hill Farm?



* Management Plan

Over the next 18 months GLT will be working with a consultant, technical advisors, and grant funders to develop a comprehensive and adaptive Management Plan for the property. This plan will guide restoration activities, agricultural use, and public access.

* Trails

The trail access at Bald Hill Farm will continue as it is currently. GLT hopes to expand our footprint on the adjacent trail system, particularly as connectors to Fitton Green Natural Area and McDonald Forest. We will also continue to work with Benton County and the City of Corvallis on co-management of the trails at Bald Hill Farm.

* Stewardship + Restoration

The most critical needs at Bald Hill Farm are the maintenance and enhancement of native habitats, including wetlands, upland prairie, and oak woodlands. The substantial federal and state grant funding that we received for the acquisition of the Farm comes with a serious legal responsibility to enhance native habitats on the property. These restoration activities, including tree plantings, invasive control, conifer thinning, and strategic grazing, will be detailed in the Management Plan.

* Education + Outreach

Greenbelt will be working with k-12 schools, non-profit partners, and OSU on opportunities to provide access to Bald Hill Farm for field days, research, and outdoor exploration. This year we launched a 'Volunteer Naturalist' program on the property, to spread awareness about the landscape's natural history, ecology, and wildlife for trail users.