Volunteers Exceed Expectations

This year Greenbelt volunteers contributed a total of 1030 hours to advance our work. We are able to convert this time spent to a dollar amount and apply that as matching funds for grants we received.

So volunteering with the Greenbelt in restoring and enhancing natural sites has given me an opportunity to give something back to the land and community that has meant so much to our family.”

The Greenbelt Land Trust would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank all of you that have taken time out of your lives to help us achieve and exceed our restoration goals for the year. The hours that you have spent chopping down English hawthorn, pulling out non-native grasses, collecting and planting native seeds, and ripping out Himalayan blackberry have gone towards improving habitats in our natural areas.

Greenbelt volunteers, ranging in age from 10 to 80 years old, have worked to enhance our natural areas for everyone to appreciate and enjoy. We have worked to restore over 240 acres in our region. Projects have included restoring and enhancing upland prairie sites containing endangered species, oak woodlands, forested riparian habitats, and wetland prairies. Activities included hand removal of unwanted woody vegetation, including English hawthorn, Himalayan blackberry, non-native rose, and hardwood fruit trees, removal of downed wood, collection of native seed, enhancement activities for endangered plant species, hand pulling of non-native grass species, planting of native seed, and trail building.

Your 1030 hours translated to over $15,000 as a direct benefit to the Greenbelt! All of your combined contributions were equivalent to an extra ½ time staff position. Congratulations on such a significant contribution!

This year, volunteers contributed 1030 hours translating to over $15,000 as a direct benefit to the Greenbelt.

Susan Brown, one of our devoted volunteers, recalls that some of her earliest memories of Corvallis involve hiking the scenic hills surrounding town with their 6 month old son in her backpack. She states that, “the ability to walk from our home in town, directly into adjacent wild areas has remained very special to us,
A Message From Our President

A very sincere thanks to all of our supporters.
The many volunteer hours as well as the financial support you provide are critical to the continuation of our work to conserve significant natural areas in our region and to educate the community about the value of these lands. Especially in this busy holiday season, I hope that you take time out for yourself and with your family and friends to go out and enjoy the wonderful array of natural areas in and around our community.

If your mail is like mine at this time of year you undoubtedly receive many requests for financial support from a myriad of non-profit organizations. I understand that you must be selective in your giving, but hope that it will include continued support of the activities of the Greenbelt Land Trust. Your financial support is critical for our on-going operations. With the passage of Measure 37 this past November, there may be increased pressure for development on our resource lands. This makes our mission of protecting open space now and for the future even more critical.

We will be able to meet this challenge with your support. In addition to private donations, our staff has been very successful in obtaining grants to purchase land and carry out our stewardship efforts. Your private donations have helped us qualify for these grants that often require a 25-50% match. The Greenbelt is working to diversify our funding sources to conserve and restore more lands.

In the coming months your Board will be working on a three-year development plan to ensure the long-term sustainability of our organization. This plan will include efforts to increase planned giving, sustain and increase our membership as well as focused efforts to build up our stewardship and easement funds. If you would like to be involved in this effort or any other activity of the organization, call me at 541-753-2854 or call the office at 541-752-9609.

To keep up to date on our activities go to our web site, www.greenbeltlandtrust.org.

We have an exciting Annual Meeting/Open House planned for January 27th at 6pm at the Corvallis-Benton County Library. Please come and enjoy refreshments, music and an interesting speaker regarding land use in Oregon. I hope to see you there. Thanks again for your continued support.

Betty Griffiths
President
Cash Donations

There is no easier way to garner a charitable deduction for 2004—and support the Greenbelt at the same time—than by simply writing a check! Make sure your envelope is post marked by December 31st to qualify as a 2004 gift (even if it is not received by us until the first week of 2005).

Credit Card

It is now possible to make a charitable donation with the click of a mouse. Go to the Greenbelt’s web site (www.greenbeltlandtrust.org) and click on the Donate Now button to make a donation with your credit card. We work with the Network for Good organization to process and distribute your on-line credit card donation. Network for Good will take a 3% processing fee.

Monthly Donation

Join the monthly donor program and contribute each month with an electronic funds transfer from your bank. Be assured that your membership to the Greenbelt is always current by automatically contributing on a monthly basis.

Workplace Giving

Make a cash donation through a charitable giving campaign at your workplace, through Earth Share of Oregon. You can participate if you work at Hewlett Packard, CH2M-Hill, City of Corvallis, OSU or other state or federal employees, Benton County, and First Alternative Coop.

Stock Donations

Year-end 2004 may be an excellent time to consider a charitable contribution of stock.

Donations of stocks, bonds and mutual funds can be a valuable gift and can provide an income tax deduction for the full value of the donation. You can also benefit by avoiding paying capital gains taxes on the increase in value of your stock.

Gift Membership— A Gift That Makes a Difference

Your Name __________________________________ Address ____________________________________________

Phone ______________________________________ would like to purchase a Greenbelt Land Trust Gift Membership for the
person(s) named below:

1. Name: __________________________________ Address: _____________________________________
   City/State Zip: __________________________ Phone (optional): __________________________
   Membership Level: ______________________

2. Name: __________________________________ Address: _____________________________________
   City/State Zip: __________________________ Phone (optional): __________________________
   Membership Level: ______________________

3. Name: __________________________________ Address: _____________________________________
   City/State Zip: __________________________ Phone (optional): __________________________
   Membership Level: ______________________

MAIL TO: Greenbelt Land Trust PO Box 1721, Corvallis, OR 97339

Give a Gift Membership Over the Holidays and the Greenbelt will Send a Holiday Card Announcing Your Generous Gift!
Members have given stock that they no longer wished to hold. The Greenbelt sold such stock and put the proceeds towards our land conservation and habitat restoration programs.

Life Income Donations

**IRA**
Name the Greenbelt as a beneficiary of your IRA, 401(k) or other retirement plan. Such a gift avoids the income tax that is otherwise due on most retirement plan funds, and provides a gift that will go towards the efforts of the Greenbelt. As a beneficiary of your IRA, the Greenbelt can receive contributions (monthly/annual) as you draw from your account, as well as the balance of the account upon your death.

**Charitable Remainder Unitrust**
A charitable remainder unitrust is a gift plan defined by federal tax law that allows you to provide income to yourself or others for life or a term of years while making a generous gift to the Greenbelt Land Trust. As a unitrust donor, you irrevocably transfer assets, usually cash, securities, or real estate, to a trustee of your choice (for example, the Greenbelt Land Trust or a bank trust department). By creating a charitable remainder unitrust you may receive significant tax benefits. In the year you make the donation, you can take an income tax charitable deduction. If you fund your trust with appreciated property, you can avoid or defer capital gain taxes you would have paid had you sold the asset.

Real Estate Donations

The Greenbelt accepts gifts of real property including vacation homes, rental properties, farms and commercial buildings. The proceeds from the sale of real estate will go towards our land acquisition program. These gifts can provide you with significant tax and financial advantages. If you feel the land you are donating has conservation value, we will evaluate it’s attributes with you at the time of donation.

Planned Gift Donations

When you name the Greenbelt Land Trust in your will, you are making a permanent gift to protect land. Your gift will be used towards the purchase of open space and natural areas which will preserve the character, diversity and beauty unique to our landscape. Your will is an opportunity for you to ensure that the things you believe in and worked towards in your lifetime will be realized—even after you are gone.

When you sit down to draw up your will or living trust with your attorney, the Greenbelt should be designated as: Greenbelt Land Trust, Inc., with the business address as PO Box 1721, Corvallis, OR 97339. The Greenbelt’s taxpayer identification number is: 94-3113836.

We suggest that you specify that your bequest be: “used in such a manner as the Board of Directors of the Greenbelt Land Trust shall, in its discretion, determine.” However, if you wish your bequest to go towards a specific program area or project, we would work with you to accomplish your wishes.

We appreciate you considering making a bequest donation to the Greenbelt. Your bequest can be a specific dollar amount, a percentage of your estate, or even a particular asset or group of assets. Bequests will be distributed after all debts, taxes and expenses of your estate have been paid.

Should you decide to make the Greenbelt Land Trust a beneficiary of your will or living trust, it would be helpful for us to know your intentions. If you would like, we would be interested in receiving the relevant portion of your will or living trust so we may work with your attorney to ensure a timely execution of your wishes. This information will, of course, be kept strictly confidential.

We would be pleased to provide further information on any of these year-end charitable gift ideas. Please be sure to check with your accountant, tax attorney, or other tax advisor for additional information on how these general rules apply to your situation.

Thank you for your support now—and throughout the year!

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**Our Mission**

The GREENBELT LAND TRUST works to secure and protect in perpetuity open space that preserves natural beauty and provides a connection to the natural world.

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We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.

- Winston Churchill
Volunteers

(Continued from page 1)

Not only were we working with individuals from the community, but we were pleased this year to include several youth/young adult groups in our volunteer activities. We worked with Philomath High School students to grow endangered plant species that they planted on local sites. Over the summer we spent about one day a week with a group of students that participated in the Corvallis Youth Volunteer Crew (YVC). Those were some very dedicated youth who worked hard even when it was blazing hot (the popsicles helped!). The Greenbelt has also been lucky to work with several student groups from OSU working on projects at Snag Boat Bend and Beazell Memorial Forest. Has this spurred your interest? To find out about our restoration projects or to get on an email notification list please contact Claire Fiegener at the Greenbelt Land Trust office at 541-752-9609 or claire@greenbeltlandtrust.org. Our calendar of events is published in the newsletter and is frequently updated on our website, www.greenbeltlandtrust.org.

Volunteer removing non-native grass

Corvallis YVC member removing hawthorn.

YES!
I WANT TO SUPPORT THE GREENBELT LAND TRUST
with the following tax-deductible contribution.

Membership Form

☐ General $25
☐ Supporting $100
☐ Guarantor $250
☐ Patron $500
☐ Millennium Club $1,000
☐ Additional Gift for Land Acquisition $_____

I am enclosing a check for $_____
for membership in the Greenbelt Land Trust.
☐ New Member ☐ Renewal

Name

Address

City State Zip

E-mail

Telephone Date

MAIL TO: Greenbelt Land Trust PO Box 1721, Corvallis, OR 97339

Volunteer Opportunities
I am interested in participating with the following committees:
☐ Education/Public Relations ☐ Finance/Fundraising
☐ Trails ☐ 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!
Conservation & Trails Plan Update

In 2005 the Greenbelt will be working to update our Conservation and Trails Plan (formally called Open-Space Plan). We will be working to identify and prioritize properties and/or areas for acquisition or trail easements.

The Greenbelt will be holding a series of meetings in 2005 to take input from the community and are looking for members of the community who are interested in participating in this process.

Owens Farm Advisory Committee

In early 2005 the Greenbelt will be pulling together an advisory team to start the process of developing a management/restoration plan for Owens Farm.

We are looking for individuals interested on participating on such a committee that will help guide the management goals of Owens Farm.

The Greenbelt will also be holding community meetings to discuss the management goals of this property.

If you are interested in participating in either of these committees or would like more information, please contact Claire Fiegner at the Greenbelt office, 541-752-9609 or claire@greenbeltlandtrust.org.

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