

Winter 2006

Greenbelt Protects Rare Habitats at Lupine Meadows

With generous contributions from our supporters, the Greenbelt Land Trust has permanently protected the 58-acre Lupine Meadows site in Philomath, on West Hills Road. The Greenbelt raised over \$500,000 to protect this site and to set up a stewardship fund for the property. Funding came from a variety of sources including state and federal grant programs, contributions from our members and a bargain sale from the owners of the property.

Lupine Meadows is a unique property containing wetland and upland prairies, two of the rarest habitat types in the Willamette Valley. This property supports the endangered Fender's blue butterfly (*Icaricia icarioides fenderi*), the threatened Kincaid's lupine (*Lupinus sulphureus* ssp. *Kincaidii*) and Nelson's checkermallow (*Sidalcea nelsoniana*). Oregon Vesper sparrows, a state listed bird species of concern, have also been documented on the site.

The Greenbelt has identified this property as a high priority for acquisition based on the importance of these rare and unique prairie habitats

and associated species as well as its' connection to other conserved properties in the Corvallis and Philomath open space network. Lupine Meadows is located within the Newton Creek watershed and serves as

of downstream properties on Newton Creek.

Today wetland prairies are among the rarest of the plant communities with over 97% of the estimated 768,000

acres having been converted to agricultural or urban uses. In the 1850's these prairies consisted of communities dominated by tufted hairgrass and other species adapted to the saturated soils of winter and the droughty conditions of summer.

Upland prairies were once widespread in the Willamette Valley of western Oregon. Many of these prairies were maintained by intentional burning by the native Kalapuya tribes. Since Euro-American settlement in the 1830s, over 99% of the upland prairie lands have been lost to agricultural or urban uses. Following settlement regular burning was discontinued, and the few remaining upland prairies succeeded to woody species as well as being invaded by non-native vegetation.

Habitat protection and restoration at this site will help conserve these rare habitat types in the valley. The Greenbelt is currently preparing a management plan for the property that

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

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

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www.greenbeltlandtrust.org



Betty Griffiths, President

A Message From Our President

This has been a very busy and productive year for your Board of Directors and our staff. We have continued our restoration work at Owens Farm and other properties with a great group of volunteers, completed several major new policies, selected a new investment firm and have begun work on a planned giving campaign.

Our major accomplishment has been securing the property know as Lupine Meadows located between Corvallis and Philomath. This 58-acre site is one of the prime locations in the valley where the endangered Fender's blue butterfly is found. This purchase was successful due to the generous support of our members. **Thank you all very much!** Also a special thanks to our staff, Karlene McCabe and Claire Fiegenger, for their hard work securing grants that partially funded this purchase and the on going stewardship work on our properties.

Over the next six months, I hope to see you at one or all of the following important events. First, mark your calendar for our Annual Meeting on February 8th at the Benton County Library. We will have a presentation on what we have learned in our work on oak restoration at Owens Farm and information on the update to our 1998 Open Space and Conservation Plan. Please come, learn about our work, meet with friends and enjoy refreshments.

The second event will be the dedication of the Allen Throop trail at Fitton Green on April 22nd. Allen was a passionate advocate for open space and trails and we hope you join us in honoring his memory. On April 29th, you are invited to participate in an all day Open Space & Conservation Plan workshop at Adair Clubhouse to help the Greenbelt identify areas you would like to see us work on in the coming years. Your input will be used to update our Open Space and Conservation Plan. More information about these events will be sent to you later.

Sometimes it is very difficult to know what to give friends and family members as gifts. So as you think about holiday gifts, consider giving a membership to the Greenbelt Land Trust. My husband and I gave our adult son a membership in the Greenbelt Land Trust. We know how much he valued the trails and open space in and around Corvallis and Benton County as he was growing up. This gift will help him keep in touch with the land and people where he spent his youth. Have a great holiday and I look forward to seeing you in 2006!

Thanks again for your continued support of our work.

Betty Griffiths
President

LAND CONSERVATION IS A COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

*Karlene McCabe,
Executive Director*

Conservation is a long term partnership with our communities, donors and landowners. Our recent acquisition of the Lupine Meadows property in Philomath is an excellent example of how patience, commitment and diligence helped conserve this important piece of our community's heritage. The upland and wetland prairies that are the legacy of this property are now protected for current and future generations.

The Lupine Meadows property came to our attention as an important conservation priority about 8 years ago while we were preparing our 1998 Open Space Plan. The property is located within the Newton Creek

watershed which has over 400 acres of identified wetlands as well as some significant upland prairie habitat. The watershed sits between Corvallis and Philomath and between two important conservation properties, Bald Hill Park and Fitton Green Natural Area.

A large portion of the Newton Creek watershed is located within the City of Philomath Urban Growth Boundary (UGB). Many of these lands were zoned industrial back in the 1970's when mill operations were a large part of the local economy. The City of Philomath realized that much of the area they had zoned for industrial development contained significant wetlands that could be impacted by development. In 1999 the City, the Benton County Economic Development Partnership and the Greenbelt began

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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 for the residents of the Mid-Willamette region.

Conservation Planning Workshop

April 29, 2006

9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Adair Clubhouse, Adair Village

Please join the Greenbelt Land Trust and give us your input on land conservation priorities in our region. We are updating our 1998 Open Space/Conservation Plan to identify new conservation priorities to guide our work in the next 5 years.

We want to update members on our newly adopted criteria for conservation projects and exciting developments in habitat mapping for the Willamette Valley.

We will provide lunch for participants. Please contact Stephan at the Greenbelt to register for this event.

stephan@greenbeltlandtrust.org

Or

At the Greenbelt office at (541) 752-9609

Rare Habitats

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will address how we manage this site for long term success. We will focus on addressing issues to increase the native biodiversity at the site, enhance the existing populations of Fender's blue butterfly, Kincaid's lupine and Nelson's checkermallow, reintroduce additional rare prairie species suitable for the site, eliminate non-native invasive species, promote education and research opportunities related to the prairie and its species, and carefully manage for human use at the site.

Thanks to the cooperation of the landowner, hard work from our volunteers and strong partnerships with local biologists, other non profits and Philomath High School we have undertaken some significant restoration activities at the site. We have spearheaded the restoration effort by removing unwanted woody vegetation from the upland prairie, improving habitat for the Fender's blue butterfly and Kincaid's lupine by reducing competition, enhancing the populations of the Kincaid's lupine and Nelson's checkermallow by planting additional plants on site, and initiating the reintroduction of the Willamette daisy to the upland prairie.

We have a big year planned for Lupine Meadows! Please join us for a celebration this spring to learn more about this property and how it fits into our larger conservation vision for the Willamette Valley. If you are interested in a tour of the site or participating in restoration workdays please contact Claire Fiegenger at the Greenbelt office (541) 752-9609 or by email to claire@greenbeltlandtrust.org.



COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

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looking at how development and wetland protection could co-exist within the Newton Creek watershed.

We took a closer look at what areas within the watershed were most suited for development and how wetlands would be protected. The Lupine Meadows site had high quality wetlands on the lower portion of the property and a 20 acre upland area which might be appropriate for light industrial development.

The wetlands on the property were chosen as a priority for protection. Further research on the property made us aware of the importance of the upland prairie and the presence of Kincaid's lupine and Fender's blue butterfly. These resources came to our attention due to the work of local botanists, Kelly Kuykendall and Tom Kaye, and butterfly expert, Paul Hammond.

However, the properties location within a UGB, it's zoning as industrial and the potential for development on surrounding properties caused us to question whether this site could provide long term protection for these species. Over the next year we consulted with ecologists from The Nature Conservancy and United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to determine the importance of this site to the protection of the identified threatened and endangered species and also how this site fit into larger habitat protection plans.

All agreed that this site was an important link in the protected habitats for the Fenders blue butterfly. We knew the property would be expensive to purchase given its zoning as industrial and its location within the Philomath UGB.



Philomath High School Students planting Nelson's checkermallow at Lupine Meadows

In order to determine the value we would need to raise funds to conduct an appraisal of the site. A generous supporter of the Greenbelt donated stock to us with the wish that it be used to further our land conservation efforts. Proceeds from the sale of this stock allowed us to pay for an appraisal of the property.

Staff began discussions with the landowners and also intense efforts to raise funds from numerous grant sources. Between 1999 and 2005 staff obtained grant funds from the USFWS North American Wetlands Conservation Act, the USFWS Landowner Incentive Program and the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board for acquisition and stewardship of the site. These funding sources would help pay for a major portion of our costs for acquisition and stewardship. However, we realized that in order to complete the purchase we needed to ask our donors for their help.

This summer as our deadline for acquisition was approaching Greenbelt Board members met with a number of our donors to ask for their help in bringing this purchase to fruition. In just 3 months we were able to raise the remaining funds. The landowners also generously offered us a bargain sale price for the property and contributed to start a stewardship fund. The commitment of our members and the landowners and the hard work of Greenbelt Board and staff made this project a success. ❖

Thank you to Earth Share donors

What a year! The Greenbelt Land Trust is a member of Earth Share of Oregon (ESOR) which supports our work by partnering with businesses and public agencies to conduct annual workplace giving campaigns. In 2004, Earth Share raised nearly \$800,000 through individual and corporate donations in 100 workplaces. If you count yourself among the over 4,000 individual donors to last year's giving campaign, THANK YOU!

If you and your co-workers don't have an ESOR giving program, this is how it works: ESOR coordinates with employers to allow employees who want to support environmental nonprofits to donate by making a payroll contribution. Through this program, employees can choose to support Earth Share as a whole, enabling all of ESOR member groups to benefit, or they can designate their support for one or more specific groups. In this way, even a small gift of \$5 per paycheck adds up to a generous contribution. It's easy and it makes a difference! For more information, please contact Meghan Humphreys at ESOR: (503) 223-9015 or meghan@earthshare-oregon.org; or visit www.earthshare-oregon.org. ❖



2005 Year-End Charitable Gift Ideas

Year-end giving is as simple as (1) making a charitable gift, and (2) saving on your taxes. Tax laws intentionally encourage charitable giving. Because of the income tax charitable deduction, individuals who make a gift by December 31st, may reduce their income taxes for 2005. We would like to make it even easier for you with this summary on some of the best ways to give.

Charitable gifts to the Greenbelt provide you a way to both give and receive. Now is the time to share in our common values and to look to the future. Make a donation today that will benefit both the community and your family.

Cash Donations

There is no easier way to garner a charitable deduction for 2005—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 2005 gift.

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.

Gift Memberships

Looking for something to give that *hard-to-buy-for* friend or family member? Gift memberships make an ideal gift that shows your involvement in preserving open space for future generations.

Stock Donations

Gifts of long-term appreciated stock offer a quick, easy and tax-efficient way to make a lasting contribution to conservation. Your gift will help the Greenbelt Land Trust protect lands in your community and also help you avoid capital gain taxes you would have incurred if you had sold the security.

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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: _____

Membership Levels

<input type="checkbox"/>	General	\$35
<input type="checkbox"/>	Family	\$60
<input type="checkbox"/>	Supporting	\$125
<input type="checkbox"/>	Guarantor	\$250
<input type="checkbox"/>	Patron	\$500
<input type="checkbox"/>	Millennium Club	\$1,000
<input type="checkbox"/>	Conservation Circle	\$2,500

*Give a Gift Membership
 And the Greenbelt will Send a
 Thank You Letter Announcing
 Your Generous Gift!*

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



Charitable Gift Ideas

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Many donors find giving appreciated assets to be a particularly attractive way to make a gift to the Greenbelt Land Trust because they are supporting the Greenbelt at a lower cost than when making a cash gift.

As an example, suppose you bought \$ 5,000 worth of ZZZ Mattress Company 5 years ago. Today the shares are worth \$10,000. If you give the stock to the Greenbelt instead of selling it you can take a tax deduction on your federal income taxes, saving between \$ 1,000-\$ 3,500 in federal income tax (depending on your tax bracket) and avoiding a capital gains tax of \$ 750.

This is one example of the potential savings of a gift of stock. Check with your tax attorney or accountant for the savings in your particular situation. If a gift of stock is appealing to you, the staff at the Greenbelt Land Trust will be happy to talk with you about our easy methods for transfer of the stock.

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! ❖

*We make a living
by what we get.
We make a life
by what we give.*

—Sir Winston Churchill



Dimple Hill Update

We sent out a notice to our members in October concerning the filing of a Measure 37 claim on the property known as "Dimple Hill" in North Corvallis. The owners filed for a waiver to allow them to subdivide the 160 acre property to construct dwellings.

The Benton County Board of Commissioners held a hearing in early October regarding the application. The Greenbelt and some of our members offered testimony at the hearing regarding our desire to work with the landowners and Benton County to protect significant portions of the property.

On October 14, 2005, the Marion Circuit Court ruled that Measure 37 was unconstitutional.

Following the court's ruling the Benton County Commissioners decided to put any decisions related to Measure 37 claims on hold until the Oregon Supreme Court decides the legality of the measure.

The decision on the claim for Dimple Hill was continued until April 24th with the hope that the Supreme Court will have decided the legality of Measure 37 by that time.. The staff and board of the Greenbelt

will continue to work with the landowner and the County to try and find a creative solution that protects the upper portion of this hill that is an important part Corvallis.

We will keep our members updated on our progress.



Save the Date!

Dedication of Allen Throop Trail at Fitton Green

Saturday – April 22nd, 2006 10:00 am

Watch for more info in the Spring Newsletter!

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

Membership Form

- General \$35
- Family \$60
- Supporting \$125
- Guarantor \$250
- Patron \$500
- Millennium Club \$1,000
- Conservation Circle \$2,500+
- 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 activities:

- Stewardship/Restoration
- Trails
- Land Conservation
- Education/Events

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.

2006 Greenbelt Land Trust Annual Membership Meeting

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Corvallis-Benton County Public Library(645 NW Monroe Ave)

Main Meeting Room

6-9 pm

6-7 pm Open House

*Come and visit with Staff & Board to learn
about our upcoming conservation projects
and opportunities to get involved.*

7-8 pm Restoration Updates

*Claire Fiegner, Stewardship Director, will give a presentation
on restoration at Owens Farm and other local properties
...and how you can get involved*

8-9 pm Annual Meeting Business

*Financial Report
Presidents Report
Executive Director Report
Election to Board of Directors*

Agenda

**Please
join us to
celebrate!**



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