Greenbelt Land Trust's
Annual Meeting

Thursday, February 28th
6 - 8pm
First Presbyterian Church (Denis Hall)
114 SW 8th St., Corvallis

You are invited to join us and enjoy a keynote presentation by river ecologist Stan Gregory, a lively review of Greenbelt’s 2012 accomplishments and an outline of the truly exciting year ahead of us. Food and refreshments from Gathering Together Farms provided.
Measuring Success in Conservation
Is it possible?

As I look back over the last year, I see a story through numbers... 545 acres of Willamette River floodplain protected, 39 public walks on our lands, 36,000 trees being planted. Sometimes the numbers become the story. It’s easy to see why - calculating acres or plants is an simple equation, easy to collect and report on.

We often talk about numbers in the world of conservation... it is a world filled with data like percentages documenting native habitat loss, climate change models, or rates of population increase. These numbers help us to talk about how our work makes an impact, why it is needed, and how we are progressing. When we say that 96% of the land in the Willamette Valley is privately owned, it conveys that there is real and urgent need to protect the parcels that will have the greatest ecological impact. When we say that the Valley population is expected to increase by 40% by 2040, it lends a sense of urgency to our work.

In order to see how protecting and restoring land impacts things like livability and water quality, we need to have these benchmarks in place.

However, it seems to me that numbers do not tell the whole story. If acres protected or numbers of trees planted become the sole way we share our story, we are being misleading. There is so much that those numbers are leaving unsaid.

Take Bald Hill Farm, for example. We often talk about the Farm by numbers: 587 acres, 3 federally listed plant species, 3 miles of public trails, $5 million. However, the story of Bald Hill Farm is much broader than a spreadsheet of impressive numerals. We will be acquiring and managing this property for its diverse ecological, cultural, recreational, and educational assets.

While we may be able to measure the number of people who use the Farm’s public trails, how do you measure the impact of their experiences? How do you measure the insights gained by walking in the footsteps of the Applegate Trail, or learning how plants like camas were used.

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Purchasing Bald Hill Farm
Adding 70 acres to Kings Valley conservation portfolio
Adding 20 acres to Harkens Lake conservation landscape
Launching a new Greenbelt Land Trust website
Launching the Benton County Trails Website
Publishing an updated Conservation Plan
Planting 36,000 trees and shrubs planted for floodplain forest restoration
Undergoing 5-year national land trust re-accreditation
Hosting 8 local schools for field days on GLT lands

25,000 trees $507,000 grants 8 schools 2% oak habitat
1,841 acres 24 years

Preserving our Special Lands
Tuesday, February 19th, 7pm
A Legacy of Trails - Lecture, Corvallis Library Main Meeting Room
Join GLT and the Sierra Club for a lively presentation, starting with a slideshow by Alsie and Mary Campbell from their 2012 Oregon Pacific Crest Trail trek that she hiked as a fundraiser for GLT’s Trails Fund. Greenbelt will then present on the ‘Benton County Trails Website’, launching in 2013.

Thursday, February 28th, 6 - 8 pm
Greenbelt Annual Meeting, 1st Presbyterian Church, 114 SW 8th St, Corvallis
Join us for our annual meeting, and learn about 2012 accomplishments and plans for the next year. Enjoy food from Gathering Together Farm, mingle with friends, and take in a great keynote presentation by river ecologist Stan Gregory. See back page for additional information.

Saturday, March 9th, 9am-12pm
Lupine Meadows Workday, Philomath
Enhance the prairie at Lupine Meadows for butterflies. Help us plant flower species that are important food sources for Fender’s blue butterfly. We will meet at GLT office at 8:50am, carpool to the site, and return by noon.

May 4th - 12th
4th Annual Natural Areas Celebration Week
Natural Areas Celebration Week highlights the bountiful open spaces, recreation areas, and environmental communities that make the mid-Valley so incredible. Keep an eye out for the NACW’s calendar of activities (www.sustainablecorvallis.org) - from a birding workshop to forest hikes, there is bound to be something for everyone!

May 18th, 9am - 3pm
Weed Spotter Training!
Learn how to identify invasive plants to help conserve local ecosystems. This is a free, hands-on training open to GLT Volunteers in coordination with the Benton Soil and Water Conservation District. Participants will receive a ‘Field Guide to Weeds of the Willamette Valley’ and be able to test their knowledge in the field. RSVP by May 1st to: Heath Keirstead - hkeirstead@bentonswcd.org

Sunday, June 2nd
7th Annual Run for the Hills, Bald Hill Natural Area, Corvallis
Join us at Bald Hill Natural Area for a trail run with proceeds benefitting Greenbelt and the City of Corvallis’ trail programs. Choose a 30k (anticipated), 8k, 2 mile or a ¼ mile kids run! www.gltrunforthehills.com.
Before the rafts drifted off from the put-in at Willamette Landing, we heard from River Ecologist, Patricia Benner, about the river’s complex history. How it has been shaped and shifted to comply with human desires, needs, and fears. There were large maps to unfurl, and magical terms like ‘hyporheic flow’, TMDL’s, and ‘channel dynamism’ referenced.

Minutes later the rafts were floating past Corvallis with its cement retaining walls. We could hear the buzz at the Saturday Market just over the ledge, and the thud thud of cars crossing the Van Buren Bridge. Then, just a minute later ... it was quiet. With Corvallis barely out of site we were alone on the river.

I have heard a survey referenced that asked citizens of the Valley how often, if at all, they interacted with the River directly. The results were astonishing. Over half of the people who live here have never been on the River - whether by canoe, kayak, or swimming hole.

As we floated on, eight-to-a-raft, it was easy to imagine that we were far away from civilization, adrift amid an untamed wilderness. Of course, there were always little reminders to bring us back to modern realities. A horn honking from afar or the mysterious whirr of machinery hidden beyond the trees.

An hour later we pulled up to a crude landing site to meet educator Jeff Mitchell and one of his former students to conduct freshwater mussel counts. Without a hint of hesitation the entire group poured out of the rafts to stand knee deep in the River, listening intently to Jeff’s instructions ... true Oregonians. As the mussel count progressed everyone was delighted to find one, two, three mussels - carefully measuring each and setting it back in the river to live and filter. To think ... they had always been there, masquerading as rocks, and I never knew.

The counts were shared ... nearly 300 found in all! However, the excitement of our mussel exploration turned a serious corner as we began to talk about why there were so few young mussels found. We discussed the possible obstacles to their propagation, ultimately realizing that our little mollusk friends were likely facing a dire future. Each of us knew that this was just one of the river’s story’s ... and that there were more like it.

With thoughtful minds we continued on our river trek, ending the evening near Albany. As twilight arrived on our final stretch, guide Patricia Benner paused the boats to read a poem before sending us off on a river that was suddenly teeming with nocturnal mischief.

People turned to their own thoughts during that final float, paddles lying idle. Though we did not share our quiet reflections, I suspect that they were shared musings ... about the overwhelming web of ecological connections ... about the beauty of river life ... about our own roles in preserving pieces of nature before, like the mussels, they start to fade away.

We stepped out of our reverie as we approached Hyak Park, where the headlights from humming cars welcomed us back. I don’t think it will be long before each of us is on the river again.

jessica mcdonald
What is restoration? What does it mean? Well, for Greenbelt it means enhancing our protected lands to build better habitat for wildlife, improve biodiversity and water quality, and support the growth of endangered and native species in the mid-Willamette Valley.

One example of how this plays out is at a restoration project at our Little Willamette property, located between Corvallis and Albany. This 199 acre property has undulating topography, and is host to a historical side-channel of the Willamette. Working alongside the landowner and under the guidance of the property’s Management Plan, in 2012 Greenbelt and conservation partners to build three vernal pools in low-lying sections of the property. Vernal pools are seasonal ponds - typically appearing in the winter and drying up in the summer. They are one of Oregon’s rarest wetland types, and home to an array of plants and animals specially adapted to this habitat.

In the summer of 2012 the proposed pools were excavated and berms constructed at the Little Willamette in partnership with the US Fish and Wildlife Service who oversaw the project. By January, 2013 the pools were filled and immediately began being used by a diverse mixture of wildlife, including dusky Canada geese, cinnamon teal, and songbirds. In 2013 the pools and surrounding fields will be seeded with native flowers and grasses to create prairie habitat.

For additional restoration news, keep an eye out for opportunities to visit our lands and learn first-hand how we are working to enhance these important ecosystems.

**Restoration Highlight**

**Vernal Pools**

**Bald Hill Farm**

2012 Review:

- Awarded $1 Million grant from the US Fish and Wildlife Service’s Section 6 (Endangered Species) Program
- Awarded $1.5 Million grant from the Bonneville Power Administration’s Wildlife Mitigation Program
- Received anonymous contribution of $250,000 towards the acquisition, bringing the Community Campaign to $1.1 Million (Goal of $2 Million)

Common Questions:

- Will GLT continue to pay property taxes on the land? A: Yes!
- Will farming continue? A: Yes, an adaptive farming program will continue on the property, working alongside our restoration goals
- Will the entire farm be open to the public? A: The existing trails will remain open to the public. Additional areas of the farm will be accessed through GLT’s events and outreach

**EASEMENTS 101**

It is the most common question we get at Greenbelt - just what is a Conservation Easement?

Conservation Easements (CE’s) are the most traditional tool for conserving private land. It is a legal agreement between a landowner and a land trust (or government agency) that permanently limits certain uses of the land to protect conservation values. It allows landowners to continue to own and use their land, and they can sell it or pass it onto their heirs, though the CE remains attached to the property.

When a CE is granted, the landowner is giving up some of the rights associated with the land. For example, an easement on property containing rare wildlife habitat might prohibit any development, while an easement on a farm might allow continued farming and the addition of agricultural structures. A CE does not mean that a property is publicly accessible.

At Greenbelt a number of our lands are easements. The funds to purchase these CE’s are primarily through granting agencies that are used to support the protection and enhancement of native and endangered habitats. Upon purchase of a CE, our Stewardship Staff develops a comprehensive Management Plan for the property, outlining timelines and restoration goals, working alongside the landowner and funders.
Measuring Success

Continued from Front Page

by the Kalapuya? How do you measure the experience of a child who proudly points out to his parents the trees he helped to plant on a school field day?

These intangible benefits are a critical part of Greenbelt’s story. In this newsletter we publish our annual report which lists the array of public events, outings, and presentations that we held over the last year. If you look closely, behind each of those data sets are the faces of the people we have personally connected with. I see the face of the middle-schooler who has just sighted the first Fender’s blue butterfly of the year at our Lupine Meadows walk in May.

So, as I return to the initial question of How do we measure success? for Greenbelt it has to be a multi-layered approach. On the one hand we can show the ratio of how each acre restored has a direct impact on values such as lowering stream temperature on the Luckiamute River, or increasing the diversity of native forbs at Owens Farm. But we must also tell the story of how these activities impact our daily lives. One of America’s great conservationists and storytellers, Peter Forbes, likens the calculation of acres as the sole measure of success to ‘Conservation 1.0’, and the transition to a more holistic idea of calculating success as an upgrade to a 2.0 model. He says that,

“the language and skills of 1.0 have been technical, financial and legal, and its goals have been grounded in science and in counting bucks and acres as the measure of success. Everyone is deeply indebted to this period in conservation for giving us our systems of parks, but also for exporting the idea of conservation to the rest of the world. Conservation 2.0 builds upon what was achieved, takes in what we’ve learned about conservation from the rest of the world, and is predominantly concerned with how we, as a community, relate to that land and to one another.” (Saving Land, Fall 2012)

Here’s to the year ahead, and to exploring what success really means, for the land, the wildlife, water, and people around us.

Michael Pope
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

2012 Volunteer of the Year
Karl Hartzell

There are many volunteers who devote time, energy, and expertise to our organization. Many come simply for a day to plant trees or pull harmful invasives. Then there are people like Karl Hartzell. Karl has been a regular and dedicated volunteer with Greenbelt for years, doing everything from building western bluebird bird boxes, to assisting with educational field days, helping to plan large-scale tree plantings, or handing out water at our annual trail run. When our Stewardship Staff needs his help, Karl is there. For all that he contributes, and for his ever-positive attitude and interest, we are delighted to have Karl recognized as our Volunteer of the Year.

2012 Charles Ross Award
Tom Bucht

The next time you are hiking on one of the myriad of trails in the Corvallis area, think about the people who have volunteered their time to build and maintain these paths for your enjoyment. Think about people like Tom Bucht, who has dedicated countless hours to mapping, maintaining, and advocating for trail systems in our area. A long-term GLT supporter, Tom is a humble champion of our work, particularly around our efforts to purchase Bald Hill Farm. Whether leading a joint hike with the Sierra Club and GLT, or donating the payments from his freelance computer work to the Bald Hill Farm Campaign, Tom is an invaluable member of the Greenbelt community, and truly deserving of the 2012 Charles Ross Award.

Greenbelt is very happy to welcome Matt Blakeley-Smith as our newest Staff member. Matt will be taking on the restoration and stewardship of GLT’s growing portfolio of Willamette River landscapes. Matt specializes in large-scale habitat restoration and endangered species management, and prior to joining GLT worked as a restoration biologist for over 10 years at the Institute for Applied Ecology. A firm believer in community involvement, Matt asserts that meaningful conservation requires the participation of private citizens. From gardening in a small suburban lot, volunteering on a weed-pull, or planting a riparian buffer, everyone can play a role in shaping our environment.

While not driving a tractor, Matt enjoys growing carnivorous pitcher plants and raising honey bees with his wife on their urban micro-farm.

Michael Pope
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

a new face
Program Highlights

Land Conservation
- Permanently protected 545 acres of critical Willamette River floodplain habitat at Harkens Lake (Benton County) and Horseshoe Lake (Linn County)
- Received $2.7 million in grants for conservation work along the Willamette River
- Received a $84,955 grant from Meyer Memorial Trust for landowner outreach and due diligence related to conservation protections along the Willamette River
- Approved for grants totaling $3.73 million for the acquisition of Bald Hill Farm
- Approved for grants totaling $400,000 for land protection work along the Luckiamute River in Kings Valley

Stewardship
- Awarded 8 Restoration and Planning Grants worth $507,000
- Invasive weeds controlled at nine sites
- Vernal pools constructed at Little Willamette
- Thinned 4 acres of overstocked Oregon white oaks at Lone Star Ranch
- Surveyed native plants at Lone Star Ranch
- Surveyed fish at Harkens Lake, Horseshoe Lake and Little Willamette
- Surveyed wetlands at Bald Hill Farm
- Rebuilt a well and pump house at Lupine Meadows
- Completed a management plan for Evergreen
- Held Stewardship Workdays at Owens Farm and Lupine Meadows properties, and Trail Workdays at Bald Hill Natural Area and Fitton Green Natural Area

Education/Outreach
- Held 39 public tours, from an Archeological Walk in Kings Valley, to a Willamette River float and ecology trip, and a restoration walk at Owens Farm
- In conjunction with Alsie and Mary Campbell, held a fundraiser for their Pacific Crest Trail (Oregon) hike, raising over $7,000 for the GLT Trails Fund
- Conducted six installments of our ‘Living with Nature’ lecture series
- Held the first inaugural ‘Symphony on the Land’ event with the Willamette Valley Symphony at Tyee Wine Cellars
- Hosted 375 students from Calapooia Middle School and Philomath Middle School on our Little Willamette and Evergreen properties
- Held the 6th Annual Run for the Hills at Bald Hill Natural Area
- Hosted a Willamette River Celebration, honoring the landowners and completion of the conservation of Harkens and Horseshoe Lake
- Held two Volunteer Orientations

Conservation Partnerships
- Collaborated with Marys River Watershed Council, the Institute for Applied Ecology and local schools to host multiple field days on GLT lands for local youth.
- In collaboration with County trail managers, led the efforts to launch a trails website showcasing all public trails in Benton County.
- Worked with the Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts (COLT) to launch the Achieving Conservation Excellence (ACE) grant program, providing capacity building support to Oregon’s 18 land trusts.
- Worked with the Corvallis Sustainability Coalition to assist in hosting the 2012 Natural Areas Celebration Week
- Partnered with Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board on revising and enhancing their land acquisition program
Philanthropist Supports Oregon’s Future

In the Fall, 2012 the family of John Gray announced an unprecedented gift to Oregon’s land trust community - a $4.5 million grant to build capacity of land trusts to conserve the lands most important to their communities. The generous grant was made shortly before John’s death in October through the Yarg Foundation, and will be disbursed to members of the Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts. When planning the gift, John said that it “was meant to be a catalyst. I want Oregonians to take an active role in being stewards of this land, and to join my family in committing to funding conservation and restoration.”

Greenbelt received $45,000 from this grant program in November, which is being used over the next year to help facilitate an updated regional Conservation Plan, assist with restoration planning for the Willamette mainstem, and help fund a RARE/AmeriCorps position. Grants for “capacity building” are rare - we are fortunate to have the support from the Yarg Foundation, and look forward to the change that their investment brings to Oregon’s land trust community.

Member Highlight: Ralph and Marge Alig

We have lived in Corvallis for 23 years, and really enjoy the civic spirit and friendliness of the community, its many opportunities for community involvement, as well as its fostering of the arts, education, science, bike-friendliness, and environmental health. We both had careers in natural resources and in our work saw the importance of land conservation and management that provides communities with connected and varying landscapes, aesthetic qualities, quiet places, recreational and educational opportunities, and well-managed production of food, wood products, and other products and services. Open space can mean different things to different people, and we see it as part of a balanced portfolio of land uses and an important part of a community’s green infrastructure.

What do you see the Willamette Valley looking like in 100 years?

Ralph: Intact ecosystems, well-functioning watersheds, good air and water quality, and lands well managed for societal interests are part of our vision. Human transformation of land will continue and ideally it will be done with a good scientific foundation for the sake of our grandchildren and other future generations. Enhancing environmental and natural features is part of that vision. A short motto is to strive to “leave it better than you found it.” Climate change and adaptation and mitigation opportunities will impact the Valley in ways that are difficult to predict over the next 100 years, and open space lands can be important contributors to sequestering greenhouse gases and reducing their concentration in the atmosphere.

Marge: I envision a time—hopefully in a lot less than 100 years—when homeowners have moved away from today’s “traditional” landscaping and create plantings that work with their neighbors’ to create broad landscapes to sustain all sorts of life. Ralph and I have been trying to move in that direction in the last few years on our own property. Large well-managed public and conservation land holdings are vital to community life and preserve valued habitats in ways that none of us could do on our own. But most land remains privately held. All of our little parcels—at both a micro-scale and when put together—are a great untapped resource for assisting with the tasks of protecting soil and water, and creating places for insects, birds, and other life to thrive. It’s another way of supporting the work of and partnering with our land trusts!
GENERAL CIRCLE, Continued:


The Greenbelt Land Trust wishes to acknowledge the First Alternative Co-op, City of Corvallis, CH2MHill, Hewlett-Packard, Kaiser Permanente, Benton County, EWEB, Invitrogen, City of Portland, Washington County, PCC Structurals, Inc., and State and Federal employees for making contributions to GLT through workplace giving campaigns in association with Earthshare of Oregon in 2012.

Greenbelt Land Trust would like to thank the following people and businesses for their support during 2012:


In 2012 Contributions were made: in memory of

Homer Campbell
Kathleen Frome
Tommie Haswell
Valerie Krantz
Mary Laver
Charles Leach
Larry Merriam
Scott Overton
Rebecca Sanchez
Phil Schary
Walt Schmidt
Jim Sedell
Warren Staton
Doris Tilles
Allen Throop
Barbara Van Holde
Benno Warkentin
Mary Anna Widmer
Jo Ann Wolf

in honor of

Meg Campbell
Lyle and Sharon Hutchens
Cynthia Lord
Michael Pope
Barb and Dave Schmedding
Financial Summary

operational
INCOME
Membership Donations $187,713
Land Conservation $311,567
Stewardship $29,823
Grants* $811,652
Other $40,733
TOTAL INCOME $1,381,488

EXPENSES
Programs $647,492
Fundraising $54,497
Administration $51,420
TOTAL EXPENSES $753,409

land purchase
INCOME
Grants $1,850,000
EXPENSES $1,888,469

FY 11/12

* Because GLT works on an accrual basis, these grants will be expended over the next 1-5 years.

To request Audited Financial Statements please contact our office.

2012: A Lasting Legacy

1) Archaeology Walk at Luckiamute Meadows in Kings Valley.
2) Alsie and Mary Campbell on the Pacific Crest Trail at Crater Lake. Alsie’s PCT hike was a fundraiser for the GLT Trails Fund.
3) Mushroom Walk at Fitton Green Natural Area.
4) Trail maintenance workday at Fitton Green Natural Area.
5) Willamette Celebration with landowners from Horseshoe and Harkens Lake properties.
6) A stop along the Willamette River rafting trip to learn about freshwater mussels and river ecology.

$2,177,685
Total Investments & Legacy Funds

1,841
Total Acres Protected

Operational Income
Grants 59%
Conservation 22%
Membership 14%
Other 3%

Operational Expenses
Programs 86%
Fundraising 7%
Administrative 7%

24 years
Preserving our Special Lands
Greenbelt Land Trust would like to thank the following members for supporting our mission in 2012:

**GRANTS**
Benton Soil and Water Conservation District, Bonneville Power Administration, Corvallis Kiwanis Foundation, Grouper, Meyer Memorial Trust, The Nature Conservancy, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, Patagonia Footwear, United Way of Benton County, US Fish and Wildlife Service

**CONSERVATION CIRCLE**

**MILLENIUM CIRCLE**
Aaron Spitzer and Cindy Smith, Anonymous (3), Cary and Lori Stephens, Chris Kilsgraad and Sarah Greene, Christopher and Catherine Mathews, Claire Schary*, David Heck and Gloria Wong, Donna Gregerson*, Greg and Rosemary Christianson, Irving and Martha Dayton, Izak Walton League of America, Marys Peak Chapter*, James Sumich*, James and Joyce Spain, Jane Anne Warkentin, Jeff Igelman and Theresa Gibney, Jim Boyle, Jim Hall*, John and Sue Toppeneer, John and Susan Watson, Marie Long, Marilyn Henderson and Michael Mix, Nancy Hathaway and Greg Peterson, Natalie and John Boyce, Paige Fischer and Seamus Walsh, Patricia D’Andrade*, Robert and Sally Duncan, Robert Leach, Steve McLaughlin, Sunia Yang and Grant Pease*, Wendy Byrne

**PATRON CIRCLE**
Anonymous, Barbara and Darrah Thomas, Barbara Black, Bill and Eija Enmingham*, Bill and Lynda Hohenboken, Boris and Joyce Becker, Bruce Frey and Laura Hansen, Carolyn Madsen, Cynthia Powell, David and Wendy Ochs, Donna Sirmons, Doug Gordon, Ethan and Lisa Hasenstein, Gretchen Vandell Plas*, Jack and Jane Barth*, Jack Lyford, Joe Kerkvliet and Cassandra Manuelito-Kerkvliet, John and Kenny Bliss, John and Peggy Brophy*, John and Sandra Potter*, Louise Feinell*, Lyle and Sharon Hutchins, Maya Abels and Stewart Holmes*, Molly Bloomfield, Molly Hannah*, Peter Harr and Sharon O’Hara Harr, Rick Lamplugh and Mary Stickroth, Roberta Smith, Roger and Whitney Lindquist, Simple Actions Family Foundation, Stan and Ellen Hall, Stewart and Janet Weshow*, Tom and Ellen Murphy, Tony Howell and Patricia Benner*

**GUARANTOR CIRCLE**

**SUPPORTING CIRCLE**

We have made every effort to ensure accuracy of this list. If you find an error or omission, please contact our office.

◊ = 20+ Year Member  * = All or portion of donation was made to Bald Hill Farm
GREENBELT LAND TRUST

SUPPORTERS


GENERAL CIRCLE