25 Years of Conservation + Community

A Conversation with Founder Meg Campbell and Executive Director Michael Pope

It was an exciting time, to be at the beginning of Greenbelt. There was so much support from our community for what we were doing, and that helped us to dream big. We were constantly taking people out to properties, explaining what a land trust does, tabling at community events, and spreading the message of conservation. (Meg)

That willingness in the first years of Greenbelt to bring our community together around things like open spaces and trails has really left its mark. I am continually impressed by how much this organization feels like a family. How important was it to you when Greenbelt was founded to make sure that it retained that community presence? (Michael)

Greenbelt started first through Charlie Ross, who would take anyone and everyone out with him to hilltops and trails to talk about starting a Greenbelt. He was quite persuasive! So, we started off with people and community at the very fabric of the organization. We did have to remember that, if we are going to be part of the community, that we have to keep in mind what the people want. As a Board we knew that the decisions we were making were decisions that would effect our whole community. (Meg)

I’d say that the Board made a great decision for our community when they purchased our first property on the west side of Bald Hill in 1990! By starting with an iconic property like Bald Hill, you were certainly investing in a place that people cared deeply about. (Michael)

“One of my most memorial experiences with Greenbelt happened with that property. In 1993 when we donated those 40 acres of Bald Hill over to the City of Corvallis, I had planned to hand over the ownership to then-mayor Charlie Vars at the property. It ended up being a really stormy day out, and right as I handed over the title there was a huge peel of...”

continued on page 3
1979 - Charles and Elsie Ross purchase Chip Ross Park for the community.

1988 - Initial acquisitions of ‘Open Space Park’ through a Greens Trust Fund set up by the Ross’s

1989 - Greenbelt Land Trust formed as a 501 (c)3 nonprofit organization with a Board of 15 members.

1990 - First acquisition as Greenbelt Land Trust completed, protecting 41 acres on the west side of Bald Hill.

1989 - Greenbelt Land Trust formed as a 501 (c)3 nonprofit organization with a Board of 15 members.

1990 - Open Space Report completed with Benton County, identifying priority lands for protection.

1990 - Open Space Report completed with Benton County, identifying priority lands for protection.

1992 - First Staff member hired.

1993 - Purchase 143 acres at Fitton Green Natural Area, ultimately donating them to Benton County to manage, with GLT retaining a conservation easement on the land.

1996-1998 - Permanently protect 49 acres on three properties at the edges of Corvallis/Philomath, including 6 acres at Forest Dell Park (City of Corvallis Park), 7 acres in the Newton Creek watershed, and 36 acres in Kings Valley.

2000 - Play a crucial role in passing the $7.9 million Corvallis Open Space Bond Measure

2002 - Permanently protect 95 acres at Owens Farm and an additional 4 acres at Jackson Frazier Wetlands.

2005 - Purchase 58 acres Lupine Meadows within the Bald Hill Natural Area conservation region.

2006 - Permanently protect 145 acres in Kings Valley along the Luckiamute River.

2008 - Adopt Conservation Plan extending service area through 4 counties (Benton, Linn, Polk, Marion).

2008 - Become one of first land trusts in the country to achieve national accreditation.

2009 - Protect 3 properties, including Little Willamette (199 acres), Willamette Bluffs (120 acres), and Evergreen (221 acres)

2012 - In collaboration with six families of landowners, permanently protect 545 acres of Willamette River floodplain at Harkens Lake north of Monroe, and Horseshoe Lake between Corvallis and Albany.

2013 - Acquire 587 acres at Bald Hill Farm, protecting an iconic property with miles of public trails, critical native habitats, and a working farm, for future generations.

2008 - Protect 199 acre Lone Star Ranch, preserving key upland prairie habitat and a family cattle operation.

2000 - Play a crucial role in passing the $7.9 million Corvallis Open Space Bond Measure
**PLANTING A LEGACY**

**NATIVE SEED PROPAGATION**

When the first explorers came to the Willamette Valley they mistook the boundless meadows of blue camas for shimmering bodies of water. Today you can still find camas growing along the trail at Bald Hill Farm, but the vast majority of prairies were converted to agriculture decades ago.

With the acquisition of Bald Hill Farm now complete, Greenbelt is undertaking the long process of re-establishing the native plants that once filled these majestic prairies. Native plants are incredibly slow growing however, which makes it difficult for commercial growers to produce some species profitably. Camas, for example, can take over seven years to produce its first flower!

These slow growing species are perfect for Greenbelt members who have a long-term commitment to our natural areas.

Last November a dozen eager volunteers gathered at Bald Hill Farm to help kickstart that process by starting Greenbelt’s first native plant nursery. Thousands of microscopic seeds were delicately planted in special germination trays and set outside to await the arrival of spring. Once these plants germinate, we will establish propagation beds, harvest seed, and re-plant Greenbelt properties for years to come.

**“BY HARVESTING OUR OWN SEED, UTILIZING VOLUNTEERS TO GROW-OUT THESE SENSITIVE PLANTS, AND CAREFULLY MANAGING OUR LANDS, WE ARE INVESTING IN A STRONG SEEDBANK AND FUTURE FOR PROPERTIES LIKE BALD HILL FARM.”**

While Greenbelt will continue to rely on local growers to produce the majority of our plant materials, we wanted our members to literally “plant the first seed” that will return native wildflowers to Bald Hill Farm. We also hope that this process will be a fun way for members to learn about cultivating native plants that can be a beautiful addition to any backyard garden.

Embarking on a nursery may be a first small step, but we hope that by planting seeds today, our children may too mistake a field of camas for a shimmering lake one day.

Matt Blakeley-Smith

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**CONSERVATION + COMMUNITY**

continued from Front Page

thunder and lightning! I took that as a very good sign!” (Meg)

Wow! Talk about good omens! I wonder if you realized what Greenbelt would become. As a grassroots land trust in 1989 did you have any idea of the impact or growth that we would have by 2014? (Michael)

To tell you the truth, because Charlie dreamed big, I think we did have an idea of how Greenbelt would change over time. What Greenbelt does these days is really what we dreamed about all along. (Meg)

I often think about what Greenbelt will look like at its 50th Anniversary. I’d say we have a bright future, as long as we hold close to the tenets that have been with us since our founding ... keeping the community in mind, being good stewards of the land, and making progress towards tangible goals. What would you say our legacy will be in 2035? (Michael)

I would agree. Greenbelt is a ‘going’ organization. It has been that way since it started, and I think it will be in 25 more years! (Meg)

A toast to 25 years of conservation and our community! (Michael)
**Program Highlights**

**Fiscal Year 2012/2013**

### Land Conservation
- Completed the acquisition of the 587 acre Bald Hill Farm, adjacent to Bald Hill Natural Area, Lupine Meadows, and Fitton Green Natural Area
- Initiated work to add 70+ acres to an existing conservation region in Kings Valley, ultimately creating a conservation zone of nearly 225 acres adjacent to the Luckiamute River
- Initiated work on additional conservation properties at Harkens Lake and Horseshoe Lake Conservation Areas, involving two high-priority areas adjacent to the Willamette River that will provide conservation protections for over 600 acres of priority floodplains in Linn and Benton Counties
- Received grants for $3.5+ million in funds for land transactions and due diligence

### Stewardship
- Completed monitoring of current portfolio of conservation easements
- Completed a final management plan for Kings Valley and draft management plans for Harkens Lake and Horseshoe Lake projects
- Continued multiple restoration efforts to thin overstocked woodlands, control invasive species, plant native trees, restore lost hydrologic functions and plant native forbs and grasses
- Prepped 45 acres of Willamette River floodplain for early Spring 2014 planting
- Secured $850,953 in grants for habitat and ecosystem restoration and $589,103 for long-term stewardship on our protected lands.

### Education/Outreach
- Held 27 public tours, from a Lichen Walk, to a River float, to a Geology walk
- Conducted four installments of our ‘Living with Nature’ lecture series
- Held a ‘Symphony on the Land’ event with the Willamette Valley Symphony at Bald Hill Farm
- Hosted 375 students from Corvallis and Philomath School Districts on our Evergreen property
- Held the 7th Annual Run for the Hills as a benefit for Greenbelt’s Trails Fund
- Launched a Volunteer Naturalist Program at Bald Hill Farm
- Launched The Right Trail, a comprehensive database and interactive website of all publicly accessible trails in Benton County
- Volunteers donated a total of 807 hours of time on stewardship, restoration, and outreach activities

### Conservation Partnerships
- Worked closely with the Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts on state-wide government relations, fundraising, and strategic direction initiatives
- Conducted multiple events in partnership with watershed councils throughout the mid-Willamette Valley
- Partnered with Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board on revising and enhancing their land acquisition program
- Worked with USFWS, ODFW, BPA, OPRD, and OWEB on funding support for land transactions and conservation easements
1.) Greenbelt celebrated the acquisition and permanent protection of Bald Hill Farm in July, 2013  2.) Alongside partners, launched The Right Trail, a comprehensive database of all public trails in Benton County.  3.) Initiated our inaugural Volunteer Naturalist program to help spread awareness for conservation and restoration at Bald Hill Farm.  4.) Included a 30k race into our 7th Annual Run for the Hills.  5.) Celebrated the acquisition of Bald Hill Farm through a Symphony on the Land with the Willamette Valley Symphony.  6.) Kept hundreds of volunteers busy through stewardship workdays.

Financial Summary

OPERATIONAL
SUPPORT/REVENUE
Private Donations
Land Conservation Donations
Stewardship Donations/Revenue
Grants
Other
TOTAL
$381,708
$513,350
$51,990
$952,496
$62,124
$1,961,668

EXPENSES
Programs (no land acquisition)
Fundraising
Administration
TOTAL
$818,711
$84,121
$145,061
$1,047,893

LAND PURCHASE
INCOME
Grants
$3,548,500

EXPENSES
Land Purchase
$3,992,437

To request audited financial statements please contact our office.
Greenbelt Land Trust would like to thank the following members for supporting our mission in 2013:

GRANTS
Benton County Cultural Coalition, Bonneville Power Administration, Center for Natural Lands and Management, Corvallis Kiwanis Foundation, Groupon, Meyer Memorial Trust, Natural Resource Conservation District, 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
Anonymous Donation (7), Bob and Betty Griffiths◊, Cliff Heselton, Curtis and Deb Rose, David and Caroline Lorusso, Don and Roberta Hall◊, The Estate of Doris Tilles, Doug and Carol Brodie◊, The Estate of Elsie Ross, Eric and Bonnie Helpenstell, Fredrick Prahl and Karen Skjei, Jack Mykrantz, Janet Throop◊, Larry and Cindy Mahrt, Lynn Victor, Martha Amram, Mary Pope Osborne, McDowell Charitable Trust, Nancy Schary◊, Robert and Sally Duncan◊, Robert Leach, Steve and Susan Ford, Terri Odell, Trevor Heald

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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
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donations received:

IN MEMORY OF

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Vivian Maret
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Stuart Spicker
Doris Tilles
Allen Throop

IN HONOR OF

Guy Allen - Meg Campbell - Sharon and lyle Hutchens - Tony Wilcox

BUSINESSES AND CORPORATE SUPPORT

Thank you for your investment in conservation!


Volunteers

Where would we be without you?

Volunteer of the Year
JENNIFER WARD

“I want to help”. This is how we first met Jennifer in 2010, and since then she has made good on her word! She started off by creating an aerial flood photo database for the Willamette River between Monroe and Salem. This data had been available to conservation organizations to use, but as independent images, not set to specific geographic regions. In order to see the scale and scope of how floods interact with the floodplain over time, it is beneficial to view how a flood plays out across a broad landscape. Jennifer to the rescue!

With the GIS project completed, Jennifer decided that she wasn’t quite done with her volunteer experience at Greenbelt Land Trust, and joined our inaugural Volunteer Naturalist Program in the summer of 2013. By taking a few days over the summer months to walk the trails at Bald Hill Farm, Jennifer raised awareness about the property, helped trail-walkers to stop and smell the flowers’ and answered questions from passersby. At times she even convinced one of her three children to join her... hopefully future Volunteer Naturalists themselves!

For taking ‘wanting to help’ one step further by becoming a true advocate for Greenbelt Land Trust, we are delighted to honor Jennifer as 2013’s Volunteer of the Year.

Charles Ross Award
JANET THROOP

The world would be better off with more people like Janet Throop. Since joining Greenbelt Land Trust over twenty years ago alongside her husband, Allen - she has been a steadfast, thoughtful, and involved supporter. Their involvement with Greenbelt began with a contribution towards the acquisition of Open Space Park (now Fitton Green Natural Area). As Janet recalls, “I take greater interest in Fitton Green because of contributing. I take pride in seeing gradual improvement in access, in trails, in habitat restoration, in outreach project to the community, and I delight in knowing Fitton Green is for all of us now and for future generations.” As Allen stepped into a leadership role on the Greenbelt Board, Janet became increasingly involved... and hasn’t looked back since.

“Something that I really respect about Janet is that, as skilled as she is, she is always excited to learn more. She has attended countless tours, hikes, and events with us... and at every one she can be found with notepad in hand, jotting down information about floods, local history, or whatever the topic of the tour might be. I respect her curiosity of the natural world, and her dedication to making it better every single day.” - Jessica McDonald

Whether Janet is volunteering to pull blackberry, organizing youth education tours at Fitton Green, or serving on our Development Committee, her positive presence resonates throughout Greenbelt Land Trust. We are delighted and honored to present Janet Throop with the 2013 Charles Ross Award.

2003
Trail-building volunteers at Fitton Green Natural Area

2008
Jean and David Kliewer receiving the ‘Order of the Greenbelt’

2013
Janet Throop

2013
Jennifer Ward

2013
Jennifer Ward
Recreation for All

Connecting Bald Hill Farm to Fitton Green Natural Area

The plans are being worked out, routes mapped, and boots getting dirty as Greenbelt launches a new trail system that will connect Bald Hill Farm to Fitton Green Natural Area. This particular trail connection has been a priority of Greenbelt’s since we were founded. It is incredible to be coming full-circle and realizing this vision for connecting open spaces through trail networks. What was once a far-off dream is close to being a reality, open for everyone to use.

Since acquiring Bald Hill Farm in 2013, we have been fortunate to continue working alongside trail advocate Andrew Martin on this connector property. Andrew has now purchased the 170 acre ‘Mulkey Ridge Forest’ property, with the intention of allowing a trail easement across the property, and ultimately selling the land to Greenbelt. I cannot overstate how important the investments of the Martin family have been to our community. Because of their support we are making significant headway on what was once only a far-off dream of linking trail systems.

We anticipate finalizing trail plans and to initiate trail building as early as this Spring, and we need your help! Volunteer opportunities will be plentiful once we have the general route cleared. If you haven’t already, enroll as a volunteer through our website: greenbeltlandtrust.org/get-involved/volunteer.

As I walked the proposed trail route last week, wet leaves crunching underfoot, moss and lichen seemingly dripping from branches, I marveled at how quiet and remote a place can seem, when it is really only a few miles from the bustle of downtown. We are blessed to have these places within arms reach, and I can’t wait to walk this trail someday soon with all of you.

- Michael Pope

Leave a Legacy

Consider naming Greenbelt Land Trust as a beneficiary in your will, trust, retirement plan, or insurance policy. By joining our Heritage Circle, you are investing in clean water, vibrant ecosystems, trails, and livable communities for generations to come.

Contact: Jessica McDonald
(541) 752.9609
jessica@greenbeltlandtrust.org
greenbeltlandtrust.org/support-us/estate-planning

“I knew that Oregon was the place for my family. We have raised our children here, hiked its trails, swam in its rivers, and enjoyed life in this beautiful place for forty years. The Willamette Valley has given me and my family so much, and it is my responsibility to give back. My husband and I put Greenbelt Land Trust in our will, and it was one of the most joyful decisions we have ever made. I am now a steward of this place we call home.”

- Barbara and George, GLT Heritage Circle
GET INTO NATURE
SPRING CALENDAR OF EVENTS

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27TH, 6PM
ANNUAL MEETING & 25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION
An event not to be missed! Come celebrate 25 years of incredible work - enjoy highlighted speakers who have made an impact at GIT, sample local culinary delights from Gathering Together Farm, mingle among friends, enjoy a presentation about 2013 accomplishments, and hear about what our vision is for the next 25 years!

SATURDAY, APRIL 5TH, 6-9:30PM
ROOTS TO RIVERS – WHERE LAND, WATER, AND AGRICULTURE MEET
Celebrate the land, water, and farms that make the mid-Valley so unique. Dance the night away to live music, enjoy local food, exclusive silent auction items, craft brew, and local wine. The proceeds of this magical evening directly benefit Greenbelt Land Trust, Calapooia Watershed Council, Marys River Watershed Council, and Ten Rivers Food Web. More info: greenbeltlandtrust.org.

TUESDAY, APRIL 8TH, 7PM
LIVING WITH NATURE LECTURE SERIES - SHRUBS TO KNOW IN OREGON
Join Ed Jensen, noted author of ‘Trees to Know In Oregon’ for a lively presentation and interactive session to help you identify shrubs and trees in western Oregon! Ed will also be leading a follow-up field identification session with us in May. Downtown Library - Main Meeting Room.

SATURDAY, APRIL 19TH, 9AM-3PM
VOLUNTEER NATURALIST ORIENTATION & TRAINING
You’re invited to explore our Volunteer Naturalist Program! Naturalists maintain a friendly presence on Bald Hill Farm throughout the summer, and provide informal outreach and natural history education for visitors. Contact elizabeth@greenbeltlandtrust.org for info!

SATURDAY, MAY 3RD, 9AM-3PM
HISTORIANS WALK AT OWENS FARM
Mary Gallagher from the Benton County Historical Society will discuss the intriguing history of the Owens family and their influence in Benton County, uses of the farm over the years, and Greenbelt will discuss restoration efforts and future vision for the farm.

MAY 3RD - MAY 10TH
NATURAL AREAS CELEBRATION WEEK!
This year’s NACW will be better than ever - from backyard habitat talks, to pollinator discussions and outings throughout Benton County - there is something for everyone! Visit the Natural Areas Action Team at www.sustainablecorvallis for details!

SATURDAY, MAY 10TH, 9AM-1PM
LUCKIAMUTE WATERSHED HEADWATERS TOUR
With the Luckiamute Watershed Council we will enjoy a tour starting at the headwaters of the Luckiamute River, and work our way down to it’s confluence with the Willamette River - with stops at conservation and restoration sites along the way. RSVP to jessica@greenbeltlandtrust.org.

SATURDAY, MAY 17TH, 9AM-12PM
FARMING AND CONSERVATION - “HOW DOES THAT WORK?”
Come walk with us at Bald Hill Farm as we discuss how the property is being co-managed for agricultural and conservation purposes. Enjoy a tour with the farm manager, Tyler Jones (Alton Field Farm), and GIT Staff. RSVP to jessica@greenbeltlandtrust.org.

SATURDAY, MAY 24TH, 9AM-12PM
SHRUB/TREE IDENTIFICATION OUTING
Ed Jensen, noted ‘tree expert’ will lead this interactive outing as participants learn to identify the trees and shrubs of the Willamette Valley. We will start with a workshop component, and transition into a field identification walk at Bald Hill Farm. RSVP to jessica@greenbeltlandtrust.org.

SUNDAY, JUNE 1ST
8TH ANNUAL RUN FOR THE HILLS
Come run with us! This year’s race will feature our second 30k component, as well as an 8k, 2 mile run/walk, and kids 1/4 mile dash. Sign up at gltrunforthehills.com.

SATURDAY, JUNE 7TH
‘A BRIDGE THROUGH TIME’ - URBAN CREEK TOUR
Greenbelt is co-hosting this year’s annual urban creek tour, alongside partners Benton SWCD, OSU College Forests, the City of Corvallis, and Marys River Watershed Council. Enjoy a trolley or bike tour of the Oak Creek Watershed by RSVP’ing to heathk@bentonswcd.org.

SATURDAY, JUNE 14TH, 9AM-12PM
‘LAND SNORKELING’ WALK
Join leaders Don Boucher and Lisa Millbank as we learn to observe and identify the teeming universe of wildlife and plants that we might often pass by without notice! RSVP to jessica@greenbeltlandtrust.org

SATURDAY, JUNE 28TH, 9AM-1PM
WRITING WORKSHOP WITH CHARLES GOODRICH
Sign up for this free workshop with noted poet Charles Goodrich. This unique opportunity allows participants to practice their writing while exploring the beautiful hills, valleys, forests and prairie of Bald Hill Farm. Spaves limited - RSVP to jessica@greenbeltlandtrust.org.

This is a partial list of events - visit greenbeltlandtrust.org for full event descriptions and to sign up for our eNewsletter so you can recieve notifications about events and volunteer opportunities!
Greenbelt Land Trust’s Annual Meeting

Thursday, February 27th 6 - 8pm
First Presbyterian Church (Dennis Hall) 114 SW 8th St., Corvallis

Come and celebrate 25 years of conservation! We will be honoring the people and accomplishments that have made Greenbelt Land Trust what it is today, and looking ahead to what this organization will look like in another 25 years. Enjoy a lively review of 2013 work, keynote presentations from noted speakers, music, and delicious local eats from Gathering Together Farm.

www.greenbeltlandtrust.org