

# ANNUAL REPORT

*Celebrating Success and looking toward the next 20 years*

This year brought exciting changes to the Greenbelt. We began implementing our new strategic plan through expansions of our land protection work into Linn and Polk counties, increased our education and outreach work and strengthened our stewardship and land management activities.

We were honored to be one of the first 29 land trusts in the nation to receive Accreditation by the Land Trust Accreditation Commission. This achievement is a strong indication that the Greenbelt has grown into a professional organization that carries out all of our conservation work with the highest standards and quality. The long time support of our donors, the dedication of our board and professional skills of our staff allowed the Greenbelt to achieve this distinction.

**Land Conservation-** We concluded our most expensive acquisition to date with purchase of a conservation easement on the Lone Star Ranch for \$ 2,414,000. This was our first acquisition funded by the Bonneville Power Administration through their Willamette Basin Mitigation Program. This acquisition helped protect a significant area of upland prairie habitat, oak woodlands and scenic vistas visible along Highway 20, west of Philomath. We celebrated this success in June 2008 with an open house at the Lone Star property.

Our lands committee worked with staff to review over 20 projects that had been submitted to us for consideration by landowners. After careful consideration and a review of our land use criteria the committee selected six projects for staff to work on over the next year. These include over 800 acres of high priority habitats including wetlands, riparian area, oak woodlands and upland prairies.

**Stewardship-** We adopted a management plan for Lupine Meadows in Spring 2008 to guide habitat conservation, active restoration, and outreach at Lupine Meadows. The Institute for Applied Ecology, experts in upland prairie restoration, wrote the plan with input from Greenbelt staff and members, local scientists and community members. This plan is critical in guiding the complex restoration work we have undertaken at this property.

Management efforts at Lupine Meadows in 2008 included weed control and mowing the upland prairie. Volunteers used weed eaters and hand tools to cut back tall oatgrass that is invading the upland prairie and threatening Kincaid's lupine.

Activities at Owens Farm in 2008 included rare plant seeding and weed control. In the fall, Waldorf School students worked with the Institute for Applied Ecology to plant seeds of

## Statement of Financial Position

FISCAL YEAR: OCTOBER 1, 2007 - SEPTEMBER 30, 2008

### Income

Membership Donations	\$201,445
Donation for Land Acquisition	\$15,572
Donation for Stewardship	\$88,220
Bequests	\$425,000
Grants	\$2,414,000
Other	\$5,926
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$3,150,163</b>

### Expenses

Land Acquisition	\$2,416,869
Stewardship	\$12,712
Education/Outreach	\$12,727
Office Expenses	\$41,606
Personnel	\$156,724
Professional Fees	\$50,018
Miscellaneous	\$3,163
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$2,693,819</b>

### Assets

Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	\$29,653
Investment Accounts	\$1,205,578
Fixed Assets	
Equipment	\$4,640
Land	\$1,136,884
Other Assets	
Conservation Easements	\$3,114,027
GLT Properties, LLC	\$30,303
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$5,521,085</b>

Bradshaw's lomatium. They'll be back out this spring to monitor survival. We continued to work with our contractors to clear invasive plants from the oak woodlands, mow native and non-native grasses and control blackberries and other invasive plants within the riparian areas.

We were excited to hire Jeff Baker, our new stewardship manager, who will be busy working at Lupine Meadows and Owens Farm as well as monitoring the multiple easements held by Greenbelt Land Trust. As our plans include protection of an additional 800 acres in 2009 he will be kept busy helping guide us on how to manage these newly conserved areas.

**Education and Outreach-** Steve Lilly, our education and outreach coordinator, worked with the board and volunteers to expand the work of the Greenbelt throughout the community. His work helped us connect with over 820 children through various restoration projects and field events. Owens Farm and Lupine Meadows were favorite classrooms once again for students from Lincoln, Ashbrook, Corvallis Waldorf, and Philomath HeadStart.



*Waldorf student planting Nelson's checkermallow at Owens Farm*

At Owens Farm, we partnered with the Institute for Applied Ecology and students to restore native plants includ-

ing camas, Nelson's checkermallow and Bradshaw's lomatium. We were pleased to see more volunteers from Oregon State University serve as mentors to the students during these field days.

When we began our outreach efforts Steve contacted schools in Benton and Linn counties in an effort to raise awareness of Greenbelt's programs. It was a worthy challenge to meet with each school and coordinate an outing relating to their curriculum. We are heartened that the schools are now contacting us on a regular basis to schedule field events. We continue to accept invitations to teach riparian, upland prairie, and oak savannah habitat restoration to students of all ages. Philomath Head Start had their second annual field trip to Lupine Meadows to experience nature and eat wild strawberries. We have also expanded our efforts to Linn County with outreach to students from South Albany and West Albany high schools through Oregon Trout's Salmon Watch.

Our hope is that children return home with dirt under their fingernails, wild strawberry stains on their pants and most importantly, smiles on their faces. We encourage our members to help with our education efforts and help children experience nature close to home.

Claire Fiegenger has continued to produce our newsletter and keep our website updated. No small feat as she is busy raising her twin boys, Dylan and Cole. The boys are now old enough to enjoy exploring Greenbelt lands with mom and dad chasing close behind.

**Conservation Partnerships-** One of the pleasures of working in the Willamette Valley is the ability to partner



*Partnership with Oregon Trout during Salmon Watch 2007*

with many groups who help make our conservation projects a reality. Partnerships with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) and the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) were instrumental in our completion of the Lone Star Ranch Conservation Easement.

Our stewardship and outreach staff worked with the Marys River Watershed Council and Philomath High School to advance conservation and restoration priorities at Lupine Meadows and other properties in the Newton Creek watershed.

We participated in the Benton County Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) for upland prairies. This effort, the first of its kind in Oregon, seeks to find a community generated solution to protection of a unique and rare habitat in the Valley.

We worked in coordination with the Corvallis Audubon Society and Friends of the Willamette Valley Refuges to construct and celebrate the completion of the Homer Campbell Trail at William

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Finley Wildlife Refuge in early fall 2008. This beautiful trail honors the legacy of Homer and provides access to all for spectacular birding opportunities. We encourage you to enjoy this special place next time you want to take your family to experience the beauty of the Willamette Valley.

We continued to work with other land trusts throughout Oregon on the formation of the Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts. With 12 active land trusts in the state, the issues we face grow more complex each year. It seems like an apt time to come together for shared learning opportunities.

**Organizational Stability-** Achieving accreditation was one of the main goals in our new strategic plan and we met the mark by being awarded accreditation in September 2008, by the Land Trust Accreditation Commission.



In 2007 we established the Greenbelt Properties, LLC which will now be the holder of any properties owned by the Greenbelt.

We continued to work on diversifying our funding sources and reaching out to our donors to encourage planned gifts to the Greenbelt through their wills and trusts. Over the last three years we have received some generous bequests that have allowed us to significantly increase

our conservation, education, and outreach work.

## **Statement of Financial Position-**

This year brought a wonderful surprise as we were left a very generous bequest by one of our long-time donors, the Loomis family. David and Jane Loomis left their estate to benefit six local not for profits. The Greenbelt was one of the honored recipients. This gift, which was unrestricted, will allow the Greenbelt to invest in our programs to increase our capacity to conserve more land in the mid-Willamette Valley. The Greenbelt board also voted to place a significant portion of the bequest in our endowment fund to help provide a stable financial base for the Greenbelt in case of economic uncertainties.

We received a \$ 2,414,000 grant from the Bonneville Power Administration which was spent to acquire a conservation easement on the Lone Star Ranch property. Zoning on the property would have allowed for up to 100 homesites on these rare oak hillsides and upland prairies. The willingness of BPA to fund this acquisition conserved one of the largest upland prairie sites in Benton County.

The \$ 88,220 received in stewardship income came from a combination of landowners where we hold easements or private donations. This reflected a substantial increase to our existing stewardship fund. Our newly adopted stewardship policies require that all properties come with adequate long term stewardship funds or the board designate an alternate source of funding. This insures that the Greenbelt can truly care for properties in perpetuity.

A total of \$ 222,943 was received through private donations. These donations are critical to help fund staff and other operating costs that allow us



*Native strawberry plants at Lupine Meadows*

to complete land conservation projects, secure grant funds and conduct restoration work on Greenbelt properties. Our work would not be possible without the generous contributions of our donors.

Our largest expenses were for land conservation. This included purchase of the Lone Star Ranch Conservation Easement for \$2,414,000. Acquisition of these interests substantially increased our assets.

Staff costs and office expenses were similar to 2006/07 as we held staffing constant. Professional fees of \$ 50,018 were primarily for stewardship. These included costs for preparation of a management plan for Lupine Meadows and contracted work to remove and treat invasive species at Owens Farm and Lupine Meadows. Other stewardship costs were for planting and restoration work at these sites and also monitoring of all our conservation easements. ❖