



# LIVING WITH NATURE

## Working Landscapes: Lone Star Ranch

If you look closely at Greenbelt Land Trust's mission statement, you will notice that we are committed to protecting *native habitats and working lands*. With over 600 of our currently 1,300 protected acres in some level of agricultural production, we continue to develop management plans for our properties that conserve both fragile and endangered native habitats, as well as working landscapes throughout the Willamette Valley.

In 2008 Greenbelt finalized a Conservation Easement on Lone Star Ranch, a spectacular 199-acre site containing endangered upland prairie and oak woodland habitat in Philomath that also operates as a working cattle ranch. With the property providing habitat for several imperiled species and plant communities, the question became ... how do you best manage one property for both livestock and conservation values?

The solution at Lone Star Ranch is to continue low-intensity rotational grazing that the Noble family has used for over 40 years, with a few modifications. Additional cross fencing and watering sources are being installed to fine tune grazing impacts and manage cattle movement. The use of cross-fencing enables ranchers to graze cattle through the pastures, ensuring all areas are utilized and that no single area becomes over-grazed or trampled. Each pasture will be equipped with a water source so that cattle can stay and graze rather than leave a pasture to get water.

**“ Lone Star Ranch is an example of how responsible ranching can be one of many management tools to enhance the conservation values of native prairie landscapes.”**

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Lone Star Ranch

SUMMER 2010

## Trust the Land

### An Evening of Wine, Art & the Land

Wednesday, July 28th, 5- 8pm

We will be honoring 21 years of conservation work with a benefit event at Tye Winery. Join us for a silent auction of over 20 pieces of artwork from acclaimed local artists, lively music by Three Fingers Jack, and food by Magenta Restaurant. Join us and show your support for Greenbelt Land Trust!

Tye Wine Cellars is located on the scenic Buchanan Family Century Farm founded over 120 years ago in the heart of Oregon's Willamette Valley near Corvallis. Five family generations have revered the farm's open spaces, woodlands, wetlands and streams while growing crops in a sustainable manner. The Buchanan Farm has committed 246 acres to a Wetlands Reserve Program, a 30-year protective easement for wetland habitat in cooperation with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. Landowner Dave Buchanan will be leading a tour of the property at this event ... do not miss it!

\* Ticket information can be found on the back page (8).



greenbelt  
land trust

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*The Greenbelt Land Trust acts to conserve and protect in perpetuity native habitats, working lands and lands of natural beauty, which provide a connection to the natural world for the residents of the Mid-Willamette Valley.*

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# Get into Nature Calendar of Events

## Saturday, July 10th, 9 am – 12 pm

### Lupine Meadows Volunteer Workday, Philomath

We will be removing weeds in the prairie and shrubs along the fenceline before we remove portions of the fence from this beautiful property in Philomath. Please wear long sleeved shirts and pants since we will be pruning blackberries and other prickly vegetation. Meet at the Greenbelt office at 8:30 am for carpooling to the site.

## Wednesday, July 21st, 10 am – 1 pm

### Owens Farm, Wednesday Warriors Workday, Corvallis

We are looking for willing Wednesday Warriors to join us in the field on the 3rd Wednesday each month for restoration work. We will be removing English Ivy from trees and also searching for false brome. Meet at the Greenbelt office at 9:30 am for carpooling to the site.

## Saturday, July 24th, 9 am – 12 pm

### Fitton Green Natural Area Public Tour, Corvallis

Join us for our monthly tour as we lead this summertime hike at a favorite spot in Benton County with incredible views of Marys Peak and the Coast Range. Learn more about the history of this special natural area and how it is being managed for future preservation. Meet at the Greenbelt Office at 9 am for carpooling and directions.

## Wednesday, July 28th, 5pm-8pm

### Trust the Land Benefit for Greenbelt Land Trust, Tyee Winery

See back page of newsletter for details.

## Saturday, August 7th, 9 am – 12 pm

### Evergreen Volunteer Workday, Corvallis

We will be removing a former paintball course from underneath a mixed woodland at Evergreen. Meet at the Greenbelt office at 8:30 am for carpooling to the site.

## Wednesday, August 18th, 10 am – 1 pm

### Evergreen, Wednesday Warriors Workday, Corvallis

We will continue our riparian restoration along Evergreen Creek by eradicating blackberries and other woody vegetation. This will be an ongoing restoration effort this summer with plans to start planting native willow cuttings this winter along the creek. Meet at the Greenbelt office at 9:30 am for carpooling to the site.

## Saturday, August 28th, 9 am – 12 pm

### Willamette Bluffs Public Tour, Buena Vista

Join us for a tour of this 120 acre Conservation Easement overlooking the Willamette River. Bring your binoculars for bird viewing! Meet at the GLT Office at 9 am for carpooling and directions to the site.

## Wednesday, September 15th, 10 am -1 pm

### Lupine Meadows, Wednesday Warriors Workday, Philomath

We will continue to prune woody vegetation from the fence line along the wet prairie. Meet at the Greenbelt office at 9:30 for carpooling to the site.

## Saturday, September 25th, 9 am – 12 pm

### Evergreen Public Tour, Philomath

Join us as we tour this gorgeous 221 acre GLT property that is being actively restored to native wetland, upland prairie, and riparian forest habitats. Meet at the GLT Office at 9 am for carpooling and directions to the site.

## Wednesday, September 29th, 7 pm – 8.30 pm

### “Cougar Ecology in SW Oregon” Lecture, Corvallis/Benton Co. Library

Dr. DeWaine Jackson, ODFW Wildlife Research Manager for SW Oregon, will be discussing Cougar Ecology at the Corvallis Public Library at 7 pm. Don't miss it! For more information, contact Jessica@greenbeltlandtrust.org.

**For more information on events, visit [www.greenbeltlandtrust.org](http://www.greenbeltlandtrust.org) or contact Steve Lilly at [steve@greenbeltlandtrust.org](mailto:steve@greenbeltlandtrust.org) or his cell: 541.207-5529. For workdays: tools, gloves, snacks & water will be provided. Greenbelt office is located at 101 SW Western Blvd. (by riverfront), in Corvallis, 541.752.9609.**

# Trail Connections

In March of this year the City of Corvallis Parks and Natural Areas, Benton County Natural Areas and Parks and the Greenbelt Land Trust held a joint board meeting to discuss this year's planned activities. From that discussion two new committees were formed to consider future trail connections and prioritize trail maintenance in the city and the county. One goal is to create plans that can be used by all agencies to seek grant funding for trail construction and maintenance.

The Trail Maintenance Committee will assess trail conditions and usage and make recommendations for prioritizing work on existing trails, primarily in and around Corvallis. The Trail Connections Committee is looking at ways to connect parks and natural areas with existing and future trail links in Corvallis and throughout Benton County. All forms of trails for non-motorized travel are included, from hiking trails to multi-modal paths and roadside bike lanes.

If you would like to participate or make suggestions, please contact Phil Hays, Chair Benton County Natural Areas and Parks Advisory Board (phays@ao-cs.com, 541-757-9762).



## Interested in helping the Greenbelt save money & trees?

Sign up to receive eUpdates and get our monthly eCalendar and our quarterly newsletter emailed directly to you. For more information or to sign up, please email us at [info@greenbeltlandtrust.org](mailto:info@greenbeltlandtrust.org).

## Running for the Hills

The 4th Annual *Run for the Hills* was a success ... with 205 participants, we were able to raise over \$4,000 for trail maintenance in Corvallis! 8k trail run participant Greg Vauters ran his first ever race at the 2009 *Run for the Hills*, an experience that has since changed his life:

### Why did you decide to run in the *Run for the Hills* for the first time last year?

I hadn't run in years, not since I was a teenager and there was something irresistible about the idea of not just running, but trail running. I need to be honest, the idea was a little intimidating but from the moment that I heard about the *Run for the Hills*, I knew that I had to run this race.



Greg Vauters, #45

### What about running/trail running inspires you?

Benjamin Franklin once said, "Those who are good at making excuses are seldom good at anything else". Running reminds me that many things in life are not easy, they're just worth it. I often find myself wondering at the beginning of a race if I have what it takes. But shortly after finishing and seeing my time, I always think that I could have given a little more.

### How has your life changed since you first ran in the 2009 *Run for the Hills*?

My love and respect for running, as well as those who run, has only grown since that first race. There is a competitive comradery that you find when surrounded by other runners. I could never have imagined how much my life could change in just one year. Since that first *Run for the Hills* race in 2009, I have since gone on to run the 2010 Indy Mini (the largest half marathon in the US) and opened SNAP Fitness 24/7 on Philomath Blvd. here in Corvallis. Now, with the inspiration that I received from your race, I get to help hundreds of people every day on their journey to live well.

### Favorite open space, hiking area, or trail in this area, and why?

Well of course it has to be Bald Hill! Every Saturday, a group of SNAP Fitness members bike from our gym 1.8 miles to Bald Hill and then hike up Bald Hill just to take it all in. I enjoy watching our members literally climbing to new heights, many of them for the very first time. I am so blessed with the privilege of leading people each week to the very spot where I was first inspired. I am so grateful to the Greenbelt Land Trust for providing our community with such a fun and challenging race. By the way, was it just me or was the course a little tougher this year?

- Greg Vauters

# Working Landscapes

Continued from front page

In addition to improving forage and grazing efficiency, rotational grazing helps manage the native plant communities at Lone Star. With cross fencing in place, grazing will be timed to avoid pastures in which native plants are flowering, which produce nectar for native pollinators such as Fender's blue butterfly, and produce the seed to help propagate native prairie plants. Grazing also provides the disturbance that helps maintain upland prairies by preventing tree and shrub establishment and removing some of the grass biomass that competes with native flowers for space, water, sunlight, and nutrients.

“Without the grazing much of prairie would have become overgrown with trees and shrubs. Cross fencing and water sources are the keys to rotational grazing that help us meet the goals for both conservation and cattle production.”- Jeff Baker, GLT Stewardship Manager.

A critical conservation value of the property is its central location within an existing corridor of the endangered Fender's blue butterfly and its host plant, the threatened Kincaid's lupine. However, Kincaid's lupine, which is potentially toxic to cattle, currently is not present at Lone Star. Up to 10 acres of the upland prairie will be fenced, followed by an introduction of Kincaid's lupine. This will protect the lupine from being eaten by the cattle and protect the cattle from ingesting the lupine, while providing a protected area for the lupine to flourish. Gates will allow grazing inside the Kincaid's enclosures when the lupine is dormant and not harmful to cattle.

“Lone Star Ranch is an example of how responsible ranching can be one of many management tools to enhance the conservation values of native prairie landscapes.” – Michael Pope, GLT Executive Director.

When the owners of Lone Star Ranch, Lee and Pat Noble, approached Greenbelt in 2004 about working on a Conservation Easement, their property was zoned as 2-acre rural residential, with the potential of holding up to 100 homes on the site. This level of development would have devastated the critical habitat of upland prairie, only 1% of which remains in the Willamette Valley, and decimated the oak woodlands which provide nesting and sanctuary for many migratory bird species. The Noble family was dedicated to preserving a tradition of ranching for their grandchildren, and because of this commitment and generous funding from the Bonneville Power Administration, a vitally important property has been permanently protected.

Photo Descriptions

1) View of Marys Peak from ranch, 2) Jack Noble (center) giving tour of the ranch, 3) One of the barns located on the ranch, 4) Oregon white oak savannah and woodland habitats.



1



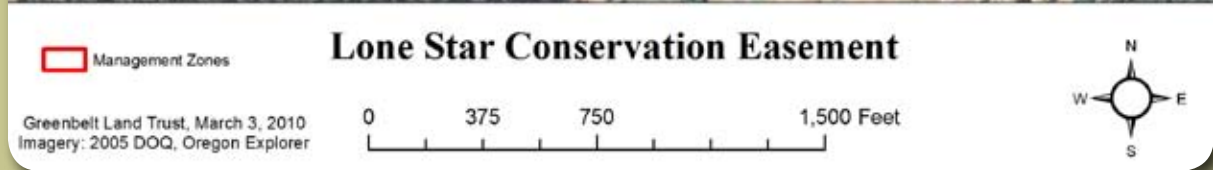
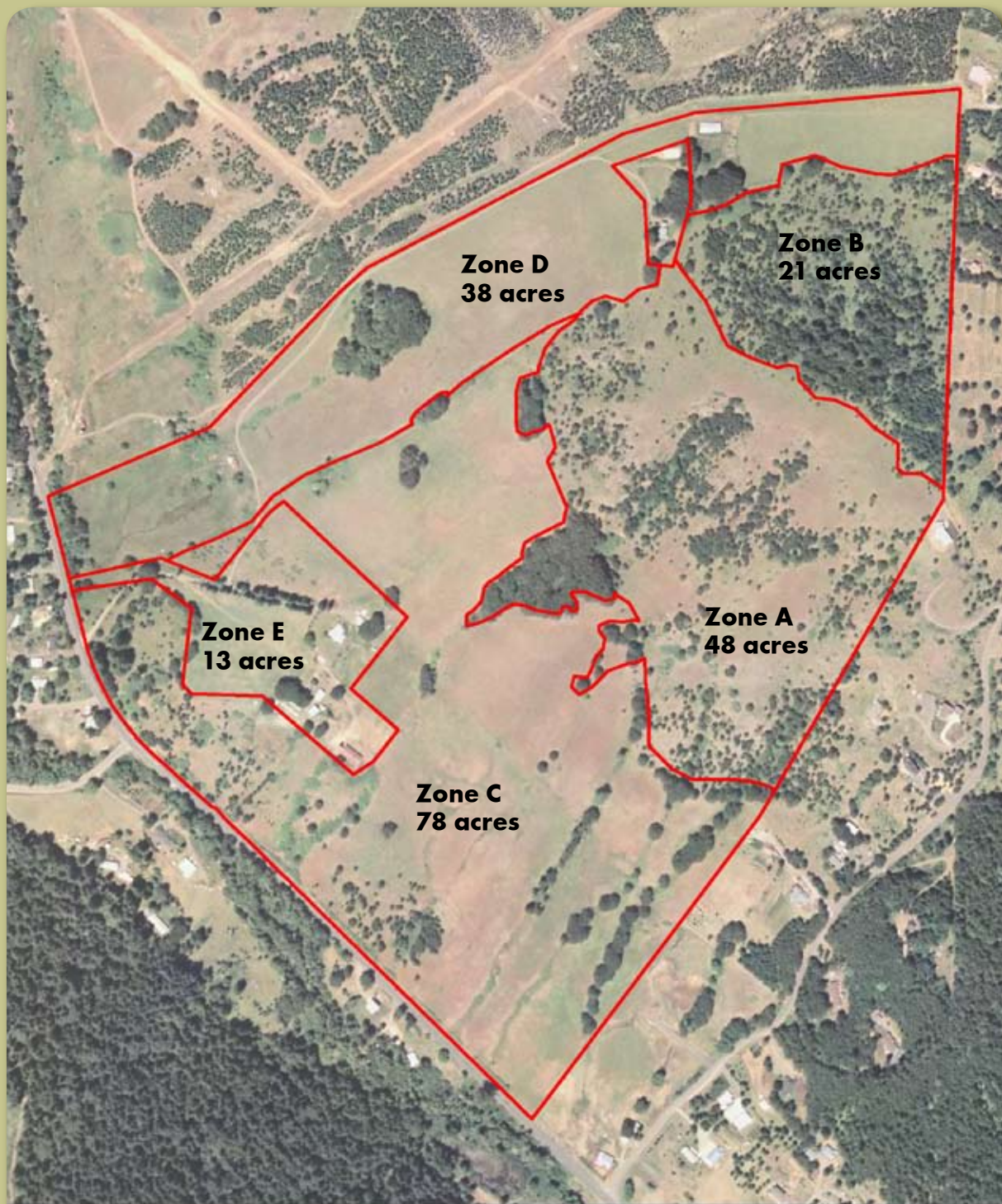
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**Lone Star Ranch Management Zones:** The ranch is divided into 5 management zones to help guide grazing and conservation. Conservation of oak woodlands, oak savanna, and upland prairie is emphasized in Zones A and B. Grazing is used as a tool to help manage for conservation purposes, such as controlling invasive species. Zone C emphasizes both conservation and grazing, with enhancement of the oak woodland for wildlife, increasing the diversity of native plants, and improving cattle forage in the grasslands. The primary emphasis for Zone D is on agricultural uses. The improved pastures are used to produce hay and the oak woodland patches are being retained for habitat for native birds. Zone E contains the ranch operations and residence. It continues to be used for residential and agricultural purposes and additional home sites can be established within the Zone.

# 20 years of Conservation...

## 20 years of Support

In 1989 a grassroots organization was formed to protect the green spaces, trails, vistas, and native habitats of the mid-Willamette Valley. It is two decades later, and the vision that was born amidst living rooms, hikes, and cups of coffee continues to guide the Greenbelt Land Trust, as we have grown and evolved into a regional organization at the forefront of the conservation movement. For the last 20 years YOU have renewed your commitment to the Greenbelt, to this community, and to our natural surroundings. Thank You for 20 Years of Membership. **We honor these members who have loyally supported the Greenbelt Land Trust for over two decades – we would not be where we are without you!**



Rich Medley



John Potter



Philip Hays



Meg Campbell



Al Kitzman & Bob Frenkel



Doug Brodie



Jean & John Nath

Maya Abels & Stewart Holmes  
 Norman and Margaret Anderson  
 Jennifer and Marc Ayotte  
 Alan Ayres  
 Ann & Sarah Batten  
 Patricia Benner & Tony Howell  
 Harold and Arlys Benson  
 Ruth and Owen Bentley  
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 Eric and Judy Blackledge  
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 Mevina Walter  
 Richard and Doris Waring  
 John and Susan Watson  
 Nancy Weber  
 Stewart and Janet Wershow  
 Mark Wilson  
 Mike and Jo Wolf

## As I See It



Charlie Ross was a founder of the Greenbelt Land Trust, and a vocal advocate of the preservation of open spaces in Corvallis and beyond. In 1999 he and his lovely wife, Elsie, were named two of the 'Leaders of the 20th Century' for their dedication to conservation. A prolific writer, Charlie took to the pages of the Gazette Times to discuss the imperative Corvallis faced in protecting our valuable natural resources ... a responsibility that continues today. (Charles Ross, 1914-2006)

### **As I See It: Charlie Ross, August 29, 1989 Gazette Times, extract. 'Greenbelt Would Preserve Open Space'**

Open space set aside in the greenbelt would form a loose arrangement of mostly larger parcels, not a solid or constricting "belt". Nor would they lie athwart paths of development. Corvallis and Philomath are ideal for a greenbelt because of the mix of land types that border them. What land types? Wetlands, ecologically most productive of all lands. We are moving beyond the idea of developing them. Handsomely wooded hillsides; by all means we should preserve some of them. And, at any cost, those high, serene vistas visible for so many miles. I believe, as did the earlier inhabitant here, that our guardian spirits reside here. Lastly, good farmlands at city's edge. Everyone would desire a strong presence of these for interest, amenity, fresh things for the table and harvest experience for children.

All of the above fit into the greenbelt, an "umbrella" embracing pastoral charm, productivity, recreation and assured future livability.

The local Greenbelt Land Trust could be most helpful to a potential benefactor who would donate funds to buy an enduring amenity. What a beautiful memorial it would make: Name it for your favorite ancestor, spouse, mother-in-law, mistress or TV evangelist. Or, evoke idealism, struggle, nostalgia – whatever fancy suggests, like: peace, Love, Vietnam Vets, loggers, Reagan, the spotted owl, Gorbachev.

Would a Greenbelt inhibit growth? For an answer, study those cities with a greenbelt program. Like Boulder, Colo., with 16,00 acres and 95,000 residents. Or Ottawa, Canada's capital, which has over 100,000 acres in working farm fields, woods and other greenspace permanently held for amenity, and so accessible residents can walk or bike into favorite spots after work. Both cities acquire set-asides as they grow, envisaging holding perhaps a third of their metro regions. Such evidence suggests growth is not inhibited, but its inevitable erosion of Nature is greatly mitigated.

I believe the local Land Trust will get public funding some day, perhaps even federal grants from the National Heritage Trust. Right now, though, we see wonderful, irreplaceable green fields, hillsides, meadows, and other ideal greenbelt unites available, low-priced and threatened – our livability headed for the economic shredder. The Greenbelt Land Trust was organized to respond to these opportunities. What it will be able to accomplish will depend on the response of citizens.



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# TRUST THE LAND

## Wine & Art Benefit for the Greenbelt Land Trust

**Tyee Winery**

**Wednesday, July 28th**

**5.00 pm – 8.00 pm**

**26335 Greenberry Road, Corvallis**

**Tickets: \$35 (includes glass of wine, tour, music - Three Fingered Jack)**

**Silent Art Auction: 5.00 pm – 7.30 pm**

**Artwork Preview: July 26th and 27th (GLT Office, 101 SW Western)**

**Tickets available online at [www.greenbeltlandtrust.org](http://www.greenbeltlandtrust.org), or at the door. For more info call the Greenbelt Land Trust at 541.752.9609 or [jessica@greenbeltlandtrust.org](mailto:jessica@greenbeltlandtrust.org).**