

FRONT PAGE

*August 2003 edition; Newsletter of the
Carroll County Land Trust*

CARROLL COUNTY AGRICULTURAL PRESERVATION SILVER CELEBRATION

MOVING FORWARD FROM 40K

Carroll County, Maryland's 'keystone' county, has reached a significant milestone this year as it celebrates 25 years of agricultural land preservation and the preserving of 40,000 acres of land. In celebration of this benchmark and to move the program forward toward the goal of 100,000 preserved acres, an ad hoc committee is planning a series of special activities.

The first of these activities is a **professional video** being developed to serve as a promotional, educational and recognition tool. The video will show the strides being made in agricultural land preservation and how that preservation is beneficial not only for landowners, but for business and the community in general. The video could be used at service club meetings, with environmental groups, in high school economics classes and in various farm meetings. The committee is planning self-guided, open house **tours of some of the preserved land** so that the general citizenry can view firsthand its effectiveness and benefits. These tours will be conducted on **Saturday, November 1, 2003** probably from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. On **Wednesday, November 5, 2003**, at 7:00 p.m. at Wilhelm's Catering in Westminster, a **dinner** will be held to celebrate the past, move forward to the 100,000-acre goal, and recognize all those involved in continuing to make Carroll

County one of the leaders in the nation in agricultural land preservation.

How to help

Organizations, businesses, and individuals have an opportunity to also show support for agriculture and land preservation by making a monetary contribution toward this event. Contributors of \$500 will be included in the video credits, receive two free tickets to the November 5th dinner, and be included in the publicity generated by the activity. Contributors of \$100 or more will receive two free dinner tickets and publicity. Other contributors will receive recognition in the program and other publicity. The committee plans to mail invitation letters (to the dinner) in September and all Carroll County Land Trust members will be on the mailing list. Be sure and mark these dates on your calendar now. This is going to be a significant event. Many more details should be forthcoming through the news media as the Silver Celebration Committee prepares for the celebration of this tremendous milestone.

Land Trust members are encouraged to contribute to this event, apart from the annual Land Trust membership contribution. Your special contribution check can be made out to **Carroll County Land Trust** and earmarked for the Ag Preservation Silver Celebration Committee and sent to **Carroll County Land Trust, P.O. Box 2137, Westminster, Maryland 21158** by September 1, 2003. For more information, please contact committee co-chairs, Jean Knill at 301-829-1367 or 410-635-6865 or Walter Bay at 410-848-1015. Other members of the Committee are: Michael Bell, Brenda Black, Carolyn Garber, Joseph Getty, Don Hering, Bill Knill, Joe Kuhn, Wilson Lippy, Bill Powel, Bill Rasche, Ralph Robertson, Jennifer Ruppert, Sandy Wieber and Gabe Zepp.

(article contributed by Committee members Jean Knill and Brenda Black).

**Celebrate the 224th Birthday
of Francis Scott Key by
Touring
Terra Rubra, the Carroll
County Site of Key's
Birthplace**

Make plans to join the Historical Society of Carroll County and the Carroll County Land Trust at a series of special Open House days on the first four Sundays of August August 3rd, 10th, 17th & 24th from 1 to 5 p.m. Admission: \$2 per person or \$5 per family/group

The Historical Society of Carroll County and the Carroll County Land Trust are pleased to have been invited by the owners of *Terra Rubra* to assist in opening the farm house, barn and grounds, including a believed slave burial ground, in honor of Francis Scott Key's 224th Birthday. The farm will be open four consecutive Sundays this August between 1 and 5 pm. The site is located 1.2 miles west of MD Route 194 at 1755 Bruceville-Keysville Road, just north of Keymar and 4.1 miles south of Taneytown. (see enclosed flier for more directions to site).

Terra Rubra (circa 1850), was built on the site of the circa 1771 Key home that was the centerpiece of the family's nearly 2,800 acres of the redlands field, forest and streams in north central Maryland. It is these redlands grounds, which became Carroll County in 1837 seven years before Key's death, that gave the original plantation its evocative name. Today the names of Key and *Terra Rubra* are still associated with many communities and locales in this part of Carroll County: Keysville, Keymar and the *Terra Rubra* Lions, to name but a few.

Terra Rubra has been privately held for many decades. While a 1915 commemorative marker augmented by a flag pole donated by the Kiwanis in 1949 mark the ground of Key's birthplace, the buildings on the site have not been opened to the public in decades. The current owners of the property wish to change that record. Mr. & Mrs. William Chaney, who have committed the house and grounds to permanent protection through preservation, agricultural and Rural Legacy easements, wish to welcome the public to *Terra Rubra* on Sunday afternoons during the month of August. History enthusiasts and collectors, the Chaney's will be on hand to meet visitors. Many volunteers assisting during these open house days are area residents who have memories of the farm and the surrounding community that they can share as well.

The property owner will be donating ALL of the proceeds from these four afternoon Open House days to benefit the Historical Society of Carroll County and the Carroll County Land Trust.

A small admission fee will be charged: \$2 per person and \$5 per family. **Photographs, strollers and high heels WILL NOT be permitted in the house.**

For further information about the event or the participating organizations, please call The Historical Society of Carroll County, Barbara Lilly at 410-848-6494 or The Carroll County Land Trust, David Grayson at 410-848-9172.

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\$200K GRANT AWARDED to CCLT !!

The Carroll County Land Trust is very pleased to announce that it has recently received a \$200,000 dollar grant from the USDA (NRCS) Farmland Protection Program to apply to the purchase of another permanent easement on a qualifying farm in Carroll County. More details on the farm easement to be secured will appear in the next edition of *Front Page*.

**CCLT MEMBERS CONTRIBUTING TO
CCLT \$500 SPONSORSHIP**

Carroll County Land Trust (CCLT) has an excellent opportunity to promote its mission and increase citizen awareness of CCLT by sponsoring the Carroll County Agricultural Preservation Silver Celebration that is previewed in a separate article of this newsletter. Sponsorship at the \$500 level would give CCLT credit at the end of the land preservation video that is being produced. The CCLT Executive Committee has agreed to apply the revenue received at the Terra Rubra Open House Days toward this sponsorship, and several directors will consider making an individual contribution toward sponsorship, if more funds are needed to reach the \$500 level.

CCLT is cooperating with the celebration committee by serving as the agency for collecting and disbursement of funds. Anyone can be a sponsor of the celebration at any level by mailing a check made out to CCLT, P.O. Box 2137, Westminster, Maryland 21158. CCLT members who wish to help CCLT reach the \$500 level should clearly indicate that their check is a contribution to CCLT for this purpose. As a contributor to the CCLT sponsorship, you will not receive individual recognition by the celebration committee. If you wish to be recognized individually as a sponsor of the Silver Celebration, please indicate that your check is for direct sponsorship. You may use the enclosed form for your contribution toward the CCLT \$500 sponsorship.

Enclosed please find my/our check in the amount of \$ _____ to help the CCLT be a sponsor of the Carroll County Agricultural Preservation Silver Celebration.

- This is a contribution to CCLT that is earmarked for the CCLT sponsorship of the celebration event.

Note: For "direct sponsorship" which will entitle me/us to sponsorship recognition, see the article on the front page.

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____