

FRONT PAGE

Newsletter of the *Carroll County Land Trust*; December 2004 edition

MERRY CHRISTMAS, HAPPY HANUKKAH AND SEASONS GREETINGS TO ALL CCLT MEMBERS !

Because everyone is so busy at this time of year, we will keep this short.

First, please don't forget to make your annual tax deductible contribution for 2004, if you have not already done so. The year end,

December 31st, is almost upon us and the Trust *really* depends on your annual contribution. It's the financial contributions of members together with the many man-hours of voluntary time so generously given by the members who serve on the Board of Directors that enable us to carry out our mission. In the past year we have made some real progress in permanently preserving agricultural and conservation land (see articles).

Mail your check now to:

***Treasurer, Carroll County Land Trust, P.O. Box 2137
Westminster, Md 21158 (thanks)***

BAUGHER GRAIN FARM PRESERVED

The Carroll County Land Trust was successful in securing a \$284,900 grant from the Federal Farm & Ranch Lands Protection Program to apply toward the purchase of a farmland preservation easement on 242 acres of prime farmland owned by Baugher Grain Farms, Inc.. The grant together with funds provided by the County Commissioners, enabled the County to leverage its available matching funds for permanent farmland preservation in Carroll County. Settlement occurred on November 29, 2004. The CCLT and the County Commissioners are now co-holding the easement as joint Grantees.

This farm is located in the Middleburg Election district along both sides of Hapes Mill Road, and borders Big Pipe Creek. It also connects two huge blocks of previously preserved farmland creating a contiguous area of 2,730 acres, the equivalent of 4 ¼ square miles

RICH MEADOWS FARM PRESERVED

The CCLT was successful in securing a \$200,000 grant from the Federal Farm & Ranch Lands Protection Program to apply toward the purchase of a permanent farmland preservation easement on The Rich Meadows Farm of Griffith Manahan. This 84 acre cash grain farm is part of a larger operation and is located in Warfieldsburg area on both sides of Stone Chapel Road. In the immediate vicinity, are three other existing large farmland easement properties. This grant secured by the CCL, also enabled the County to leverage county matching funds for permanent farmland preservation.

PARTNERSHIP

The Carroll County Land Trust is a local private non-profit 501(c) 3 organization. It is not a part of County Government, but it works as a cooperative independent partner in sharing the County goal of permanently preserving 100,000 acres of farmland in Carroll County. The coordination between the CCLT and Carroll County's Office of Farmland Preservation, has been most beneficial and the results are becoming impressive. The Baugher Grain Farm Easement and the Rich Meadows Easement noted above, follow on two other easements previously secured with grants to the CCLT awarded through the Natural Resource Conservation Service, USDA Farm & Ranch Lands Protection Program. To date, *your* CCLT has been able to secure \$704, 942 in grant money to apply directly to purchasing four permanent farmland preservation easements in Carroll County!

MEMBERSHIP CONTRIBUTIONS PAY DIVIDENDS

Without membership contributions, the ability to operate would not be possible and these grant funds would go elsewhere. Your continued giving will enable the CCLT Directors to continue seeking these grants and any others we can secure.

CARROLL COUNTY LAND TRUST ENDOWMENT FUND ESTABLISHED

This Fall, following several meetings of the Endowment Working Committee of the Board of Directors, composed of

Walt Bay, (Chair), Dave Grayson, (Past President), Ned Cueman, and Audry Cimino (ex officio and Executive Director of the Community Foundation of Carroll County), the Committee presented a proposal to the Directors to create a fund to be called "***Carroll County Land Trust Endowment***". The purpose of the Endowment Fund is to receive "gifts" from grantors or testators or from fund raising activity for the benefit of the Endowment. The Fund will be managed by the Directors in partnership with the Community Foundation of Carroll County which will provide investment management, administrative services and required state and federal reporting, and donor services. The primary purpose is to establish a fund that will increase in size over time and generate an earnings revenue stream from the principal, to help support and expand the operating budget and to accelerate the mission and effectiveness of the Carroll County Land Trust. Upon officially approving and establishing the Endowment Fund by Resolution of the Board, an initial amount of \$5,000 was transferred by the Board into the Fund from the Operating Budget. Any member or any non-member wishing to make a gift to the Endowment Fund is encouraged to do so at any time. Such gifts for the Endowment Fund should be 'so noted' and may be sent to: ***Treasurer, Carroll County Land Trust, P.O. Box 2137 Westminster, Md. 21158; or sent to the Community Foundation of Carroll County, for the Carroll County Land Trust Endowment Fund.*** Questions or further information may be directed to Audry Cimino, Executive Director, Community Foundation of Carroll County. (410-876-5505) Address: P.O. Box 170, Westminster, Md. 21158