

FRONT PAGE

Newsletter of the *Carroll County Land Trust*; March 2006 edition

ATTENTION !

HOLD THE DATE:

Thursday April 20, 2006

MEMBERS ANNUAL DINNER MEETING

6:30 P.M. Cash Bar Opens

7:00 P.M. Dinner (fine food)

Place: Westminster Elks Club
Gorsuch Rd. off Rt. 140
(behind Olive Garden)
see RSVP form enclosed

2006 ANNUAL CONTRIBUTIONS

Don't forget to make your annual tax deductible contribution for 2006. Your contribution is vital to help carry out the Carroll County Land Trust *mission* of helping to permanently preserve Carroll County's agricultural land. The Annual Contribution Slip is also enclosed along with notice of the upcoming Annual Dinner Meeting set for Thursday April 20th. *Many thanks!*

NEW BROCHURES

As reported in the October edition of Front Page, the Carroll County Land Trust Directors have been working on two new brochures. These brochures are being developed as part of the Trust's mission and its continuing need to reach people about the option of land preservation for eligible land owners,

and how all inhabitants of Carroll County can help farmland preservation efforts before it is too late. One brochure will be directed to those landowners who would be eligible for establishing preservation easements on their land. Another brochure will be directed to the vast number of people for whom land preservation may not be applicable, but who benefit by and enjoy the preservation of agricultural land and the retention of the County's rural heritage. This latter category includes the vast majority of Carroll inhabitants. The Trust is in the process of finalizing and producing these brochures with in-kind assistance from the County. Currently, the County's graphic designer/illustrator, Tara Mayers, is providing guidance in this endeavor. When available, the brochures will be distributed by mail and other means as part of the Carroll County Land Trust outreach effort.

In-Kind Service Assistance To Land Trust Coming

As also reported in the October edition of Front Page, the Board of Directors of the Carroll County Land Trust approached the County Commissioners Office this past September to explore what, if any, in-kind services could be provided to assist the Trust in its mission.. Because the Commissioners have recognized the efforts of the Carroll County Land Trust in successfully securing significant sums of USDA grant funds to apply toward the co-purchase of preservation easements to leverage County funds in the purchase of easements, the Commissioners have agreed to provide certain in-kind services to assist the Trust. These services include lay-out and graphics for the new brochures and assistance with

printing; providing a data base for mailings with assistance from the Agricultural Land Preservation office, assistance with postage for mass mailings on a rotating schedule of zip codes, and flagging of possible grant opportunities by Colleen Baumgartner in the County's Grants Office. This assistance will be a welcome shot in the arm to the Trust's efforts.

CONGRATULATIONS CARROLL COUNTY—YOU'VE EARNED IT!

As recently reported in local newspapers, Carroll County's farmland preservation program was one of only six programs nationwide to be honored to receive the *County Leadership in Conservation Award*. This award is sponsored jointly by the National Association of Counties and the Trust for Public Lands as was presented to the County Commissioners recently in Washington, D.C.. Specifically the award singled out the Critical Farms Program developed by the County to save prime farms "in a timely fashion by providing needed capital in exchange for the promise of preservation" according to Commissioner Julia Gouge and reported in The Gazette Regional News. To date, 22 full time farmers have used the program to purchase their first farm and another 14 farmers have been able to expand their existing farming operations under this program. Without this built in option within Carroll County's overall farm preservation program, there is no way the County would be in its current position of having preserved 50, 000 acres of farmland, or half of its total goal of 100,00 acres.

BEQUESTS

For those who wish to remember the Carroll County Land Trust in their wills, the following form is suggested:

I give and bequest to the Carroll County Land Trust, Inc., for its general purpose the sum of \$ _____.

***Carroll County Land Trust, Inc.
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Westminster, Md. 21158
410-848-8247***