

# FRONT PAGE

Newsletter of the *Carroll County  
Land Trust*; March 2007 edition.

## ATTENTION !

\*\*\***HOLD THE DATE**\*\*\*

Wednesday, April 25, 2007

### **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)

### **Landowner Preservation Recognitions**

#### **Alice Mildred Shipley Award**

(RSVP form enclosed)

Come and get the latest on efforts to  
meet the **100,000 preserved acres goal**.

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### 2007 ANNUAL CONTRIBUTIONS

The Members' Annual Contribution Slip  
is enclosed along with notice above of  
the upcoming Annual Dinner Meeting.  
Please don't forget to make your annual  
**tax deductible contribution** for **2007**.  
Your contribution is vital to helping the  
Carroll County Land Trust carry out its  
**mission** of helping to permanently  
preserve Carroll County's agricultural  
land. **Many thanks!**

### **NEW BROCHURES--A Work in Progress**

Two new brochures, are now 'camera ready' for the printer. As reported in previous newsletters, one brochure is directed at the vast number of residents who live in the County's towns, villages, and immediate environs of these communities as well as other areas of the county that have long been planned to receive residential, commercial, industrial, and other development. The greater Eldersburg area and Finksburg area, in addition to the Westminster, Hampstead, Manchester, Mt. Airy, Taneytown, Sykesville, New Windsor and Union Bridge areas, make up the bulk of the County's resident population. This brochure is for these residents and a lesser number of residents located on lots sprinkled throughout the countryside in the predominantly agricultural areas of the County. The brochure speaks to all who do not own farms or tracts of land large enough to qualify for land preservation programs, but who benefit greatly by those farmland tracts that still do qualify. Most importantly, the brochure identifies a simple means by which individual residents could help the agricultural land preservation effort and program in their home County.

The second brochure is directed to the very group of farmland owners who would be eligible to qualify for available land preservation programs. This group of landowners will individually and collectively decide whether Carroll County will meet the 100,000 acres goal of preserved agricultural land. This brochure is an outreach effort of the Carroll County Land Trust to promote awareness and facilitate acceleration of voluntary actions of the part of eligible

landowners to permanently preserve their land through available programs.

In this outreach effort, the Carroll County Land Trust sees two groups and has crafted a message for each in separate brochures. The degree of participation by each group will ultimately determine the degree of success in reaching the goal before it is too late.

The Directors hope to have these two brochures in hand and available for members attending our Annual Meeting, prior to making arrangements for their distribution.

### **USDA Federal Farm and Ranchland Protection Program Update**

Carroll County Land Trust members are aware the Trust has been successful in recent years securing available grant funds from USDA to match and leverage available county funds for the purchase of farm preservation easements in Carroll County. These particular funds would go elsewhere were it not for the existence of the Carroll County Land Trust, Inc., as funds appropriated must be competed for by qualified land trusts.

Due to some unfortunate rule and policy changes at the federal level by federal officials, the Trust has declined to participate in this Program until the problems associated with rule, policy changes, and new easement language have been resolved. The County likewise has declined to compete for funds set-aside for counties for the same reasons.

As a result, the CCLT Directors formally requested the assistance of Congressman Roscoe Bartlett to look into the issues. An initial meeting was held on the

matter at the Congressman's Westminster Office last summer with his staff and also attended by the Chairman of the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Board of Trustees. In September a second meeting was held in the Congressman's Office in Washington, D.C. with several federal officials in attendance. A CCLT director attended and spoke at this meeting on behalf of the Trust, and the Carroll County Ag Preservation Program Administrator spoke on behalf of Carroll County. The meeting was attended by several State officials. The Congressman directed federal officials to go back and review the rule, policy changes and easement language that were at issue and to return with solutions that could be discussed at a meeting to be scheduled with the parties in attendance.

The CCLT will keep members apprised of any outcome from the next meeting when it occurs. Important as is the need to see that funds provided by Congress to preserve farmland continue to go to work here in Carroll County, it is even more important to the Directors to have no reservations about any new terms of an easement they themselves as landowners would execute.

### ***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 \$\_\_\_\_\_.*

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### ***Contact Information***

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