

FRONT PAGE

Newsletter of the *Carroll County
Land Trust*; March 2008 edition.

ATTENTION !

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

Wednesday, April 17, 2008

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)

**County Commissioners
Landowner Preservation Recognitions**

**Annual Farmland Preservation
Update**

Alice Mildred Shipley Award

(RSVP by April 12th; form enclosed)

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

2008 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 **2008**.
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 Continues

Our two new brochures, are now printed
and being sent throughout the County.
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 the residents of those
areas 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 do qualify and
are voluntarily preserved by their
owners.** Most importantly, **the
brochure identifies a simple means by
which individual residents could help
the agricultural land preservation
effort and program in Carroll County.**
This brochure has been sent to all mail
recipients in the Taneytown Postal Zip
area (21787). All other postal zip areas
will receive this brochure over a period
of time.

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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. With the assistance of the Carroll County Farmland Preservation Office, a data base of potentially eligible landowners is being assembled. Once ready, this second brochure will be enclosed with a letter encouraging the landowner recipient to consider land preservation for their land.

The degree of participation by each group, those helping with monetary contributions and those voluntarily acting to preserve their land, will ultimately determine the degree of success in reaching the 100,000 acre goal before it is too late.

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 declined to participate in this Program until the problems associated with rule, policy changes, and new easement language is resolved. The County likewise declined to compete for funds set-aside for counties for the same reasons.

As reported in the previous newsletter, the CCLT Board of Directors formally requested the assistance of Congressman Roscoe Bartlett to look into the issues. As a result of an initial meeting in Westminster and a follow-up meeting in the Congressman's Office in Washington, D.C. with several federal officials in attendance, the new Farm Bill still pending passage in Congress, is believed to have essentially resolved the issues. The CCLT will keep members apprised of the final outcome in the newsletter *Front Page* following passage and signing into law of the Farm Bill.

BEQUESTS

For those who wish to remember the Carroll County Land Trust, Inc. 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 \$ _____.

Contact Information

***Carroll County Land Trust, Inc.
P.O. Box 2137 Westminster, MD 21158
Phone: 410-848-8247***

The Carroll County Land Trust, Inc. is a local non-profit 501(c)(3) organization with an open membership and members who contribute annually and welcome new members to help further the mission of land preservation in Carroll County.