

FRONT PAGE

Newsletter of the *Carroll County
Land Trust*; March 2009 edition.

ATTENTION !

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

Wednesday, April 16, 2009

CCLT MEMBERS ANNUAL DINNER MEETING

Place: Westminster Elks Club
Gorsuch Road off Rt. 140
(behind Olive Garden)

6:30 P.M. Cash Bar Opens

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

**County Commissioners
Landowner Preservation Recognitions**

**Annual Farmland Preservation
Program Update**

RSVP by: April 13th; form enclosed

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

2009 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 2009.
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!*

Agricultural and Conservation Land Preservation Easement Activity

Overall, the number of landowners
placing land under agricultural and
preservation easements continued at a
steady pace this past year. Twenty-two
(22) farms totaling an additional 2,100
acres were permanently preserved,
bringing the County total to
approximately 55,000 acres. This pushes
the County past the half-way mark in
pursuit of its goal of 100,000 acres of
permanently preserved land in the
County. The landowners placing
permanent easements on their land this
past year are invited to be recognized at
the April 16 Annual Dinner Meeting as
guests of the County Commissioners.

While only one donated easement to the
Carroll County Land Trust was recorded
this year—*Summer Solstice Farm* in
Bachman Valley, there are several
donated agricultural and conservation
easements pending on other lands for
which the Trust would receive and serve
as grantee and holder of these
easements. CCLT member contributions
make this possible, enabling technical
assistance without cost to the donating
landowner.

The CCLT Board of Directors has also
been working jointly on a very unique
purchase easement with the County
Commissioners, the recording of which
in the County Land Records is
anticipated very soon. The details of this
unique easement and its significance
once recorded will be reported in an
upcoming issue of *Front Page*.

Outreach Program Continues

The CCLT's brochure aimed at Carroll Countians who do not own farms or tracts of land large enough or located to qualify for land preservation programs was sent this past year to the Hampstead postal zip code area in June 2008. The previous year the Taneytown postal zip code area received the brochure. This brochure was written with the purpose of identifying how the vast majority of Carroll County residents could help the agricultural land preservation program and effort by making a tax deductible donation to the Carroll County Land Trust. Such a contribution automatically makes the contributor a friend and member of CCLT, which in turn, enables the Trust to provide technical services without cost to those landowners who are donating permanent easements on their land.

USDA Federal Farm and Ranchland Protection Program Update (Editorial)

On a sour note, this federal program remains 'mired in the mud'. Previous newsletters have detailed how this program once contributed to the agricultural land preservation efforts in Carroll County. Unfortunately, as is so often the case, when a federal program is working, there are people in government who invariably foul-up working programs by attempting rule and policy changes unacceptable to local program administrators and land owners interested in preserving their land.

The latest report the CCLT has been able to get on this program is that several of the proposed policy and rule changes were dropped and the issues resolved as part of the new Farm Bill recently

adopted by Congress and signed into law by the President. However, the appropriation of funds and the administration process for these funds is currently unclear and incomplete. In short, this program is not up and running. If and when this program comes back on line with funding and acceptable terms, seeking to secure funds from this source can resume.

Mid-Atlantic Farm Credit

Many, many thanks to Mid-Atlantic Farm Credit which helped sponsor the CCLT Dinner Meeting in 2008 and is doing so again this year. Mid-Atlantic Farm Credit's contribution to the Carroll County Land Trust in support of land preservation efforts in Carroll County is greatly appreciated.

Web Site

Currently the CCLT does not have its own Web Site. Information about the Trust is available on the Maryland Environmental Trust (MET) Web Site and the Carroll County Web Site. A project is underway by Board member Alice Altstatt to create our own Web Site. *Front Page* will report further on this at such time as "we are on the Web".

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. We welcome new members to help further the mission of land preservation in Carroll County.