

# FRONT PAGE

Newsletter of the *Carroll County  
Land Trust*; March 2015 edition.

*Edmund R. "Ned" Cueman, Editor*

## **ATTENTION!**

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

**Wednesday, April 15, 2015**

### ***MEMBERS ANNUAL MEETING***

**6:45 P.M.** Meet & Greet

**7:00 P.M.** Invocation & Buffet Meal

**Place:** County Extension Office Bldg.  
(end of Smith Ave.) Westminster, MD

#### **Agenda:**

- + Short Business Meeting
- + Commissioners Landowner Recognitions
- + Ag Land Preservation Program Update
- + **Agri-Culture of Permanence in Carroll**
- + Alice Mildred Shipley Award

See **RSVP** form enclosed if planning to  
attend the Annual Meeting

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### **2015 ANNUAL CONTRIBUTIONS**

Members' Annual **Contribution** Slip is  
enclosed along with notice above of the  
upcoming Annual Meeting. Please don't  
forget to make your **annual tax  
deductible contribution** for **2015**. As  
always, 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, many thanks!**

### **March Madness and Annual Meeting Program Thoughts**

As with NCAA college basketball teams across the nation striving to succeed and make it to the 'Final Four', so it is with those counties across the nation who have accepted a challenge—even more daunting, to succeed in permanently preserving their county's agricultural land base for future generations before it is too late. The main difference, of course, is that for counties, the timeline to succeed or not, is not a single season, but the 'longest of hauls' requiring endurance and a sustained effort over more than a generation in time.

Carroll County's Ag Preservation Program is now in its 35th year with a ways to go to reach the goal which was set at the outset in 1980, of permanently preserving 100,000 acres of farmland. With **65,761** acres now permanently preserved, that success can be attributed to: landowners who voluntarily elected to permanently preserve their farmland; nine (9) consecutive County Commissioners Boards who made the necessary financial commitment to accomplish this goal; and the high caliber of county Ag Preservation personnel in the Office of Ag Land Preservation who have administered this Program over the long haul to the present. Talented, knowledgeable and dedicated public servants in this Office have dealt with numerous challenges over this time span, kept the Program on track and the momentum moving forward. Without their dedication, innovative thinking and problem solving capabilities, the Program could have easily stumbled on a number of occasions which could have resulted in jeopardizing attainment of the goal.

(over)

It appears that we are now facing another one of these challenges. As a 24 year advocate for the Ag Preservation Program, the CCLT Board has been dedicated to doing everything it can possibly do for its part to help the County reach its goal. Currently, this would include urging the new Board of Commissioners to give serious attention to addressing the needed staffing components, requirements and expertise essential to proper functioning of this Office. The current short-staffing of the Ag Preservation Office originated toward the end of the previous Board's term. The knowledge that the new Board of County Commissioners, to a man, supports the County's Ag Preservation Program should be a positive in adequately addressing and resolving the short-staffing concerns at the earliest possible time. In the meantime, the CCLT Board looks forward to hosting the new Board of Commissioners at the Annual Dinner Meeting for the **Commissioner's Landowner Recognitions.**

### **County Property Tax Credit and the 'Remaining Portion' Initiative**

This new CCLT initiative has begun. As part of the Trust outreach mission, 30 land owners whose properties are designated as 'remaining portions' from subdivision in the Agricultural Zoning District and so stipulated on the recorded subdivision plat, have been contacted. As part of a pilot program, the purpose is to be sure they are aware of the County Property Tax Credit for those who donate a permanent preservation easement to a qualifying organization such as the CCLT. These "remainder" properties are not entitled to additional residential lots by zoning and recorded plat stipulations, and not eligible for the

purchase of development rights under the County Land Preservation Program. However, many of these "remainder" properties throughout the County are eligible for the County Property Tax Credit where a donated preservation easement has been granted by the landowner and recorded. The CCLT provides technical assistance without expense to any landowner who is interested in permanently preserving their land with a donated land preservation easement. The CCLT also pays for the legal sufficiency review by its attorney and the Land Records recording fee. Currently, the CCLT is working with four (4) land owners who are desirous of donating an easement and receiving the Property Tax Credit. The CCLT will continue notifying additional landowners who are eligible and work with those who are interested.

### **Happy Birthday—we're 24 years old! Thanks to our members!!**

As a local 501(c) 3 non-profit organization, Carroll County Land Trust operates financially from the individual contributions of its members and any sponsors. While it does not receive any operating funding from any government, it has been dedicated from its inception in 1991 to the present, to doing everything it can to help the County reach its goal of 100,000 acres of permanently preserved farmland. Along with the Carroll County Farm Bureau and the Grange, the Carroll County Land Trust serves as an advocate for the importance of permanent farmland preservation..

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

**Phone: 410-848-8247/CCLT P.O. Box 2137 Westminster, Md. 21158**