

FRONT PAGE

Newsletter of the *Carroll County
Land Trust*; November 2020 edition.
Edmund R. "Ned" Cueman, Editor

GREETINGS LAND TRUST MEMBERS

Hoping this Newsletter finds you and your family well and doing the best you can contending with life in a pandemic. Since last March, it's been one heck of a year.

Normally, our newsletter *Front Page* goes out in early March ahead of our Annual Meeting which is normally held in April. However, even before covid arrived, the Land Trust Board was in the process of shifting the Annual Meeting to the Fall to coincide with an anticipated grand celebration of the County's Ag Preservation Program reaching the milestone of 75,000 acres permanently preserved. While the planned celebration had to be postponed to the Fall of 2021, this remarkable 75K milestone has been reached! As a contributing member of the Carroll County Land Trust you certainly owe it to yourself to be proud of your being a part of this continuing effort to reach the 100,000 acres goal.

The work goes on. Momentum is paramount. We've come along way in 40 years of effort and need to maintain the will. The goal is within reach!

2020 ANNUAL CONTRIBUTIONS

Members: your *Annual Contribution Slip* is enclosed. Please don't forget to make your *annual tax deductible contribution* for 2020. Your contribution is vital to helping the *Carroll County Land Trust* carry out its *mission* to help reach the goal of **permanently preserving 100,000 acres** of Carroll County's agricultural land. *Many, many thanks and God bless!*

Board Meeting Logistics

Scheduled in-person meetings of the Board have not been possible during covid. However, Jason Dudderar, President has arranged conference calls with Board members participating. The status of initiatives has been discussed. Work and progress on our Webpage continues as do our efforts to assist landowners who are interested in *donating* a conservation easement on their land and thereby receiving a 15 year county property tax credit annually. We are most fortunate to have Deborah Bowers, Program Manager for the Carroll County Ag Preservation Program as ex officio member of the Carroll County Land Trust Board and J.P. Smith, Ag Preservation Specialist at the County Ag Preservation Office serving as a Board member. This close association between our 501c(3) non-profit status and the County Ag Preservation Program has been mutually beneficial to the entire effort ever since the Land Trust was formed in 1991.

President's Corner

Dear Land Trust Members:

There is a great deal to brief you on since our last newsletter. Most pressing is our Annual

Meeting and complimentary dinner which is quickly approaching on May 9, 6:30 p.m. at the County Extension Office Bldg. in Westminster. I hope to see you there! It is an excellent opportunity to hear an update on land preservation efforts in Carroll County. Even more exciting is to hear the stories of the families who participated in the most recent cycle of agricultural land preservation and the positive impact it has had on their families, the land that was preserved and our community.

I would also like the opportunity to brief you in person on what the board has been hard at work on this past year. I was humbled to be elected as President last year as our long time President, Ralph Robertson transitioned to the board of directors. It is an honor to follow in Ralph's footsteps but also daunting given how much Ralph has accomplished in the world of agricultural land preservation and for the community in general. At a board retreat at Ralph's home after last year's annual meeting the board laid out a framework for what we would like to accomplish as an organization over the long term. This resulted in expanding our mission from assisting property owners through agricultural and conservation easement processes to also preserving the agricultural, rural and historic character of Carroll County. We believe we can accomplish this mission by continuing to accept donated easements but also by advocating for the preservation of land, the rural nature and historic character of Carroll County. We have identified very ambitious goals to work towards our mission and we are in need of people like you to become involved to help us drive these goals and this mission forward. So I hope to see you at our annual meeting or to hear from you in the very near future.

*Sincerely,
Jason B. Dutterar,
President*

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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 \$_____.***