



Preservation News

August 2021

Issue 2

Program Manager Deb Bowers Retires

After 10 years of service with Carroll County's Agricultural Land Preservation Program ("Ag Pres" for short), Program Manager Deborah "Deb" Bowers retired on April 23, 2021.

Deb has been with Carroll's Agricultural Land Preservation Program since September 2011, first serving as Preservation Specialist

under former program manager and Westminster farmer, Ralph Robertson. She became Program Manager in 2014. She lives in Harford County on the farm owned by her family since 1946, which is preserved under the Harford County agricultural land preservation program.

Deb has more than 25 years of experience in land preservation in Maryland and is co-author of *Holding Our Ground – Protecting America's Farms and Farmland*. She is moderator and co-founder of the national Farmland Preservation Roundtable. Deb was also the editor and publisher of *Farmland Preservation Report* newsletter, started in 1990.

During Deb's time with the Carroll County Ag Pres Program, a total of 173 farms came into the Program, encompassing 16,350 acres.



Deb will be recognized at the annual Carroll County Land Trust dinner to be held at the Westminster

Conference Center on WMC Drive on Thursday, October 14, 2021. 📍

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Save the Date

*Celebrate 75,000 Preserved Acres at
Carroll County Farm Museum's Fall Harvest Celebration*

Saturday, October 16, 2021 from 10 AM to 4 PM

CelebratingAgPres.CarrollCountyMD.gov



Save the Date to Celebrate... the 75,000-Acre Milestone

All residents and interested parties are invited to attend [Celebrating 75,000 Acres Preserved & Growing](#), an event celebrating the County's attaining 75,000 acres of preserved agricultural land. The celebration is Saturday, October 16, 2021, from 10 AM to 4 PM at the Carroll County Farm Museum. The day is free to the public as part of the Farm Museum's Fall Harvest Celebration and includes a special ceremony at 12:30 pm on the Farm Museum stage.

Carroll County reached the milestone of 75,000 acres preserved in fall of 2020 but postponed the celebration due to the pandemic. To recognize the occasion, [Celebrating 75,000 Acres Preserved & Growing](#) will feature a ceremony and a special exhibit recognizing this agricultural preservation accomplishment. A free morning [bus tour](#) featuring nearby preserved farms is available with registration on the event webpage, first come, first served. An

educational campaign accompanies the event promoting the benefits of preservation to the community and the importance of "growing" preserved land acreage to attain the remaining 25,000 acres.

Operating since 1980, Carroll County's Agricultural Land Preservation effort is the most successful in Maryland, preserving more farms and more acres through the purchase of land preservation

easements than any other county in Maryland. Carroll County's program also ranks among the nation's top five similar programs administered by local governments in the United States.

More information can be found on the County's event webpage [CelebratingAgPres.CarrollCountyMD.gov](#). Updates will be announced closer to the event. For more information, please contact Brenda Dinne by emailing bdinne@carrollcountymd.gov or by calling 410-386-2140. 📞



J.P. Smith, Jr. Becomes Program Manager, Other Staff Changes



*J.P. Smith, Jr.,
Program Manager*

J.P. Smith was named Agricultural Land Preservation Program Manager upon Deb Bowers' retirement. J.P. formerly served as the Program's Preservation Specialist.

J.P. began working with the "Ag Pres" Program in 2015. J.P. was born in Carroll County and raised on



*Jackie Brathuhn,
Preservation Specialist*

the family farm. His family has a long history of farming in Carroll County and operates several farms in the Westminster area. J.P., his wife, and children live on a farm near Westminster.

Jackie Brathuhn now fills the position of Preservation Specialist for the Program. Jackie lives on a preserved



*Donna Black,
Office Technician*

farm in Manchester with her family.

Donna Black is the newest member of the Ag Pres staff. Donna provides administrative support to J.P. and Jackie in her role as Office Technician. Donna lives with her family on their farm property in Westminster. 📞

Preserved Acres Continue to Grow: FY 2021

- 📞 The Ag Pres program saw 22 farms enter the program — 7 MALPF, 11 Carroll County, and 4 Rural Legacy.
- 📞 More than 2,385 acres were permanently preserved.
- 📞 Over \$7.8 million was invested in land preservation.
- 📞 The Critical Farms Program accepted 4 farms. 📞



New Farms Enter Preservation Program

Between July 1, 2020, and June 30, 2021, the following farms entered one of the preservation programs. These participants will be honored at a dinner sponsored by the Carroll County Land Trust on October 14, 2021.

[In order that they entered each program]

Rural Legacy

- ☛ **Walter Patton**
York Road
Manchester
- ☛ **Craig & Christina Mott**
Brehm Road
Westminster
- ☛ **Scott Alban**
Basler Road
Manchester
- ☛ **John W. Brodbeck, Jr.**
Ralph Dell Road
Hampstead

Carroll County

- ☛ **Bill & Jean Knill**
Roop Road
Mount Airy
- ☛ **Tom & Brenda Walsh**
Leisters Church Road &
Dutrow Road
Westminster
- ☛ **Maring Family**
Gillis Road
Woodbine
- ☛ **Linda Snyder & Russell Sandlin**
Francis Scott Key
Highway
Keymar
- ☛ **Janet Billings & Lucinda Keeney**
Ridge Road
Westminster
- ☛ **John & Ramona Rawlings**
Cherrytown Road
Westminster

- ☛ **Jerod & Gail Windisch**
Cross Section Road
Westminster
- ☛ **Wilbur Crapster & Helen Kreit**
Crouse Mill Road
Taneytown
- ☛ **Ralph & Janet Billings**
Bloom Road
Westminster
- ☛ **Edward & Connie Morris**
Grand Valley Road
Westminster
- ☛ **Edgar Gist**
Emory Road
Reisterstown

- ☛ **Jeff & Christine Bangerd**
Uniontown Road
Westminster
- ☛ **Louis & Joan Guliere**
Diehl Road
Taneytown
- ☛ **C. Georgette Reifsnider**
Sharrett Road
Keymar
- ☛ **Byron Sr, Byron Jr, & Debra Stambaugh**
Frizzellburg Road
Westminster
(Critical Farms)
- ☛ **Kevin J. Henley**
West Liberty Road
Sykesville
(Critical Farms) ☛

MALPF

- ☛ **Bryan & Jena Rinehart**
Ruggles Road
Taneytown
(Critical Farms)
- ☛ **Groves Mill, LLC**
Bachmans Valley Road
Manchester
(Critical Farms)



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To receive future newsletters by email, please email your name and email address to:

carrollagpres@carrollcountymd.gov

Changes Proposed for County Code Chapter for Ag Pres

The Carroll County Department of Land & Resource Management is proposing revisions to the County Code Chapter for Agricultural Land Preservation. Chapter 150 currently includes Ag Pres, Forest Conservation, and Right to Farm. These are proposed to be split into separate chapters, with the Ag Pres chapter becoming Chapter 159. The remaining proposed revisions are intended to make the chapter easier to read, remove obsolete references to "Districts," expand to address all the preservation programs, and include standard sections that are missing. To view the proposed revisions or follow the process, please visit www.carrollcountymd.gov/government/directory/land-resource-management/proposed-code-amendments/.

Benefits of Agricultural Land Preservation in Carroll County

Carroll has long had a goal of permanently preserving 100,000 acres of farmland. Carroll County's Boards of Commissioners established a history of supporting and investing in the preservation of agricultural land. Carroll and its residents and property owners reap many benefits from investment in this program. Check out some of the many benefits of agricultural land preservation in Carroll County by visiting carrollcountymd.gov/government/directory/land-resource-management/agricultural-land-preservation/benefits-of-ag-pres/.

Why Should I Support and Encourage Agricultural Land Preservation in Carroll County?

Why is agriculture important to Carroll County?

Agriculture is an essential part of our heritage, history, and economic development. It is the backbone of our economy and provides a source of food, fiber, and fuel. Agriculture also provides a source of recreation and education for our citizens.

Why is agricultural land preservation important to Carroll County?

Preserving agricultural land in Carroll County provides many benefits to our community, including:

- Preserving our natural resources and scenic views.
- Protecting our water quality and reducing runoff.
- Preserving our soil and preventing erosion.
- Providing a source of food, fiber, and fuel.
- Providing a source of recreation and education.
- Preserving our history and heritage.
- Providing a source of employment.

How can I support and encourage agricultural land preservation in Carroll County?

You can support and encourage agricultural land preservation in Carroll County by:

- Contacting your local representatives.
- Supporting agricultural land preservation programs.
- Preserving agricultural land on your property.
- Educating others about the benefits of agricultural land preservation.

For more information about the "Ag" Land Preservation Program in Carroll County:

- Visit www.carrollcountymd.gov/government/directory/land-resource-management/agricultural-land-preservation/benefits-of-ag-pres/
- Call 410-386-2214
- Email carrollagpres@carrollcountymd.gov

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

www.carrollcountymd.gov/government/directory/land-resource-management/agricultural-land-preservation/



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