

SUGARLOAF CITIZENS' ASSOCIATION

DECEMBER 2009 NEWSLETTER

GARY L. VALEN

We want you to join us! The Board of Directors of the Sugarloaf Citizens' Association voted at its November meeting to make it easier for all interested parties to join our efforts to protect the Agricultural Reserve in Montgomery County. SCA now has a basic annual membership fee of \$15 per person that we hope will entice more people to embrace our goal to "protect the rural legacy" of our region.

SCA's mission as a watchdog organization for the Agricultural Reserve should attract everyone in our region. Preserving the ability to produce local food for future generations is one of the smartest legacies we can pass on to our children and grandchildren. In the meantime we all get to enjoy the vistas, open spaces and farm scenes close to our homes. Even the carbon sequestration benefits provided by forests and pastures help address the global warming crisis.

The careful nurturing and guidance required to protect the Reserve is the work of the SCA volunteers. We have a 19 person Board of Directors with four members serving rotational terms as officers. We do not have a paid staff but we do occasionally hire legal representatives or qualified expert witnesses to help make our case for whatever cause we have voted to support.

There are many fine organizations that promote the Agricultural Reserve. SCA often works behind the scenes to prevent any encroachment to the rules and spirit that protects the fragile nature of this agricultural and scenic treasure. Your membership makes this your cause and places you side by side with your neighbors who are already a part of SCA.

SCA membership will also earn you special invitations to our annual meeting, the spring plant swap, and other events usually held at Linden Farm, a preserved historic dairy farm on Martinsburg Road that is operated by SCA. You will also receive special alerts that rally support for the work we choose to do for the Reserve.

Obviously, we need more resources than the proceeds from a \$15 membership fee. We therefore ask for additional funds including as large a donation as possible to provide SCA adequate resources to counter any threat to the Reserve. SCA is a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization so your donations will be deductible on your tax returns.

Please send your membership dues to the Linden Farm address on the Newsletter heading. We look forward to welcoming you in the SCA community of dedicated Ag. Reserve volunteers!

