

May 2009 Newsletter

Spring in the Agriculture Reserve renews our spirits with astounding scenes of lush fields, emerging forests, creative and productive gardens and people driving, hiking or biking just to take it all in. In the midst of economic turmoil, international strife and even local squabbling, it is healthy at times just to be thankful for what we have.

Sugarloaf Citizens' Association has enjoyed an exceptional run of great events already this spring that brought both surprise and delight to the organizers and general membership. The first was the Annual Meeting in April that drew over 100 people to hear about SCA programs and plans and to select board members and officers for the coming year. We were fortunate to have Council Members Phil Andrews, Marc Elrich, Nancy Floreen, and Mike Knapp all in attendance. Award winners of the Piedmont Environment Foundation gave us hope and inspiration in the next generation of leaders. Perhaps most rewarding, however, was the outpouring of concerns and suggestions from attendees that provided a genuine community forum in the heart of the Reserve.

Our second success came in the form of a potluck dinner held in the Barn at Linden Farm on Sunday evening May 3rd. Over 70 participants enjoyed the shared talents of many gifted cooks in our community, live music and new connections between long term residents and new comers in an atmosphere of mutual respect and simple fun. Perhaps most rewarding was experiencing a community gathering in the inspirational setting of the Gothic Barn at Linden Farm.

Finally, SCA sponsored the first annual Plant and Seed Swap in the Linden Farm restored bank barn and surrounding field on Saturday, May 9. We had no idea if this idea would draw a crowd until a few minutes after our scheduled opening when cars began to stream in loaded with plants, seeds, and people ready to help each other prepare for the growing season. Once again we were rewarded with a community spirit of sharing that reaches back to a time when rural residents helped each other out of necessity as well as generosity.

There are many issues swirling around the Agriculture Reserve these days that raise our concerns and often draw our ire. SCA will weigh in on these issues when appropriate. At this time and in this place, we want to take a moment to enjoy our great fortune and our rural Montgomery County community. We invite all of you, residents and visitors, to join us both now and at our future events in the Reserve.