

# NEWSLETTER

## HOWARD COUNTY FARM BUREAU

VOL. 22, NO. 3

MAY, 2013

HOWIE FEAGA, PRESIDENT, (410) 531-1872;  
JAY RHINE, VICE-PRESIDENT, (410) 442-2445;  
LESLIE BAUER, SECRETARY, (410) 531-6261;  
DONALD BANDEL, TREASURER (410) 531-7918;  
ALLAN BANDEL, NEWSLETTER EDITOR, (410) 489-7875  
WEB SITE - [www.howardfarmbureau.org](http://www.howardfarmbureau.org)

### Howard County Agri-Business Breakfast

by **Maura Cahill**  
**Breakfast Program Coordinator**

The next Howard County Agri-Business Breakfast is scheduled for **8:00 a.m. on Thursday, May 9, 2013** in the Dining Hall at the Howard County Fairgrounds. Please mark this date on your calendar and plan to join us.

Our guest speaker will be from the Howard County Department of Planning and Zoning. Mr. Robert J. Frances, P.E., Director of Inspections, Licenses and Permits will discuss licensing and permits as they relate to farm buildings. Attendees should have a great opportunity to ask questions and to keep up with current county regulations.

Breakfast will be served at 8:00 a.m. and the program is scheduled for 8:30 to 9:00 a.m. Please **RSVP by noon, Tuesday, May 7<sup>th</sup>** by calling either Charlotte Mullinix, at (410) 489-4510 or MarthaClark at (410) 531-3455.

The cost of the breakfast is \$10.00 per person,

payable at the door. The program normally concludes by about 9:00 a.m. we hope to see you on Thursday, **May 9** at the next Howard County Agri-Business Breakfast.

### Message to Members by **Howie Feaga, President** **Howard County Farm Bureau**

I hope that by the time you are sitting back to read this, we are living with more average temperatures and hopefully, more average rainfall. It seems that lately, we have been experiencing more above, or more below average, than normal. But of course, that is why we calculate averages. We aren't always happy with the extreme values that averages are based upon. Then we always seem to prefer trying to hold Mother Nature to our own standards. And that just isn't likely to happen.

I was really pleased to see so many of you at the Legislative Dinner. We had a good turn out of legislators and it gave us a chance to

thank them for all the work that they do on our behalf. Our legislators were given an opportunity to try to explain what they see when faced with the decision's they had to make. There are always differences of opinion and legislative decisions are not always to our liking.

That is why we need to help our legislators, and the public, to understand our reasons, for not always agreeing with some of the new laws and regulations that are being imposed upon us, at both the State, and the County level. These changes, are not always based upon the latest scientific information, nor always properly interpreted to best fit our needs. Sometimes, there is too much of an emotional element involved in political decisions and laws are changed just because they seem to be the "feel good" thing to do.

As I strongly suggested in my closing remarks at the dinner, we must now be the ones to educate our leaders in Annapolis and in Washington, DC in order for them to fully understand and responsibly react to the problems of modern agriculture.

We no longer do things like we used to. We take soil samples as well as manure samples to make sure that we are not applying excessive amounts of nutrients to our land. Farming is a way of life, but, it is also a business. We realize that we could not stay in business for very long if we waste money by applying excessive amounts of fertilizers and chemicals.

We have, with the help of modern technology and more modern machinery, been able to avoid the overlapping of fertilizer and chemical applications. With the help of space-age technology, such as GPS, we can

accurately track each field at the time of harvest and determine what our crop yields are and then make adjustments based upon that information.

With the help of the expertise of the folks at the Howard Soil Conservation District, as well as all the informative publications that we receive, such as periodic "Farm Magazines", we have learned about the benefits, as well as the problems, that have occurred, with innovative practices such as crop rotations and tillage methods. We also keep up-to-date about the latest practices we should follow to protect and improve animal health and well-being.

So, the next time you are out with the general public, let them know that you don't farm the way that your parent's and grandparents used to, not that they were wrong, but that through them passing their knowledge to you and their open-mindedness as well as ours, we are, and always have been, improving our way of life, as well as that of our neighbor's lives, in the process.

Remember, that without erosion we would not have the Grand Canyon or the Mississippi Delta, two of this countries greatest treasures. With time and scientific knowledge we can make our own small treasures and preserve our world, in a slow and effective way.

So, like I always say "Keep your plow in the ground, we're all pulling for you". Or, more in today's reality, "Keep your computer turned on and your minds wide open. We're all in this together".

---

## **I Believe We Really Did It!!!!**

by **Howie Feaga, President**  
**Howard County Farm Bureau**



*Annette Fleishell places a ceremonial crown on a smiling Merhlyn Barnes in recognition of her retirement after faithfully serving for 30 years as Secretary to the Howard County Farm Bureau.*

Merhlyn Barnes was obviously overwhelmed and surprised when she was called forward to be publicly recognized and honored at the Howard County Farm Bureau's Annual Legislative Dinner on the evening of Thursday, April 11<sup>th</sup> in the Lisbon Volunteer Fire Department's Social Hall.

Typically, she doesn't miss much about what is going on around her. But in this case, we were really able to surprise Merhlyn Barnes, the retired secretary of the Howard County Farm Bureau. For the last 30 years she has worked tirelessly for the organization. She

always has had a smile on her face and was more than willing to do whatever she could, for the Farm Bureau, as well as for the Farm Bureau Women. Even after retiring, she still attended the meetings. Finally one evening "Miss" Merhlyn had to leave our Board meeting early and we seized that rare opportunity to get right to work on planning her surprise.

We knew that we wanted to do something special to honor this very special lady. We discussed many different good ideas and ultimately settled on several of the best ones that we might want to follow up on. There were so many good ideas on our list that we still had a major task ahead in narrowing that list down to ones that we should use. It didn't take long to decide though, considering what Merhlyn Barnes has meant to us all, and considering who she is, and what she has meant to the community and to the Howard County Farm Bureau especially, we decided to follow through on almost all of those suggested ideas.

First of all, we decided to present her with a check for \$3,000. One board member explained that the check represented \$100 for each year that she served as our dedicated Howard County Farm Bureau Secretary, and that seemed deserving. One of the Board members suggested that we should present her with one of those symbolic "Big Checks" similar to the kind that they give to the "Big" lottery winners. So, Mike Calkins got busy and had a "Big Check" printed up for the occasion.

We also wanted to present her with a plaque in honor and recognition of her 30 years of service. So, Vice President Jay Rhine took care of that.

I contacted the Farm Bureau Women's Committee and they had some more great ideas of their own. They went shopping and found some wonderful items to put in not just one basket, but two baskets of gifts. One of those items was a bottle of champagne to celebrate with. They topped it all off with a crown to let her know just how they felt about her. I think it goes without saying that we all feel the same way. She is truly a Queen of a lady. She was officially crowned right there at the dinner.

As President, I want to thank everyone for all their help in honoring "Miss" Merhlyn and in making these special presentations a success. Personally, Merhlyn Barnes helped me immensely when I took over as president and I will always be grateful to her for that.

There is really no way to thank someone enough like "Miss" Merlyn Barnes who has been so helpful and dedicated over the years. But as a group I assure you, we all tried our best to do just that. So to you Miss Merhlyn once again, we all truly and sincerely say, **"Thank You, and Best Wishes!"**

---

**(Bruce) Brendel Chosen  
as MCA's Top Hand**

by Caryl Velisek, Staff Writer

[This article is re-printed, with permission, from *The Mid-Atlantic Beef and Dairy Farmer*, A Supplement to *The Delmarva Farmer* of March 26, 2013]

**Hagerstown, Md.** Every year the Maryland Cattlemen's Association recognizes an individual who has contributed significantly to the cattle industry in the state of Maryland. This year, Bruce Brendel of Brendel Farms in

Howard County, was awarded the Maryland Cattle Industry Top Hand Award during the evening banquet at the Maryland Cattle Industry Convention, held at the Clarion Hotel Hager Hall Convention Center in Hagerstown, Md., on March 2 and 3.

"Our honoree tonight has devoted much of his life to the betterment of agriculture in Maryland and has demonstrated a true servant's heart, giving freely of his time and talents in many ways," said Mike Harrison, MCA president who presented the award.

"I suspect that most of you here this evening know this individual. He and his family have been a fixture in Howard County farming for many, many years. They grow corn, soybeans, wheat and hay and have operated both a cow-calf enterprise as well as a large beef feedlot over the years."

Brendel is currently a member of the board of directors of the MCA and he has served on the MCA board and as president several times since 1985. He was also a founding member of the Maryland Beef Council in 1986.

He has a long history of involvement in 4-H as a youth, as a parent, and as an adult leader. In 1965, he raised and showed the Maryland Grand Champion Steer and went to Chicago with the Maryland 4-H judging team for the National contest.

Brendel has also served as a director for the Howard County Farm Bureau, and the Maryland Pork Producers Association.

He is currently a director on the Howard County fair Board, is a member of the Montgomery County Farmers Club, and serves on the New Windsor State Bank Board.

**Howard County Farm Bureau  
Contests - Are YOU Interested this  
Year In Participating?**

**Miss Howard County Farm Bureau  
Little Miss Howard County Farm Bureau  
Howard County Future Farmer**

*Contests are sponsored by the Howard County Farm Bureau Women and will be held on Sunday, August 4, 2013 during the Howard County Fair.*

- Contests will be held on Sunday, August 4<sup>th</sup> at the Howard County Fair.
- Contestants will ride in the Opening Day Parade.
- Cash awards to all contestants.
- Gifts and scholarships awarded to winners.
- Family must be a member of, or join, the Howard County Farm Bureau.
- Fun and rewarding for all participants.
- Must carry agricultural-related 4-H project.
- Must be age-eligible to participate:
  - Little Miss & Future Farmer Contests: 8 to 11 years of age as of August 1<sup>st</sup>.
  - Miss Contest: 16 to 19 years of age as of State Fair Contest.
- Miss Howard County Farm Bureau stage portion of contest held 3:00 pm in the Show Pavillion.
- Future Howard County Farmer and Little Miss Howard County Farm Bureau presented during intermission of Miss Contest in Show Pavillion.

Age-eligible contestants who belong to the Howard County 4-H Program will receive a detailed letter regarding these contests in early June.

**Are YOU interested? Do you know someone who might be interested?**

- Please call or email:
  - Annette Fleishell at (410) 795-6119 or [leishellfarm@aol.com](mailto:leishellfarm@aol.com) for Miss Contest.
  - Mary Jean Coles at (410) 489-4717 or [cmjcoles4@aol.com](mailto:cmjcoles4@aol.com) for Future Farmer or Little Miss Contest.

**2013 End-of-Session Letter**

**District 9A**

**by Delegates Gail H. Bates &  
Warren E. Miller**

As always, many pieces of legislation came out of the legislative session this year. We have broken it down for you into “*The Good, the Bad and the Ugly*.” (Our apologies go to Clint Eastwood!) Here goes...

**THE GOOD**

The 2013 Session only lasted 90 days.

**Electric Reliability**

House Bill 1152 Electric Reliability – Priorities and Funding, sponsored by Delegates Miller and Bates requires the Public Service Commission (PSC) and certain electric companies to establish certain priorities for certain remediation projects. This bill requires the PSC to use “reliability” fine money on utilities to upgrade the utilities’ worst performing areas in the area of the utility fined. Currently, fines go into the Maryland General Fund and do nothing to improve utilities services for Maryland ratepayers.

### **Audit Fixes**

HB 843 General Assembly – Reduction in Budget Appropriations for Repeat Legislative Audit Findings, Delegate Bates’s 2012 bill to require agencies to fix repeat audit findings, ended up being implemented by the Joint Audit Committee. Repeat findings are reported in the budget analysis of the agencies, and this year, several agencies had funds restricted until the findings are corrected.

### **Soft-Shell Crab Sandwich**

A good highlight of the 2013 Session of the Maryland General Assembly is the passage of House Bill 13 State Designations – State Sandwich – Soft-Shell Crab Sandwich, which designates the soft-shell crab sandwich as the official State sandwich. This uniquely Maryland delicacy joins the likes of the calico cat and jousting as official symbols of Maryland.

### **THE BAD**

#### **HB 226 Maryland Offshore Wind Energy Act of 2013**

The Maryland General Assembly passed Governor O’Malley’s Offshore Wind bill after working with Senate President Miller. The 200-megawatt wind project comes online in 2018. Ratepayers will bear the \$112 million annual net cost of the project, which is more than twice the cost of projected conventional energy costs. The increased costs to ratepayers will disproportionately affect the State’s most vulnerable low-income earners who cannot afford the latest residential upgrades or energy-saving appliances, folks who already pay higher-than-average utility bills. The bill passed the House 88-48 and the Senate 30-15.

#### **Operating Budget**

As 26% of Maryland’s budget is supported by

the federal government, our citizens will be affected by the federal sequester more than most, with the full effects of federal sequestration still an unknown. State spending continues to outpace personal income growth. O’Malley’s budget increased spending by over \$1 billion dollars in FY 2014, a 3% increase from last year.

### **Capital Budget**

This year, Governor O’Malley’s Capital Budget authorized \$1.11 billion in new State debt. Maryland’s debt payments are funded primarily by the State’s property tax revenue. Due to the decline in home values over the last several years, this revenue source has fallen short of covering our debt payments. With the debt that has already been undertaken and the additional debt that is authorized this year, the gap between what is owed and what is covered by the property tax widens significantly, making an increase in the property tax rate a very real possibility.

### **Pensions**

There was a push for pension reform in the 2013 Session. The General Assembly did pass alternative legislation to phase in the full-funding of the State Pension Fund.

### **THE UGLY**

#### **Senate Bill 281 Firearm Safety Act of 2013**

After almost 24 hours of hearings and debate, and thousands of Second-Amendment supporters traveling to Annapolis to make their voices heard, SB 281 passed the House 78-61 and the Senate 28-19.

SB 281 makes sweeping changes to Maryland’s gun laws and goes into effect on October 1, 2013. The bill is not retroactive, meaning that it only applies to firearm

purchases made on or after October 1<sup>st</sup>. The major highlights are as follows:

### **Assault Weapon Ban**

SB 281 designates 45 rifles as “Assault Long Guns,” including the AR-15, SKS, as well as any of their “copycats,” and bans the sale of these firearms effective October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013. This bill is not retroactive. If you currently own one of these firearms, or purchased one prior to October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013, you can continue to possess your firearm. In addition, these firearms can continue to be passed on through inheritance, provided the heir is not otherwise disqualified from possessing a regulated firearm.

### **Magazine Capacity/Ammunition**

Effective October 1, 2013, magazine size for all firearms is restricted to 10 rounds or less. The purchase, transfer, or sale of higher-capacity magazines is prohibited. This bill is not retroactive. If you currently possess a large-capacity magazine, you may continue to do so.

SB 281 bans a person from possessing any ammunition if they are disqualified from possessing a regulated firearm (by virtue of a criminal conviction, drug or alcohol abuse, is a fugitive from justice, or suffers from a mental disorder).

### **Handgun Qualification License – Fees, Training and Fingerprinting**

Anyone who wishes to purchase a handgun after October 1, 2013 must apply to the Maryland State Police for a handgun qualification license. Applicants are required to complete 4 hours of training, submit fingerprints and complete a criminal background check. The cost of the initial licensing, fingerprinting, and background

check is paid by the applicant, and is estimated to be over \$100. Once issued, the license is good for ten years. The license can be renewed for a \$20 fee, and additional training is not required for renewal. If you currently own a regulated firearm, you do not have to ever complete the training to apply for the handgun purchase license.

### **Mental Health Provisions**

SB 281 restricts a person who has ever been the subject of an involuntary commitment or those who are currently under a protective order from possessing any firearm and requires them to surrender any firearms to law enforcement for safe-keeping. A hearing review process is available for individuals to petition to regain their rights to possess a firearm.

Active and retired law enforcement officers and military personnel over age 21, as well as firearm manufacturing facilities, are generally exempted from the provisions and restrictions of this act.

### **HB 1515 Transportation Infrastructure Investment Act of 2013**

#### **Gas Tax Increase**

At the 11<sup>th</sup> hour, Governor O’Malley introduced the Transportation Infrastructure Investment Act of 2013. This revenue bill:

- Indexes the existing excise tax on gas using the Consumer Price Index. This means that the excise tax is indexed to inflation and will put gas tax increases on auto-pilot. The gas tax will continue to go up year after year with no legislative oversight.
- Creating a new 1% sales tax on the retail price of gas effective July 1, 2013 that will

increase to 2% on January 1, 2015 and to 3% on July 1, 2015. These amounts assume that the federal government will authorize online sales tax collection. If that does not happen, the sales tax on gas will increase by 4% on January 1, 2016 and to 5% on July 1, 2016.

As a result, even with a conservative estimate of inflation, the total gas tax will increase by 88% by FY 2017, and Marylanders could be paying 44.1 cents per gallon in Maryland in gas taxes alone. The majority of the money raised through these new taxes will not even be used to build and repair roads and bridges, but instead will be directed to seldom-used mass transit. While just 8% of Marylanders use mass transit to commute, mass transit receives more than four times the funding for highways. Motorists are being asked to foot the bill for a service many of them don't and will never be able to use.

#### **Transportation Trust Fund Lock Box**

HB 1515 does contain a "lock box" provision that codifies the current practice of taking money from the Transportation Trust Fund (TTF) and allows future taking of money if the Governor declares a "fiscal emergency." The "lock box" requires that just a 3/5ths majority of a standing committee in each house approve using TTF for a use other than transportation.

There was strong opposition to the gas tax, and amendments were offered for stronger protection of the funds through a "real" lock box, bringing TTF spending into alignment with the needs of Marylanders by directing more funding towards highways and restoring nearly \$1 billion in highway user funds back to the TTF. HB 1515 passed the House 76-63 and Senate 27-20.

#### **SB 276 Death Penalty Repeal – Substitution of Life Without the Possibility of Parole**

SB 276 repealed the death penalty in Maryland and made the maximum penalty sought by the State to be life without parole. Many amendments were offered to the bill that were ultimately rejected.

#### **Local Bills**

Howard County Executive Ulman had a bill (HB 895 Education – Howard County Library System – Collective Bargaining Ho. Co. 3-13) introduced to allow Howard County Library (HCL) workers to become part of a union. Although we had no testimony either for or against from anyone other than the Executive's Assistant, and the Library Board took no position, the bill has passed.

All Howard County contracts contain an "agency fee," meaning that even if a person chooses not to join the union, the fee (could be as much as 85% of the dues) will be deducted from his/her pay. This could be as much as \$300-\$400 per year.

Additionally, there are several alcohol-related bills that were considered this year. If interested, please contact our offices for details on the outcomes of those.

It was a pleasure to serve you this legislative session in Annapolis. Thank you to those who wrote letters, e-mailed us and stopped by our Annapolis offices. We always enjoy hearing from our constituents, even if we don't agree with you on everything. Please continue to keep in touch with us on your issues of interest.

---



## **Feeding Your Trust**

by **Timothy S. Barkley, Sr.**

**JD, CFP, CSA**

**Attorney at Law**

Now that you've set up your living trust, you need to feed it to make it grow. In legal parlance, you need to “fund” your trust. The benefits of a living trust – probate avoidance, privacy, efficiency, estate tax avoidance – may be lost if you do not take the time to fund your trust and maintain it.

“Funding” your trust means transferring title to your assets to your trust. Funding also includes making your trust the primary or contingent beneficiary of your retirement and insurance assets. Please note: the discussion here is general in nature, and not tailored to your specific situation. Seek professional counsel!

You may recall from our last article that when you set up a living trust, you control the trust as the “grantor” or “settlor” (the person who can revoke and amend the trust). You control the trust assets as “trustee” (the person who manages the trust). You control and manage trust assets for yourself, as “beneficiary” of the trust. So, during your life you are only accountable for your trust management to yourself. No one can use your trust to make you do anything you wouldn't have to do otherwise.

When you die or become unable to manage your trust, your named successor manages the trust for your benefit if you are alive. If you have died, your successor trustee manages and distributes trust assets to or for the benefit of your loved ones, according to the terms of your trust. So even after your death, you can maintain control of your assets for the benefit

of your loved ones, as you see fit.

You no longer own your assets, but you control them through your trust. While this distinction may seem legalistic and arcane, it is important. It is the basis of probate and estate tax avoidance. None of the assets owned by your trust are subject to probate, and proper ownership is the foundation of tax avoidance planning.

All of the assets solely owned by you and not in the trust are subject to probate. And insurance and retirement beneficiary designations not coordinated with your trust beneficiary provisions can “unwind” your careful planning. Only imagine the effect of an insurance policy beneficiary designation – in the name of an ex-spouse.

The process of funding your trust is different for different assets and different situations. For example, real estate can only be transferred by a notarized deed that should be recorded in the county land records. Tangible personal property can be transferred to the trust without any written record, but a memorandum of transfer to the trust is advisable. For a more complete description of the means to fund your trust, navigate to this author's webpage at *barkleylaw.com*.

And seek professional guidance. Every situation is unique, and mistakes in funding your trust can have immediate and long-lasting repercussions. Mistakes in handling IRAs can cause immediate income taxation of the entire balance. Mistakes in beneficiary designations can lose your beneficiaries the benefit of income tax deferral on your IRA or 401(k) balance at your death – and can even send a substantial portion of your overall assets to the wrong beneficiary!

Don't wait to fund your trust. Several clients of this author have decided to put off funding until later, only to die before they funded their trust. The entire estate has had to be administered through the probate process to transfer it to the trust. The not-insignificant cost was, of course, ultimately borne by the beneficiaries of the trust.

If you don't take the time to maintain the funding of your trust, all your hard work can be undone and your investment in trust planning wasted. One of this author's clients funded her trust with a substantial brokerage account. She then changed brokers and opened the new account in her own name, and not in the name of the trust. When she died, the entire account had to be run through the probate estate administration process to transfer it to the trust and thence to the children. The cost was borne by her children.

Sometimes the funding of your trust is imperative to accomplish estate tax avoidance goals. The federal estate tax exemption, in excess of five million dollars, virtually eliminates that tax as a concern for most of us. The Maryland estate tax exemption, on the other hand, is only one million dollars. Between the primary residence, life insurance and retirement plans, many of us have estates subject to that tax. If you have utilized trust planning to avoid the estate tax, delays in funding or failure to maintain funding can jeopardize that tax avoidance planning and subject your loved ones to substantial tax liability.

You have made a significant investment in your trust. Secure it through proper trust funding. Consult the drafter of your trust, or another qualified professional, for counsel and assistance.

## **Blowing Up Tree Stumps:**

### **A Unique Form of "Rural Recreation"?**

by Allan Bandel

In the past, I have reported on using dynamite, an explosive, once used frequently as a tool on Howard County farms. It made life a little easier during the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century when farmland was still being cleared of trees. Usually, farmers using dynamite recognized its sometimes fickle nature. If they didn't, they risked not living to a ripe old age.

It wasn't unusual to use dynamite on the farm, especially by qualified handlers. But, for amateurs, its use was not without risk. Dad impressed upon us just how important it was to always be careful and to have a healthy respect for dynamite. For an example, he told us of the fate of one unfortunate young man, a neighbor and former city dweller who had only recently moved out to the country.

The outcome of this tale could have ended very badly for this person. Its ending could have easily gone either way. But luckily, tragedy was narrowly averted and our friend, as well as many of our other neighbors, learned a valuable lesson from his experience.

It was during the mid-1940's and our new neighbor, the "star" of this story, had recently moved from the city to rural Howard County. He had a good day job in the city. But by habit, after finishing a day's work in town, he enjoyed fresh air and sunshine while hunting those troublesome ground hogs ( woodchucks) with his fancy new high-powered rifle.

He frequently hunted on some of our fields close to where Dad was busy blasting tree stumps out of the ground in the process of

clearing new cropland. Just as long as our new friend was careful about where he was pointing his gun, Dad appreciated his war on ground hogs because, left unchecked, ground hogs were a costly nuisance, destroying crops and digging hidden burrows that horses, or a person, could accidentally step into and break a leg.

On one such typical day, after he had watched Dad “blowing” stumps for a couple of hours, our new friend put his fancy rifle aside for a few minutes and told Dad that it appeared to him that using dynamite to blast tree stumps out of the ground sure looked like an awful lot of fun, perhaps even more enjoyable than hunting ground hogs.

He was so intrigued by the prospect that he asked about the cost of dynamiting. Dad informed him that sticks of dynamite cost about 16 cents apiece. The detonator caps were about another six cents each. Pleasantly surprised, our new friend concluded that the cost of dynamiting was a lot less expensive than the price of the high-powered rifle bullets that he used to hunt ground hogs.

It didn't take him long then to decide to try “recreational” dynamiting as a sport (although he did not refer to it in those terms). His new “sport” would be no more expensive than hunting ground hogs, and it definitely appeared to be much more exciting. (If only he knew then just how much more exciting it was really going to be, he might have chosen at that point to avoid this new “sport” and just stick to hunting ground hogs.)

So off this amateur “dynamiter” went to town to acquire the required permit and a case of dynamite. He was obviously successful in his quest because a few days later Dad heard that

he had obtained a supply of the explosive, as well as a box of detonating caps and a roll of fuse. All of these materials were taken to his parent's small farm, a property recently purchased in the eastern end of the county near Ellicott City. His goal was to “blow” stumps for his dad in the same way that he had watched my dad do it so many times.

The next news that Dad heard of his friend was several days later. It was in the form of an unexpected telephone call from the emergency room of one of the major hospitals in Baltimore. The caller informed Dad that his friend had been involved in a serious dynamite-related accident. He had been seriously injured and the hospital was in urgent need of blood donations required for administering a life-saving blood transfusion.

As Dad learned later, apparently what had happened was that after carefully setting the charge under a big tree stump and lighting the fuse, several minutes elapsed without the dynamite going off. Our curious friend, who obviously did not think the situation through thoroughly, and who was very impatient, allowed curiosity to get the better of him.

Impulsive, short on experience, and overcome by impatience, he had returned to the site to investigate what he considered a “miss-fire”. He was determined to find the cause of the problem. He wondered that perhaps the fuse had pulled out of the cap, or maybe the fuse had burned out before the fire had even reached the cap. For some unknown reason, the dynamite had simply failed to detonate in what our inexperienced friend believed had been a reasonable amount of time.

As any experienced professional who works with the handling of high explosives would

quickly explain, in this highly specialized, and often dangerous occupation, such impulsive behavior is a definite “no-no”. As you might guess, just as our neophyte friend approached the site where the dynamite had been “planted”, and just as he bent over to look in the hole under the stump to investigate, the charge exploded, literally, right in his face!

Another factor that made matters much worse for our friend was the unique soil type on his folk’s farm. The parent material of the soil on this farm located in the eastern end of Howard County would be classified as transitional between Piedmont and Coastal Plain. Thus in places, the soil contained a high proportion of sand and gravel. The explosive force of the sand and gravel “peppered” our friend’s face like fine shrapnel might have done from a land mine, or perhaps was similar to being on the receiving end of a shotgun blast loaded with buckshot.

Fortunately, the explosion did not shorten the life of Dad’s friend, but his injuries did cause him a lot of pain and the loss of blood. Dad, along with several of our healthy neighbors quickly drove to the hospital and donated several pints of blood for him.

Seeing him lying in that hospital bed, Dad was shocked that with the exception of having four small places in the bandages that were left open to expose his eyes, nose and mouth, the victim’s face was completely swathed in bandages.

Ultimately, Dad’s friend made a remarkable full recovery, and subsequently became a much wiser person as a result of his life threatening experience. Surprisingly, he lived to a “ripe old age” in spite of his close encounter with the “grim reaper”. But he did

carry with him for the rest of his life, many of the facial scars acquired from his close encounter with the often “fickle and unpredictable” nature of dynamite.

It’s probably not even lawful any more these days for the general public to casually acquire dynamite for routine use on the farm. Fortunately though, in today’s more modern world, there are bulldozers, draglines, backhoes, stump grinders and other heavy-duty machines that can provide more efficient, more accurate, and certainly much safer, methods of removing tree stumps as well as accomplishing other excavation tasks that were once left to the explosive, and sometimes volatile, and unpredictable, nature of dynamite.

---

### **Lisbon Volunteer Fire Department Hardwood Mulch Sale**

Double Shredded Hardwood Mulch

Price: \$18.00 per yard

Starting: April 27, 2013 and will continue every Saturday as long as supplies last. 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. First come, first served.

Location: The new Fire Department Building property at Woodbine Rd. and Route 144.

Weekday/evening pick-up: Tuesday and Thursday: 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm. No home delivery available.

For information, call: (410) 489-4646.

All proceeds will benefit the Lisbon Volunteer Fire Department’s New Building Fund

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**  
**2013**

May 4-5 **40<sup>th</sup> Annual Sheep & Wool Festival.** Howard County Fairgrounds, West Friendship, MD.

May 8 **Hunter Education Class.** 7 to 10 pm, Howard County Fairgrounds. Contact: Kenny Livesay at (443) 604-4379 or [kennylivesay@mris.com](mailto:kennylivesay@mris.com) for details.

May 9 **Howard County Agri-Business Breakfast.** 8:00 to 9:00 am. Dining Hall, Howard County Fairgrounds, West Friendship, MD.

May 11 **Hunter Education Class.** 8 am to 4 pm, Howard County Fairgrounds. Contact: Kenny Livesay at (443) 604-4379 or [kennylivesay@mris.com](mailto:kennylivesay@mris.com) for details.

May 18 **R.N. Wills Fair.** 12:15 pm. Howard County Fairground, West Friendship, MD. For information, contact: Sheryl Bennett at (410) 313-1912.

Jun 1-2 **Historic National Road Yard Sale.** 8:00 am to 2:00 pm. 824 miles of yard sale stretching from Baltimore to St. Louis, MO. Living Farm Heritage Museum Grounds, West Friendship, MD.

Jul 4 **Antique Vehicle Parade & Festival.** Lisbon. Live Bands, Food, Fun for All. Contact: Kenny Livesay at (443) 604-4379 or [kennylivesay@mris.com](mailto:kennylivesay@mris.com) for details.

Aug 3-10 **68<sup>th</sup> Annual Howard County Fair.** Howard County Fairgrounds,

Fairground Road, West Friendship, MD.

Aug 5 **Bull Blast.** The best rodeo performers around. Howard County Fairgrounds. Contact: Kenny Livesay at (443) 604-4379 or [kennylivesay@mris.com](mailto:kennylivesay@mris.com) for details.

Sep 6-8 **51<sup>st</sup> Annual Mason-Dixon Historical Society Steam and Gas Round-Up.** Carroll County Farm Museum, 500 S. Center St, Westminster, MD. Feature: Rumely, Oliver, Hart-Parr, Cockshutt, Co-op, White. Contact: Larry Airing, Sr. at (410) 984-6172.

Sep 12-15 **Maryland Steam Historical Society 58<sup>th</sup> Annual Steam and Gas Engine Show.** Fire Company Grounds, Arcadia, MD. Feature: Farmall, The International Family. Contact: (410) 374-1252.

Sep 22-

Oct 5 **Howard County Farm-City Celebration.** For information on sponsorship and a schedule of events, please contact Kathy Zimmerman at (410) 313-6500. Also, visit the Howard County Antique Farm Machinery Club website at [www.farmheritage.org](http://www.farmheritage.org).

Sep 28-29 **18<sup>th</sup> Annual Howard County Farm Heritage Days.** Feature: Ford. Living Farm Heritage Museum Grounds, West Friendship MD. Contact: Virginia Frank at (410) 489-2345.

Oct 5 **AGNR Open House.** 10 am to 3 pm, University of MD Central Maryland

Research and Education Center,  
Clarksville Facility. 4240 Folly  
Quarter Road, Ellicott City, MD. For  
i n f o r m a t i o n : v i s i t  
[www.agnropenhouse.umd.edu](http://www.agnropenhouse.umd.edu)

Oct 15 to

Nov 12 **Nutrient Management Farmer  
Training Certification** (7 or 8  
classes), 7 pm to 9 pm. Frederick  
County Extension Office, 330  
Montevue Lane, Frederick, MD. For  
info: (301) 600-3576.

Nov 5 **Nutrient Applicators Voucher  
Training/Recertification.** 10 am to  
12 noon and 1 pm to 3 pm. Frederick  
County Extension Office, 330  
Montevue Lane, Frederick, MD. For  
info: (301) 600-3576.

Nov 6 **Private Pesticide Applicator  
Training.** 10 am to 12 noon. Exam

November 13 at 10 am. Frederick  
County Extension Office, 330  
Montevue Lane, Frederick, MD. For  
info: (301) 600-3576.

Nov 6 **Private Pesticide Applicator  
Recertification.** 1 pm to 3 pm.  
Frederick County Extension Office,  
330 Montevue Lane, Frederick, MD.  
For info: (301) 600-3576.

\* \* \* \* \*

[NOTE]: Some programs require pre-  
registration and/or a fee. For programs  
sponsored by University of Maryland  
Extension, if you need special assistance to  
participate, please contact the person indicated  
at least two weeks in advance of the event.