



NEWS RELEASE

March 19, 2004

The Ecological Research & Development Group Inc. (ERDG) a 501 (c)3 nonprofit organization dedicated to the conservation of the worlds four horseshoe crab species, cancels plans to build this nations first Horseshoe Crab Research Institute® (HCRI) in Milton, Delaware.

ERDG believes the most effective way for the organization to support the town of Milton and its revitalization goals, is to relinquish its current Union Street project site. With this focus in mind, on March 15th, 2004, ERDG sold the Union Street property to Mary and Frank Presta of Clifton, Virginia.

The new owners hold other properties in Milton and are very interested in maintaining the historic architecture and charm of the town. Although they currently do not have plans for the property, it is their intention to develop it in a manner that enhances the appearance and character of downtown Milton and fills a need for additional residential and commercial space.

ERDG's goal to build this nations first HCRI in the state of Delaware is still very much alive. However, its progress in raising the \$6 million necessary for this project is dependent on the financial support from community, state, federal, corporate and foundation partners. Other sites that may be more appropriate for this project are being explored.



Over the last nine years ERDG has grown to be recognized internationally as a leader in horseshoe crab conservation. The HCRI is just one of many programs and initiatives that complement its goal to protect the worlds four horseshoe crab species.

