

# News

## From the Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission

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### **KENTUCKY STATE NATURE PRESERVES COMMISSION PRESENTS ANNUAL BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY PROTECTION AWARD**

FRANKFORT, Ky. (March 18, 2003) -- Today, the Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission (KSNPC) presented its annual Biological Diversity Protection Award to Dr. Guenter A. Schuster of the Department of Biological Sciences at Eastern Kentucky University.

Schuster is a nationally recognized authority on freshwater mussels, crayfishes and caddisflies and he has authored numerous publications on these diverse groups of aquatic organisms. He has contributed more than 20 years of effort to conserve and research Kentucky's aquatic biodiversity. In addition to his teaching duties, Schuster is currently preparing publications on Kentucky's crayfishes and mussels.

In making the award presentation to Schuster, commission Chair Clara Wheatley said, "I truly consider it a privilege to present the Biological Diversity Protection Award to an individual who has devoted his life's work to studying and researching our native aquatic species. The information Guenter Schuster has contributed is invaluable to our efforts to conserve aquatic species, which are some of the most threatened animals in this country."

KSNPC's mission is to protect Kentucky's natural heritage by: (1) identifying, acquiring and managing natural areas that represent the best-known occurrences of rare, native species, natural communities and significant natural features in a statewide nature preserve system; (2) working with others to protect biological diversity; and (3) educating Kentuckians as to the value and purpose of nature preserves and biodiversity conservation. The commission inventories Kentucky for significant natural areas and protects the best examples in a state nature preserve system with 17,835 acres statewide.

More information about the commission can be obtained by mail (KSNPC, 801 Schenkel Lane, Frankfort, KY 40601-1403), by telephone (502) 573-2886 or on the Internet ([www.kynaturepreserves.org](http://www.kynaturepreserves.org)).