



ENVIRONMENTAL AND PUBLIC PROTECTION CABINET

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NEWS RELEASE

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ARCHER RECEIVES BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY PROTECTION AWARD *Presented annually by Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission*

FRANKFORT, Ky. (Dec. 19, 2007) – Hugh Archer, who once served as an attorney and planner for the former Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Cabinet, was presented the 2007 Biological Diversity Protection Award from the Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission (KSNPC).

The annual award recognizes a person who has made a significant contribution to the discovery and protection of Kentucky's biological diversity. Archer helped form, and then became chairman of, the Kentucky Natural Lands Trust (KNLT), a private, nonprofit trust that raised more than \$3 million to help purchase and provide stewardship for Blanton Forest in Harlan County.

With Archer as its chair, KNLT adopted the Pine Mountain Legacy Project, whose new goal is to ensure the protection of a continuous 120-mile ecological corridor, which runs the entire length of Pine Mountain. Pine Mountain is home to at least 93 rare species. Archer has overseen the acquisition of over 2,000 acres and has initiated a sustainable forestry project on 760 acres with KNLT.

Archer was the first paid director of the Kentucky Chapter of The Nature Conservancy, helping to establish 16 new nature preserves, one of which is the well-known Bad Branch State Nature Preserve in Letcher County.

Archer served as a commissioner of the Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission and was elected as chair from 1990 to 1995. From 1998 to 2004, Archer was commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources. He also served as executive director of the Kentucky River Authority.

KSNPC's mission is to protect Kentucky's natural heritage by managing natural areas in a statewide nature preserve system and educating Kentuckians on the value and purpose of nature preserves and biodiversity conservation.

Additional information about the nature preserves commission can be found at www.naturepreserves.ky.gov or by calling 502-573-2886.

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