

News

From the Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission

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KENTUCKY STATE NATURE PRESERVES COMMISSION PRESENTS ANNUAL VOLUNTEER STEWARD AWARD

FRANKFORT, Ky. (Dec. 3, 2003) -- Yesterday, the Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission (KSNPC) presented its 2003 Volunteer Steward Award to Ed Craft of Bowling Green. Craft became a volunteer with KSNPC's Stewardship Program in 1992. During the past 11 years, Craft has devoted countless hours assisting with the management of preserves in the Bowling Green area and beyond.

Additionally, Craft assisted KSNPC's prescribed fire program by building firebreaks and as a burn crew member. Concerned for the safety of KSNPC staff and knowing of the agency's budget constraints, he purchased ten fire resistant Nomex© suits so they could conduct the burns in a safer manner. Craft has worked as a volunteer in very adverse conditions and maintained a cheerful demeanor, whether the temperature was 25 degrees or 90 degrees.

According to KSNPC Chair Clara Wheatley, "We knew he was special when we read his volunteer application form and it said that he hoped to get a sense of relief for helping slow the destruction of a beautiful and diverse bio-region. Today, we wish to honor Ed Craft's many contributions by presenting him with the 2003 Volunteer Steward Award."

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 18,274 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.naturepreserves.ky.gov).