

NATURALLY KENTUCKY



Number 24. October, November, December 1997

Palisades State Nature Preserve

by Dave Skinner

Officially known as the Kentucky River Authority Palisades State Nature Preserve, the Palisades became our thirty-fourth state nature preserve on December 10, 1996. This preserve is an example of a private nonprofit organization and public agencies working together to protect an important natural area. Two tracts of land were purchased by the Kentucky Chapter of The Nature Conservancy in

manage the river as a source of water for municipalities and to operate the locks and dams on the Kentucky River.

They also purchase important tracts of land along the river to help protect the water quality. The River Authority has a limited staff, so other agencies often manage their areas. Because this area has unique natural features, the Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission was interested in dedicating and managing it as state nature preserve.

The Palisades of the Kentucky River has long been known as a site of high biodiversity and of impressive scenic beauty. The 400 million year old dolomite and limestone cliffs tower in

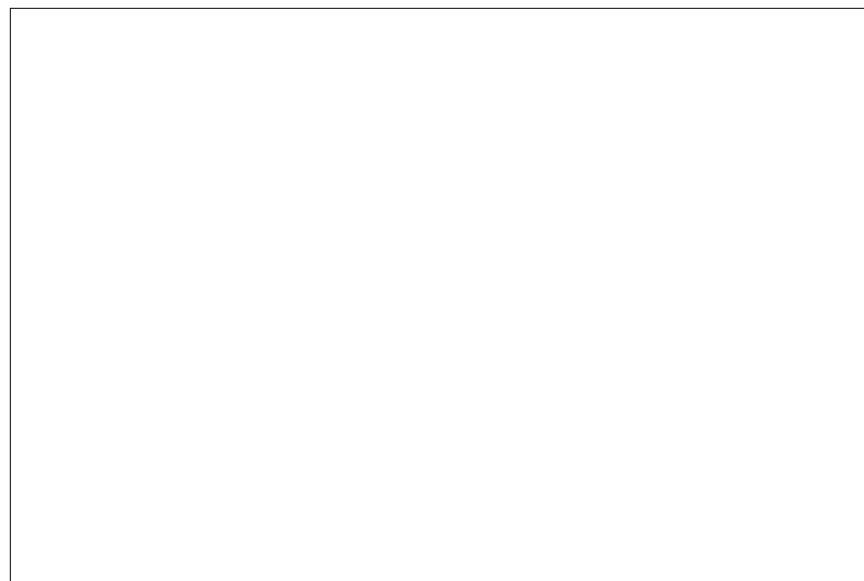
six species of rare plants. The limestone in this area is riddled with sinkholes and caves; some of the caves are used as roosting and rearing sites for the federally endangered gray bat. This stretch of the river itself is home to one rare fish species.

Two species of the rare plants are protected within the Palisades Preserve, Eggleston's violet (*Viola septemlobavar. egglestonii*) and Tufted hair grass (*Deschampsia cespitosa*). The violet is a special concern species and the Tufted hair grass is endangered with the only known occurrences in the state on the preserve and on land immediately adjacent to it. Besides these rare plants, the preserve protects one of the largest tracts of forest in the Inner Bluegrass Region.

The preserve is located on both sides of the Kentucky River in Jessamine and Garrard counties near Camp Nelson. It covers 365 acres of which 222 acres will be open to the public. The Garrard County tract has hiking trails and is open to other types of passive recreation such as birdwatching and photography. A dedication ceremony on October 16, 1997, kicked off the official opening of this preserve. It is anticipated that this preserve will become a popular hiking area due to its close proximity to Lexington.

One goal of KSNPC's stewardship staff is to set back the hands of time on our nature preserves. The preserves are windows into the past and provide us with an impression of what Kentucky looked like to its first explorers. Due to the unique geology of the Palisades,

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Palisades Dedication and Ribbon Cutting Ceremony, October 16, 1997
L to R: KRA Chair, Thomas M. Dorman; KSNPC Commission Chair, Judith McCandless; KY's historian laureate, Dr. Thomas Clark; and KY Chapter of TNC Chair, Reggie Van Stockum

1995 and transferred to the Kentucky River Authority in 1996. The River Authority's primary mission is to

excess of 200 feet above the entrenched Kentucky River. These cliffs provide unique habitats that harbor

Governor's Conference

by Robert McCance, Jr.

The Governor's 22nd Annual Conference on the Environment was held on October 2 in Lexington. Governor Paul Patton gave a speech with a strong environmental message by describing his personal battle in Pike County to pass and maintain a mandatory garbage pickup program, and by urging the forestry industry to cooperate with reasonable regulations that will help both landowners and employees of forestry-based companies. At the Awards Luncheon, the Secretary's Award was given to Letcher County Judge-Executive Carroll Smith for his outstanding contributions to the protection of the Commonwealth's land, air and water. Judge Smith has been instrumental in the enforcement of the county's mandatory garbage collection ordinance and for his efforts to end straight pipe sewage disposal.

The Heritage Land Conservation Award is given annually for the protection and preservation of Kentucky's natural landscape and its native flora and fauna. This year's recipient was Don Harker, first director of the Nature Preserves Commission. Don oversaw the Commission in its formative years and has been very active in land protection throughout his career. Recently he helped acquire and protect Anglin Falls in Rockcastle County as the John B. Stephenson State Nature Preserve. Don also serves on the board of the Kentucky Natural Lands Trust which is working to help protect Blanton Forest. Our congratulations and thanks go to Don and Carroll, and the rest of the award recipients.

KSNPC Small Research Grants-1997

by Deborah White

The diversity among the ecosystems represented within the KSNPC preserve system is overwhelming. No matter how much we know about any one of them, we realize there will always be much more that we can learn [and, more importantly, understand how these complex systems are sustained]. Although we never fully understand the intricacies of ecosystem functions, we strive to answer questions that are critical to the ecological restoration and management of the preserves. This year, we initiated a small grants program designed to gather information through inventory, monitoring and other directed studies that will lead to better preserve management as well as improve their use for environmental education. Funding is provided through the Kentucky Nature and Wildlife Fund Check-off Program. Here is the list of the grants this year.

Tracy Hawkins, Lee's College Campus of Hazard Community College

This community sampling study of the Hi Lewis Pine Barrens State Nature Preserve will be used to determine the effects of management, like controlled burning, as well as document the flora and rare plant locations.

Jeff Jack, Western Kentucky University

Investigation of the water quality and invertebrate fauna of the ephemeral karst lake at Chaney Lake State Nature Preserve. This study will assist in identifying sensitive and rare species as well as establish baseline water quality at a preserve surrounded by agricultural lands.

Robert Naczi, Northern Kentucky University

This investigation of sedge species on selected state nature preserves will assist Dr. Naczi's work in sorting out taxonomically difficult species of *Carex* and will provide site specific management recommendations for protection of these species.

Michael Stokes, Western Kentucky University

Field research designed to determine the effects of controlled burning on the fauna (vertebrate and invertebrate) of Raymond Athey Barrens State Nature Preserve. Dr. Stokes will also provide recommendations for fire management to minimize its effect on animals.

KSNPC Quarterly Commission Meeting

December 15, 1997
KSNPC Office
801 Schenkel Lane
Frankfort, Kentucky
10:00 a.m.

Palisades State Nature Preserve continued from page 1

the area has retained much of its scenic beauty. This new preserve also gives us a glimpse of what the formerly extensive forests looked like that once crowned the Kentucky River Palisades. Thirty-five other state nature preserves protect other important features of our natural heritage; twenty of them are open to the public. For more information about visiting the state nature preserves contact Brad Nyholm at (502) 573-2886.

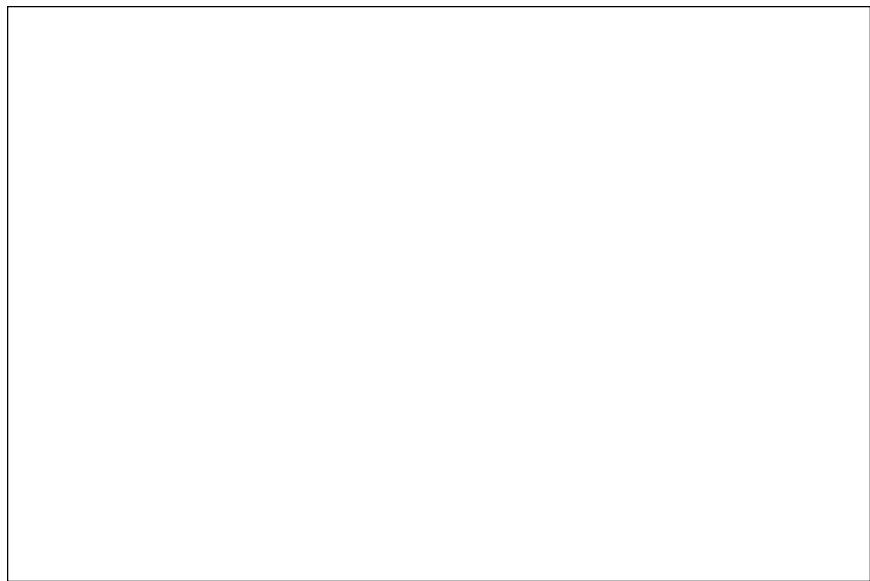
KSNPC Staff Update

by Teresa Prather

The new seasonal staff list at the Commission is a short one. Andrea Hughes was hired September 16 to assist the Stewardship Coordinator with administrative functions of the office. Andrea is currently developing informational brochures for our preserves that are open to the public. Andrea graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in biological sciences from DePauw University in Greencastle, Indiana.

The other new seasonal is Scott Spicer. Scott is assisting the nature preserve's ecologist with the development of vegetation management plans. Scott is a graduate of Eastern Kentucky University with a Bachelor's Degree in Recreation and Parks Administration.

Seasonal staff that have departed our employment since this newsletter's last publication are: Danny Peake, Allison Lile, Kevin Caldwell, and Matt Thomas. Matt Thomas was in a car accident on June 28 while driving back from western Kentucky. After several months of physical therapy, Matt is recuperating well and expects to attend graduate school after the first of the year. We wish Matt all the best and hope for a continued speedy recovery.



Your friendly neighborhood KSNPC Data Team:

L to R: Tim Clarke, Bryce Fields, Sandy Vasenda, and Amy Covert

Volunteer Recognition

by Joyce Bender

With the end of the year in sight, I find myself wondering how it went so quickly. As I reflect on the highlights of 1997, I recall the activities of our volunteers. I want to recognize and thank once more all of the people who gave their time to the Commission this past year. There are many whose acts of kindness go unrecorded because we weren't there to witness the trash they cleaned from a trail as they hiked or the waterbars they cleaned out.

Our volunteer preserve monitors continue to serve us diligently as the "eyes and ears" for the preserve in their communities. Thanks to Lucia Beeler (Vernon-Douglas), Sonja Fields (Jesse Stuart), Terry Davis (Goodrum Cave), Ed Craft (Flat Rock Glade and Athey Barrens), Tony Newman (Logan County Glade), and Chuck Donaldson (Pilot Knob). Our request for Preserve Monitors in the last newsletter provided us with several applications. You'll hear more about our new recruits in the next issue. There are still openings available so call

Andrea Hughes, our new Volunteer Coordinator.

The Sierra Club came through for us this year at Pilot Knob. On March 23, Martha Payne led yet another group of enthusiastic folks (where does she keep finding these people?) through saw briar and steep slopes to help us re-route the trail to the top of the Knob. The trail looks great and we want Martha, Mary Barry, Tom Coward, Oscar Gerald, Amy Green, Lydia Hood, Barbara Latham, Darren Payne, Stephen Popastefanou, Monica Stoch, Carol Von Lanken, and Lewis Warden to know how much we appreciated their help. Same time next year, Martha?

Our thanks also to Karen and Dave Schang of the Pine Mountain Survey Team for their assistance in checking out a potential cave on our new addition to Bad Branch State Nature Preserve. They also assisted with Brainard Palmer-Ball's Indiana bat survey at Line Fork and Green caves.

September Commission Meeting Very Active!

by Robert McCance, Jr.

The September 17 Commission meeting at Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green was one of the longest and probably one of the most interesting in recent memory. First on the agenda was a public hearing requested by the Metropolitan Sewer District of Jefferson County. They requested permission to build an innovative Continuous Deflection Separation facility on Beargrass State Nature Preserve to separate solids from liquids during storm events that cause sewer overflows; they referred to the request as a "research project" because the system has not been used for sewage removal anywhere in the world. The Commissioners have 60 days to respond to the request, and the decision may hinge on whether the proposal meets the definition of research according to the Commission's statutes and administrative rules. Construction of the facility should help assure a cleaner Beargrass Creek.

The Commissioners welcomed a new member, Mrs. Clara Wheatley from Howardstown, near the Larue/Nelson county line. Mrs. Wheatley replaced Mr. Edwin Sutton as representative of the Kentucky National Farmers' Organization when Mr. Sutton declined to be reappointed to the Commission. Judith McCandless was reelected Chair and Kenneth Jackson was reelected Secretary of the Commission at the annual election of officers.

The next item on the agenda was added a few days before the meeting to accommodate the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet's (KTC) request for the Commission to postpone the decision

on whether to dedicate two tracts totaling 820 acres as an addition to Bad Branch State Nature Preserve.

The previous week, KTC had acquired from an engineering consultant two new proposed alternatives for Route 119 over Pine Mountain in Letcher County, and KTC presented them to Commission staff on September 12. The properties under consideration for dedication were acquired with Heritage Land Conservation Funds in July 1997, and were approved as projects by the Heritage Land Conservation Fund Board in October 1995. KSNPC has been interested in adding them to the nature preserve since the mid 1980's. The staff and Commission had known for some time that the dedication of these tracts would remove one of five previous alternatives from consideration for the mountain crossing. These five routes had been reviewed in a draft environmental impact statement in 1994, but a final EIS was never issued. Transportation Cabinet Secretary James Codell and Letcher County State Representative Paul Mason requested the delay until the new proposed alternatives could be considered by an interagency committee. One of the two alternatives directly impacted the land under consideration for dedication, and both routes proposed to dispose of waste material in a nearby ravine (about 15% of the material was proposed to be deposited on the tract under consideration for dedication.) The Commissioners discussed the proposed dedication in some detail later in the meeting, and voted 5-0 for dedication, thereby adding 820 acres to the preserve. By dedicating this property as a nature preserve, the Commissioners eliminated about 1.5 miles of one of the two new alternatives for the mountain crossing, and the decision would require that Transportation dispose of about 15% of the fill material generated from this

portion of the project elsewhere. The Commissioners did not believe they were in any way "stopping the project," which they acknowledge is desperately needed. Bad Branch SNP has many rare species, and the additional property helps assure the long-term viability of the forest ecosystem and its use by wide-ranging species such as black bear and common raven. Both the raven and the black bear have been documented from the recent addition. The new tract also has occurrences of at least three state listed plants and one rare plant community. The Commission is in the final stages of acquiring additional land that includes property needed for the other alternative, but those tracts will not be dedicated if they are needed as the route for the upgraded highway.

The Commissioners also dedicated Eastview Barrens in Hardin County as Kentucky's 37th state nature preserve. Fifty percent undivided interest in this property was purchased from The Nature Conservancy (TNC) recently with Heritage Land Conservation Fund (HLCF) monies; The Nature Conservancy retains 50% ownership of this 119-acre preserve. The Commission and TNC will jointly manage the preserve, creating a very close working relationship. An HLCF recognition ceremony was held October 15 at the preserve.

The Commission also adopted new policies regarding land acquisition and nature preserve design; clarified what information is necessary from agencies and organizations interested in becoming preserve custodians or renewing custodial management of a preserve; and approved three new projects and three sites for proposed registry agreements. Field trips were taken to Raymond Athey Barrens SNP and Flat Rock Glade SNP the next day.

Land Acquisition Update

by Barry Howard

The Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission (KSNPC) recently acquired three new tracts of land, all of which are additions to existing nature preserves. Two of these tracts are adjacent to the Bad Branch State Nature Preserve in Letcher County, and the other is in Harrison County next to the Quiet Trails State Nature Preserve.

The Commission voted at its quarterly meeting in September to dedicate the two new tracts in Letcher County as additions to the Bad Branch State Nature Preserve. The Bad Branch tracts were owned by the same individuals, who agreed to consider selling this property to KSNPC over three years ago. Acquisition of property by the Commonwealth of Kentucky typically takes many months, but this project was unusually complicated. After three years of work the result is an additional 820 acres for one of our state's most outstanding natural areas. The largest of these tracts (760 acres) is contiguous with previously dedicated acreage, and the other 60-acre tract is slightly separated from the main preserve, but represents the first dedicated acreage at this site on the north face of Pine Mountain. These properties were purchased through funding provided by the Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund.

The other recently-acquired tract, 56-acres in Harrison County, will become part of the Quiet Trails State Nature Preserve in the very near future. The Articles of Dedication for this land will be presented to our Commissioners at the December 15 meeting.

The acquisition of two additional tracts at Bad Branch, totaling roughly 110 acres, should be completed soon. Although these tracts are adjacent to and would make excellent additions to the Bad Branch State Nature Preserve, plans to dedicate these parcels are being postponed as a result of planning that is currently underway to improve US 119, which crosses Pine Mountain in this area.

In Graves County in far western Kentucky, we are in various stages of negotiation and acquisition for five tracts of land at Terrapin Creek State Nature Preserve. The state has signed land contracts for two of these tracts, totaling roughly 32 acres. The larger of these tracts, a 28-acre parcel, should be surveyed in the near future and acquired shortly thereafter. Terrapin Creek is an important and unique site, containing a fascinating stream and wetland complex, and harboring several fishes that are very rare in Kentucky.

In Lewis County (northeastern Kentucky), the state is getting ready to negotiate for two tracts that encompass half a knob containing an unusual limestone glade community. This part of Lewis County contains several more of these glades, and we hope this knob will become the first of several nature preserves in this area.

At Blanton Forest in Harlan County, we have been talking with several landowners about purchasing property to add to the Blanton Forest State Nature Preserve. Offers have been made for several of these tracts and we are hopeful that we will be able to add additional acreage to this preserve. This is a highly significant site containing Kentucky's largest known tract of old-growth forest. KSNPC would like to protect more of the old-growth forest here, as well as add buffer land to existing holdings. We'll keep you posted.

Policy for the Selection of Nature Preserve Custodians Adopted at September Commission Meeting

The Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission may assign custody for the maintenance and operation of a nature preserve to another public agency or private organization according to KRS 146.495. The Commission selects a custodian by conducting a public hearing and considering proposals submitted during the hearing (40 KAR 2:100). Under 400 KAR 2:080 Section 7, the custodian must demonstrate the ability to administer the preserve according the articles of dedication and the Kentucky Administrative Regulations 400 KAR 2:060-100.

In order to fulfill the statutory requirements described above and to aid the Commissioners in the evaluation and selection process, the Commission adopted the following policy requiring all prospective custodial candidates to provide the following information on the Commission:

- Prospective custodians must submit a proposal for managing the preserve. The proposal must describe how the preserve will be maintained, list priorities for use and management, provide a vision/mission statement for the custodian's agency/organization, and explain how the agency/organization's mission relates to managing the preserve and protecting Kentucky's biodiversity.
- The proposal must demonstrate that sufficient funds are available to maintain the preserve for the long term, and should provide a budget showing how funds will be

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Eastview Barrens Dedicated as Kentucky's 37th State Nature Preserve

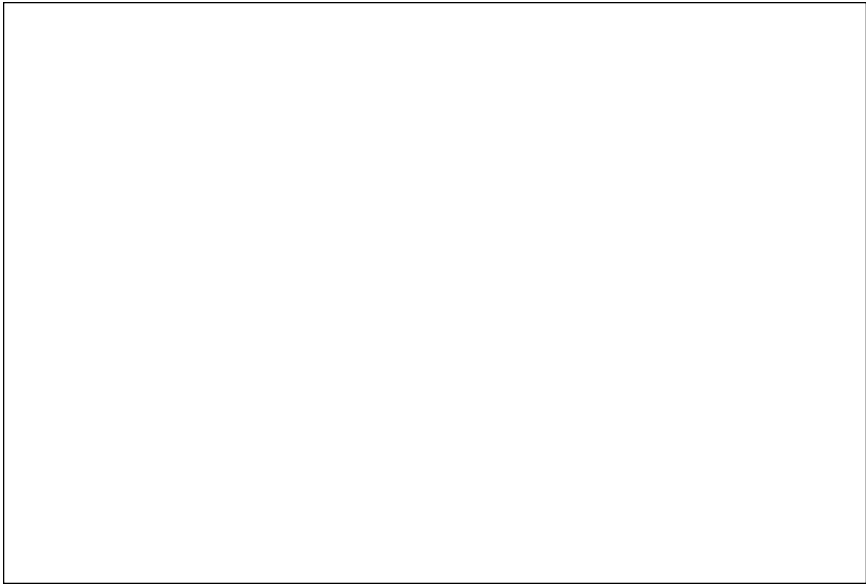
by Barry Howard

At the September meeting of the Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission (KSNPC), the Commission voted to accept a 119-acre site in Hardin County as a part of Kentucky's system of state nature preserves. The new preserve is known as Eastview Barrens State Nature Preserve.

KSNPC recently purchased a 50% interest in this site from The Nature Conservancy (TNC) using funds obtained from the Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund (HLCF). TNC is an important conservation partner that uses funds raised through private donations and bequests to preserve significant natural areas in Kentucky. TNC is able to act quickly and decisively to protect important natural lands. In Kentucky, TNC acquires and manages its own system of preserves (some of which have been dedicated as state nature preserves) and assists KSNPC in acquiring properties which would be difficult to acquire through the normal state acquisition process.

The 1994 General Assembly established the Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund (HLCF), which

allocated funds to the HLCF board for the purchase and maintenance of heritage lands in Kentucky by state agencies, colleges and universities, and local governments. The fund receives proceeds from the state's portion of the unmined minerals tax, from environmental fines paid to the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Cabinet and from the sale of nature license plates.



Eastview Barrens SNP Dedication and Ribbon Cutting Ceremony
L to R: Director of the KY Chapter of TNC, James Aldrich; DNR Staff Assistant, Joseph R. Dietz, KSNPC Commission Chair, Judith McCandless; HLCF Board Member, Horace Brown, KSNPC Director, Robert McCance, Jr.

Eastview Barrens contains an outstanding remnant of the "barrens" vegetation that, at the time of settlement, covered a large part of what we now call the Highland Rim, or "Pennyrile" section of Kentucky. The Kentucky barrens region consisted of expansive areas of native grasslands and prairie vegetation and was in large part maintained by fire. Most of the original Kentucky barrens areas have been replaced by farmland and only isolated fragments remain. Eastview Barrens was protected from agricultural development due to the poor fertility of the soil, and it continued to burn periodically even after Kentucky was settled due to fires which started from

sparks originating from a nearby railroad.

Eastview Barrens is considered one of the best remaining examples of a barrens community in Kentucky. In addition to native grasses such as big bluestem (*Andropogon gerardii*), little bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*) and Indian grass (*Sorghastrum nutans*), there are plants growing at this site that are very rare in Kentucky. These include prairie gentian (*Gentiana puberulenta*), fringed nutrush (*Scleria ciliata*), Eggert's sunflower (*Helianthus eggertii*), long-haired hawkweed (*Hieracium longipilum*), and great plains ladies' tresses (*Spiranthes magnicamporum*).

Eastview Barrens State Nature Preserve will be managed jointly by KSNPC and TNC.

Controlled burning will be an important part of the stewardship activities that will be needed to ensure the biological integrity of this site. Much research will be conducted here too, especially to document any impact our fire management may have on rare species. The principle visitor activities in this preserve will be scientific research, nature observation and appreciation, and environmental education. Visitors without written permission for research will be limited to hikes led by authorized personnel of KSNPC or TNC.

Visit KSNPC's homepage at:
www.state.ky.us/agencies/nrepc/ksnpc/index.htm

Commissioners Approve Preserve Design Policy

by Barry Howard

Protecting significant and outstanding natural areas as state nature preserves can be a long process, stretching over many years and requiring a great deal of planning and effort by the Commission's staff. At the most recent meeting of the Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission, the Commissioners approved a new policy relating to the design of nature preserves and land acquisition for these preserves.

"Preserve design" is the process by which Commission staff determine the specific geographic area needed to protect natural areas. Preserve design involves; (1) analysis of plants or animal elements and their requirements for survival, and defines the natural community boundaries; (2) delimiting the "primary boundary" or core area needed for the continued survival of these elements; (3) delimiting the "secondary boundary" or buffer areas needed to protect these elements; (4) research of property ownership patterns within the primary and secondary boundaries; and (5) creation of topographic and tract ownership maps and compilation of these maps, related data, and records pertaining to the site into a formal preserve design for submission to the Nature Preserves Commissioners.

Preserve design is a critically important part of the work of the Commission and involves contributions in one form or another from virtually all facets of the Commission's operation. The staff has been designing nature preserves since the agency's earliest days. During this time, many preserve designs have been created and presented to the

Commissioners for their approval. Since the process of converting a preserve design into a nature preserve often takes many years, it is not uncommon for staff to be actively working on a project that may have been originally approved many years ago, before many of the current Commissioners were appointed.

The new policy approved at the September Commission meeting provides guidance to the staff concerning; (1) the information that should be submitted with the preserve design; (2) the time frame and circumstances under which the preserve design is considered valid; and (3) the parameters under which the staff can make minor changes to the preserve design without approval from the Commissioners.

One of the important uses of preserve designs is that they serve as "blueprints" for the Commission's land acquisition efforts. Approval of a preserve design means that the Commission is authorizing its staff to work on protecting a site as a nature preserve. In many cases this entails the purchase of private property (but only from willing sellers).

The new policy states that after the Commission approves a preserve design, if there is no acquisition or dedication of any land at that site within five years, then the preserve design must be re-authorized by the Commission in order for the staff to continue efforts to acquire or dedicate land at a site. If land is acquired or dedicated at a site, then there is no further time limit (except the Commissioners always have authority to withdraw approval for any project). The Commissioners also granted its staff the authority to make changes to the size (not to exceed 20%) and cost (not to exceed 25%) of a project. Finally, the Commissioners reaffirmed a long-standing procedure in which the staff can make decisions relating to

additions or deletions to the Natural Areas Registry, as long as these changes are reported at Commission meetings.

These changes will provide Commission staff the flexibility to continue to work over the long term to protect outstanding Kentucky natural areas, while at the same time provide a more well-defined mechanism by which the Commissioners can direct and monitor the efforts of its staff.



Selection of Nature Preserve Custodians continued from page 5

- spent over at least a few years. Sources of income and other available resources should be identified.
- The proposal must demonstrate that sufficient personnel with experience managing natural areas are available for day to day operation of the preserve and to assist with the development and subsequent revisions of a preserve management plan.
- The proposal must describe the type and number of programs proposed for public use (if applicable).
- The proposal must list custodian's expectations of the Commission to provide staff time, funds, materials, etc.

Custodians who desire to renew custodial agreements should provide a summary report and a request for renewal at least six months before the end of the current agreement that identifies management actions and other pertinent information over the length of the agreement, lists any proposed changes to a new agreement, identifies current resources available to the agency/organization, and summarizes expectations for Commission support and resources.

Clara Wheatley Fills Vacant KSNPC Commissioner Position

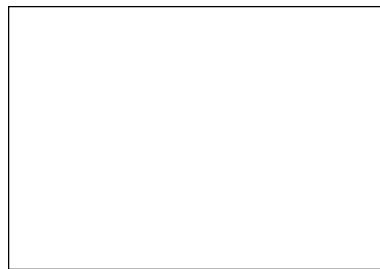
by Tim Clarke

Mr. Edwin Sutton resigned from the KSNPC board in September after six years as Commissioner representing the Kentucky National Farmers' Organization. KSNPC would like to extend our sincere thanks to Mr. Sutton for his service to the Commission, and we wish him all the best.

Appointed by Governor Patton to fill his vacancy, Mrs. Clara Wheatley joined KSNPC's board this September. She will likewise represent the Kentucky National Farmers' Organization on the five member KSNPC board.

Mrs. Wheatley, a Nelson county native, lives on her great-great grandfather's farm on the Rolling Fork near Howardstown. The second oldest of twelve children (8 girls and 4 boys), she is a direct descendant of Daniel Boone. Her family has lived in the Howardstown area for six generations. Her farm raises cattle, hogs, corn, soybeans, and hay for stock. Mrs. Wheatley has been married to her husband John for 38 years.

A graduate of Spalding University in Louisville with a degree in Medical Technology, Mrs. Wheatley lived away



Commissioner Clara Wheatley

from Nelson County for thirty years while working in various Louisville hospitals and with the Red Cross Blood Center. She retired from Caritas Medical Center (formerly

Saints Mary and Elizabeth Hospital) in 1987 where she had served as supervisor of the blood bank and as a student instructor.

Since retirement, she has increased her involvement in numerous volunteer organizations, including service work for Hospice of Central Kentucky, various church-related volunteer activities supporting a community school, and sewing a quilt each year for a raffle benefiting children with hemophilia.

Mrs. Wheatley wishes to be, "A goodwill ambassador" for KSNPC, stating, "I hope that by spreading the word I can find more supporters for Nature Preserves." She also strives to, "preserve the family farm and a rural way of life for Kentuckians."

We greatly appreciate Mrs. Wheatley's involvement with the Nature Preserves Commission, and look forward to her tenure as Commissioner.

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The Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Cabinet does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, or disability and provides, upon request, reasonable accommodations including auxiliary aids and services necessary to afford an individual with a disability an equal opportunity to participate in all services, programs, and activities.

It is the mission of the Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission 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 preserves system; (2) working with others to protect biological diversity; and (3) educating Kentuckians as to the value and purpose of nature preserves and biodiversity.

Commonwealth of Kentucky

Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission

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