

# FY 2016 ANNUAL REPORT



# KENTUCKY HERITAGE LAND CONSERVATION FUND

**Cover Photos -**

- **Audubon Wetlands Boardwalk in Henderson, Ky., by Robbie Williams**
  - **Great Blue Heron at Audubon Wetlands by Robbie Williams**
- **Audubon Wetlands Wheelchair Trail in Henderson, Ky., by Robbie Williams**
  - **Dragonfly at Audubon Wetlands by Robbie Williams**
- **Two-lined salamander with Zeb Henry Weese at Floracliff Nature Sanctuary in Fayette County, Ky., by Josie Miller**

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**Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund web-site:**  
<http://heritageland.ky.gov>

**Find us on Facebook:**  
<https://www.facebook.com/KentuckyHeritageLands>

## KENTUCKY HERITAGE LAND CONSERVATION FUND

Kentucky has an invaluable natural heritage recognized nationally and internationally for its outstanding, productive, biologically, and geologically diverse lands and waters.. The Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund is committed to protecting these diverse lands and “Keeping Kentucky Green” by awarding grant funds to purchase and preserve the state’s natural lands in perpetuity for enjoyment by this and future generations.

Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund dollars have been awarded to protect and conserve some of Kentucky’s best known natural areas: old-growth hardwoods at Blanton Forest in eastern Kentucky; savannah woodlands at Griffith Woods as well as parts of the Kentucky River Palisades in central Kentucky; urban forests at the Jefferson Memorial Forest in the state’s largest city; caves and woodlands along the Green River in south central Kentucky; cliff-lined valleys along the banks of the Martin’s Fork Wild River in Harlan County; diverse watershed and wetland areas at the Audubon Wetlands in the western part of the state; and many hiking areas and parks treasured by local communities.

FUNDING  
PROVIDED  
BY

**The Kentucky  
Heritage Land  
Conservation  
Fund**



• *Nature's Finest* •

[heritageland.ky.gov](http://heritageland.ky.gov)

## Letter from Dr. Richard K. Kessler, KHLCF Chairman

Fiscal Year 2016 has been both concerning and rewarding for KHLCF at the same time. While the Fund experienced another round of significant budget cuts last year, we were encouraged that legislators from both chambers inserted language into the budget bill protecting HLCF proceeds derived from the sale of “Nature’s Finest” license plates. I only wish the threats to Kentucky’s natural lands decreased every time our state’s primary source of land conservation funding is cut, but unfortunately that is not the case. However, public support for land conservation and public use continues to be strong and I would like to remind readers that a large proportion of KHLCF projects provide multiple opportunities for outdoor recreation and nature appreciation! In spite of the fiscal challenges, in FY 16 KHLCF managed to protect over 1,335 acres– the vast majority of it open to the public for hiking and wildlife watching. Two of these projects demand special attention. Bernheim Arboretum and Research Forest’s Cave Hollow tract in Bullit County is a great example of private/public partnership, linking KHLCF with one of the Commonwealth’s largest non-profit conservation organizations. Another project, Audubon Wetlands in Henderson County, is a multi-partner effort that resulted in the addition of nearly 650 acres to the popular Audubon State Park, virtually doubling the park’s acreage. This site protects outstanding wetland habitat for great blue heron nesting colonies as well as nesting bald eagles while providing for public access for hiking, environmental education and photography. The site also includes an impressive boardwalk through the wetlands, suitable for adults, children and the physically challenged of all ages. Conservation usually isn’t easy but projects such as these are a perfect illustration of why it is both necessary and important for the Commonwealth.

Sincerely,



Richard K. Kessler  
KHLCF Board Chair

# Mission

The Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund (KHLCF) is the primary source of state funding for the purchase of natural areas and is committed to protecting and conserving our Commonwealth's precious natural areas for enjoyment by this and future generations. ***Each property funded by the KHLCF is protected in perpetuity by a conservation easement or deed restriction.***

The fund was established by the Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Act in 1990. This legislation established priorities for property acquisitions including:

- natural areas that possess unique features such as habitat for rare and endangered species;
- areas important to migratory birds;
- areas that perform important natural functions subject to alteration or loss;
- areas to be preserved in their natural state for public use, outdoor recreation and education.

The fund is managed by the 12-member Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund Board appointed by the governor. Revenue for the fund comes from the state portion of the unmined minerals tax, environmental fines, sale of Kentucky nature license plates and interest.

By statute the Environmental Education Council receives \$150,000 of environmental fines each year for environmental education programs and the Department for Energy Development and Independence receives \$400,000 of unmined minerals tax for the purpose of public education of coal-related issues. These funds are not part of the KHLCF program, but the KHLCF handles their initial financial transfers administratively. This is reflected in the *Financial Information* section of this report.

Organizationally and administratively, the KHLCF is attached to the Department for Natural Resources in the Cabinet for Energy and Environment.

## **KHLCF funds are distributed quarterly as follows by statute:**

**10% Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources**

**10% Department of Parks**

**10% Division of Forestry**

**10% Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission**

**10% Kentucky Wild Rivers Program**

**50% Local Governments, State Colleges, Universities, Nonprofit Trust Organizations, and Other Public Agencies**

To receive program funding, eligible agencies must submit an application identifying the priority the project addresses; an enumeration of costs; a budget indicating how at least 10 percent of the acquisition cost will be spent for management; and a preliminary resource management plan for the project. During FY 2016 the board held four regularly scheduled quarterly meetings to consider applications for funding.

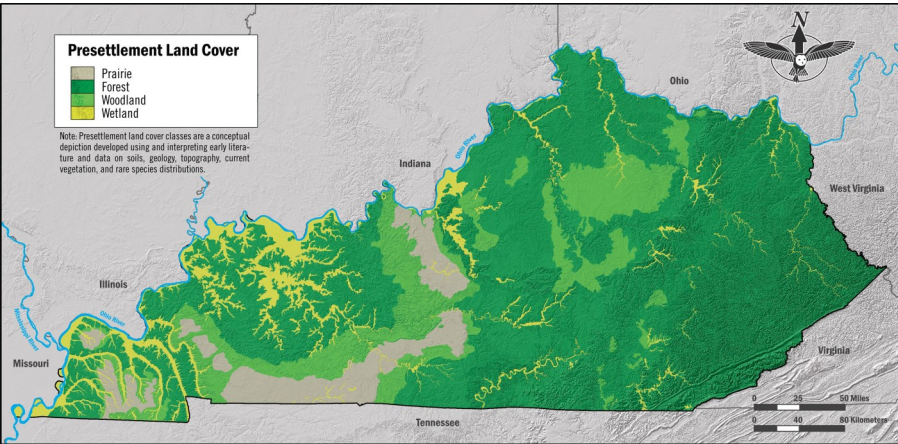
If the project is approved, each agency has two years to acquire the property unless an extension to purchase is submitted for approval by the board. Agencies have two and one - half years after the property is purchased to submit a final resource management plan for review and approval.

# Why Conserve Kentucky?

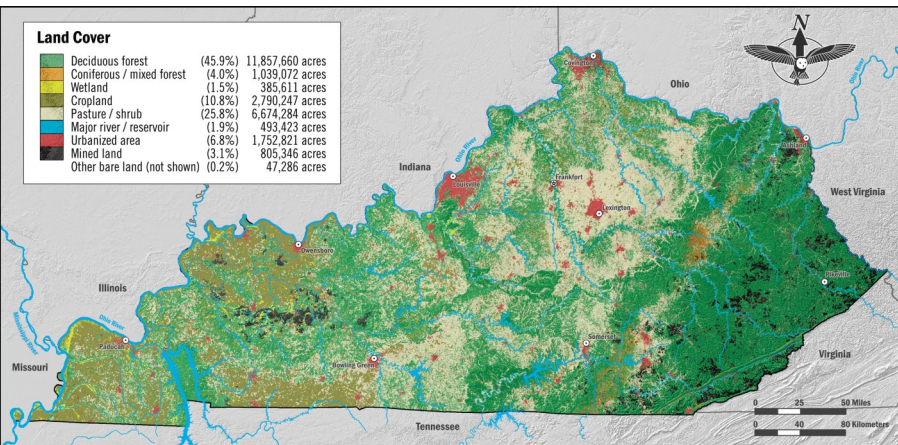
The goals of the KHLCF are simple: protect some of Kentucky’s remaining natural lands, and provide appropriate public access to as many of them as possible. The KHLCF defines “conservation” broadly. Our sites range from hiking spots, to hunting areas, to environmental education sites, to endangered species habitat.

The importance of conservation to Kentucky’s tourism economy is often under-appreciated. The most recent data from the US Census Bureau indicates that *in Kentucky alone* over **\$773 million is spent annually on wildlife watching** by over **1.3 million people**. That includes money spent on equipment, lodging, food, and other trip related expenses. KHLCF sites are important destinations for many of these tourists.

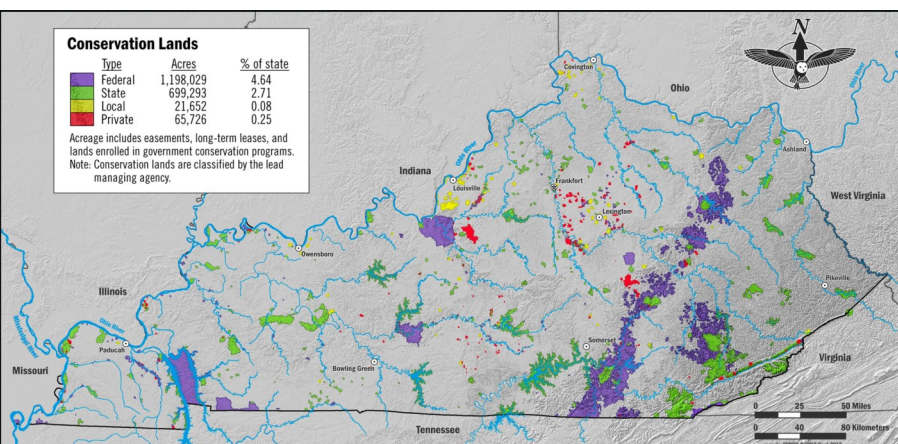
The full report may be viewed here: <https://www.census.gov/prod/2013pubs/fhw11-ky.pdf>



**Kentucky Then:** When the earliest European settlers came to Kentucky it was truly a wilderness. The mountains of Eastern Kentucky held massive tulip poplars and chestnuts. The extensive canebreaks of Central Kentucky covered countless acres. In Western Kentucky tallgrass prairies blended with vast wetlands. Wildlife was abundant throughout the state. One goal of the KHLCF is to conserve some of the natural landscape that shaped those earliest pioneers and allow future generations to experience them.



**Kentucky Now:** The vast majority of the Commonwealth has been altered significantly since those pioneer days. However, pockets of natural areas still exist. Also, much of the altered land can be successful replanted and reclaimed for passive outdoor recreation, wildlife habitat, and watershed protection. The KHLCF works with a wide range of partners to enhance the conservation attributes of land throughout Kentucky.



**Conserving Kentucky:** Kentucky has approximately 25 million acres. Estimates on how much is managed for conservation vary from 4% to 7%, depending on how broadly “conservation” is defined. That includes land protected by nonprofit organizations such as the Kentucky Natural Lands Trust and Bernheim Forest, as well as government entities such as state and local parks and nature preserves. Therefore, a very small percentage of Kentucky’s land is in public hands or conserved by other groups.

Maps developed by the Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission with the best available data.

The KHLCF assists all of these conservation organizations conserve and purchase land from willing landowners for the benefit of future generations.

# KENTUCKY'S RETURN ON INVESTMENT IN THE KENTUCKY HERITAGE LAND CONSERVATION FUND



TERRY COOK, DCRJSR\*, MARK GODFREY

The Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund (KHLCF) has conserved nearly 90,000 acres in 125 sites across 67 counties. The Trust for Public Land conducted research summarizing and quantifying the economic benefits of KHLCF investments to local communities between 1998 and 2011.

Projects made possible by the KHLCF support hundreds of thousands of jobs across Kentucky. Additionally, for every \$1 invested in land and water conservation, \$8 in natural goods and services is returned to the Commonwealth of Kentucky according to The Trust for Public Land.

## Realizing a Valuable Return on Investment: Natural Goods and Services

Natural lands and water resources conserved by KHLCF provide a host of economic benefits that have a measurable impact to the Commonwealth of Kentucky and its communities. They include services such as drinking water protection, flood control, wildlife habitat, and air pollution removal.

- The Trust for Public Land conducted an analysis of the economic value of natural goods and services provided by KHLCF protected lands and waters between 1998 and 2011. For every \$1 of KHLCF funds invested, \$8 in economic benefits is returned to the Commonwealth of Kentucky.<sup>1</sup>
- The results are consistent with similar studies conducted by The Trust for Public Land in over a dozen states that found comparable returns on investment in land and water conservation programs.

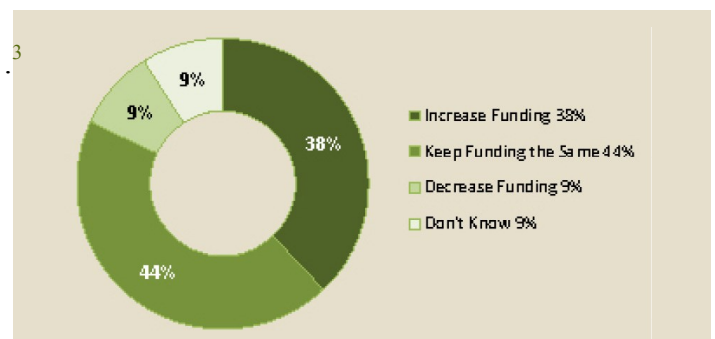
In addition to providing natural goods and services, KHLCF contributes to the Kentucky economy in terms of generating jobs and strengthening local economies,

providing clean water, and boosting the bottom line for local governments.

## Generating Jobs and Strengthening Local Economies

The parks, trails, state forests, wildlife management areas, and nature preserves conserved with KHLCF funding supports the outdoor recreation and tourism industries.

- Outdoor recreation is a major component of Kentucky's economy. Each year it generates \$8.4 billion in consumer spending, \$552 million in state and local tax revenue, 105,000 jobs, and \$2.5 billion in wages and salaries in the state.<sup>2</sup>
- The tourism and travel industry contributed over \$12.2 billion to Kentucky's economy in 2012. Visitors supported 174,000 jobs in local communities accounting for \$2.7 billion in wages and salaries for Kentuckians. State and local governments received \$1.23 billion in tax revenue



82% of Kentuckians think conservation funding should stay the same or increase.

77% of voters believe we can have a clean environment and a strong economy at the same time.

Source: Bipartisan statewide voter survey conducted December 2013.



# KHLCF Related Article

## Providing Clean Water

Kentucky's forests and open lands play a vital role in the provision of clean drinking water supplies. They reduce the costs of treating wastewater and stormwater, as well as the costs of treating drinking water supplies.

- A study conducted in 2009 by the northern Kentucky Sanitation District No. 1 found that 'green' controls, such as protecting watershed lands, provide substantial improvements in water quality relative to their cost compared to traditional stormwater treatment controls to correct sewer overflows (i.e., pipe replacement and water treatment plants).<sup>4</sup>
- Costs of treating drinking water supplies have been found to be directly related to the amount of tree cover in the area. Specifically, costs are higher when there is less tree cover. An area with only 10 percent forested land had annual treatment costs of \$923,000 compared to \$297,000 for an area with 60 percent tree cover.<sup>5</sup>

## Boosting the Bottom Line for Local Governments

Land and water conservation provides a fiscal benefit to both residents and municipalities through cost sav-

ings on infrastructure and services.

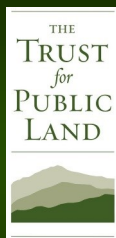
- Studies of Kentucky counties consistently show that unlike residential land, working and open lands generate more in public revenues than they receive back in public services. For example, for every \$1 paid in local taxes, working and open land in five Kentucky counties (i.e., Campbell, Kenton, Lexington-Fayette, Oldham, and Shelby) required an average of \$0.53 in services compared to an average of \$1.26 in services for the average home.<sup>6</sup>
- The national median across 151 communities over 25 years is that for every \$1 paid in local taxes, farmland and open space require \$0.35 in services compared to \$1.16 in services for the average home.<sup>7</sup>



KENTUCKY DIVISION OF WATER PHOTO

## End notes

1. This analysis is based on the best available data at the time of publication. Ohio data were utilized for the underlying carbon storage and sequestration volumes for cropland, pasture, and grassland. For a full methodology description see "The Economic Benefits of Clean Ohio Fund Conservation" report available at <http://www.tpl.org/economic-benefits-clean-ohio-fund-conservation-report>. Sources: Molly Ingraham and Shonda Gilliland Foster, "The Value of Ecosystem Services Provided by the U.S. National Wildlife Refuge System in the Contiguous U.S." (*Ecological Economics*, 67, 2008, pp. 608-618); Interagency Working Group on Social Cost of Carbon, United States Government, *Technical Support Document: - Technical Update of the Social Cost of Carbon for Regulatory Impact Analysis - Under Executive Order 12866* (revised November 2013); M. Jarecki and L. Rattan, "Soil Organic Carbon Sequestration Rates in Two Long-Term No-Till Experiments in Ohio" (*Soil Science* 170, no. 4, 2005, pp. 280-291); J. Lewandrowski, M. Peters, C. Jones, R. House, M. Sperow, M. Eve, and K. Paustian, *Economics of Sequestering Carbon in the U.S. Agricultural Sector* (USDA Economic Research Service, Technical Bulletin No. TB-1909, 2004); D. J. Nowak and E. J. Greenfield, *Urban and Community Forests of the South Central East Region*. (USDA Forest Service General Technical Report NRS-58, 2009); P. Puget and R. Lal, "Soil organic carbon and nitrogen in a Mollisol in central Ohio as affected by tillage and land use" (*Soil & Tillage Research* 80, no. 1-2, 2005, pp. 201-213); The Trust for Public Land, *Conservation Almanac* (Available at <http://www.conservationmanac.org>); U.S. Department of Agriculture, "Grassland Reserve Program Rental Rates" (accessed February 26, 2014, [http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE\\_DOCUMENTS/nrcs144p2\\_026909.pdf](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/nrcs144p2_026909.pdf)); U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistical Service, "Data and Statistics" (accessed February 26, 2014, [http://quickstats.nass.usda.gov/?sector\\_desc=ECONOMICS&commodity\\_desc=RENT&agg\\_level\\_desc=COUNTY&source\\_desc=SURVEY](http://quickstats.nass.usda.gov/?sector_desc=ECONOMICS&commodity_desc=RENT&agg_level_desc=COUNTY&source_desc=SURVEY)); and R. T. Woodward and Y. S. Wui, "The Economic Value of Wetland Services: A Meta-Analysis" (*Ecological Economics* 37, 2001, pp. 257-270).
2. Outdoor Industry Association, *The Outdoor Recreation Economy: Kentucky* (2012).
3. Kentucky Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet, *Economic Impact of Kentucky's Travel and Tourism Industry – 2011 and 2012* (Prepared by CERTEC, Inc. May 2013).
4. Third Rock Consultants, LLC, *Kentucky Statewide Assessment of Forest Resources and Strategy* (Produced in conjunction with the Kentucky Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry, 2010).
5. Ibid.
6. American Farmland Trust, *Cost of Community Services Fact Sheet* (Northampton, Massachusetts: Farmland Information Center, 2010).
7. Ibid.
- \* KY State Tree, Tulip Poplar. By Dcrrjsr/Gallery of Duke Forest Plants from Wikimedia Commons. [http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Liriodendron\\_tulipifera\\_tulip\\_close.jpg](http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Liriodendron_tulipifera_tulip_close.jpg)



For additional information, contact:

The Trust for Public Land  
(615) 715-6870



Prepared by The Trust for Public Land with support from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and Conserve Kentucky.

# KHLCF Accomplishments

Since 1995, the Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund Board has played an integral part in helping state agencies, local governments, and state colleges and universities protect and conserve 89,003.40 acres of Kentucky's natural areas and habitats. To date, the fund has provided financial support, in whole or in part, to acquire 137 sites in 67 counties. There have been 77,181.79 acres conserved by state agencies and / or multiple-agency partnerships, 9931.057 acres conserved by local governments and conservation districts, and 1,985.70 acres conserved by universities.

Summary of the Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund Efforts as of 1995 - June 2016			
Applicant	Number of Projects	Acreage Conserved	Funding*
<b>Fish and Wildlife Resources</b>	8	40,701.18	\$ 7,915,255.59
<b>Division of Forestry</b>	5	3,166.56	\$ 4,650,787.85
<b>State Nature Preserves Commission</b>	34	10,178.31	\$ 8,216,496.50
<b>Department of Parks</b>	12	3,231.81	\$ 5,133,998.76
<b>Wild Rivers Program</b>	9	5,122.84	\$ 6,679,238.22
<b>Multiple Agency Partners</b>	6	14,781.09	\$ 11,673,455.86
<b>County Governments</b>	29	6,815.68	\$ 12,349,824.82
<b>City Governments</b>	10	542.55	\$ 1,709,119.25
<b>Metro Governments</b>	7	993.24	\$ 3,268,294.45
<b>Colleges/Universities</b>	7	1,985.70	\$ 4,735,308.15
<b>Conservation Districts</b>	8	1,484.44	\$ 4,589,972.66
<b>Non-Profit</b>	1	95.147	\$ 85,059.00
<b>Totals:</b>	137	89,003.40	\$ 71,006,811.11

*\*Includes both acquisition and management costs.*



# FY 2016 Purchased Properties

In FY 2016 a total of 1091.40 acres of Kentucky's natural lands in eight different counties were conserved with funding assistance from the KHLCF.

FY 2016 KHLCF ACQUISITIONS			
PROJECT	AGENCY	COUNTY	ACRES
Bernheim Forest—Cave Hollow Tract		Bullitt	95.147
Little South Fork—Parkers Mountain Tract	KDOW	McCreary	92.69
Bad Branch SNP—Wagner Tract	KSNPC	Letcher	146
City of Horse Cave—Hidden River Cave Expansion		Hart	0.349
Town Creek Greenway—Tannery Hill Tract	City of Bardstown	Nelson	16.012
Frances Palk SNP—Van Sant Tract	KSNPC	Pulaski	88.23
Jefferson Memorial Forest—Carson Tract	Louisville Metro Parks	Jefferson	37
Audubon Wetlands	PARKS	Henderson	648
		<b>Total:</b>	<b>1,091.40</b>



Prothonotary warbler banded as part of a KHLCF biological inventory. Photo by Zeb Weese

## KHLCF Purchased Properties 1995 – June 30, 2015

County	Project	Agency	Acres
Allen	Carpenter Cave CE	KSNPC	14.30
Ballard	Axe Lake Swamp SNP	KSNPC	311.99
Ballard	Ballard WMA– Harper Tract	KDFWR	256
Ballard	Boatwright WMA	KDFWR	1,177.00
Barren	Brigadoon SNP	KSNPC	91.88
Barren	Mutter's Cave CE	KSNPC	108.28
Bell	Kentucky Ridge SF/WMA	KDF and KDFWR	3,782.38
Bell, Pike, Harlan, Letcher	Pine Mountain State Scenic Trail	Kentucky State Parks	553.48
Boone	Boone County Cliffs	Boone County Fiscal Court	75.42
Boone	Big Bone Lick State Park—Piner Tract	Kentucky State Parks	236
Boone	Dinsmore Woods	Boone County Fiscal Court	104.52
Boone	Gunpowder Creek	Boone County Fiscal Court	125.98
Boyle	Perryville Battlefield	Kentucky State Parks	75.81
Breckinridge	Wildlife Education Park	Breckinridge County Fiscal Court	25.19
Breckinridge	Yellowbank WMA	KDFWR	1,332.31
Bullitt	Apple Valley Glades SNP	KSNPC	69.23
Bullitt	Knobs State Forest	KDF	1,539.59
Bullitt	Bernheim Forest—Cave Hollow Tract	Bernheim	95.147
Calloway	Blood River SNP	KSNPC	192.56
Calloway	Fort Heiman	Calloway County Fiscal Court	167.00
Campbell	Hawthorne Crossing Conservation Area	Campbell Conservation District	134.69
Campbell	St. Anne Woods and Wetlands	Campbell Conservation District	165.00
Carter	Carter Caves State Park	Kentucky State Parks	107.54
Carter	Olive Hill Reservoir	City of Olive Hill	214.64
Carter	Tygart State Forest	KDF	255.03
Christian	Bob Overton Cave	KSNPC	54.82
Christian, Caldwell	Pennyrile State Forest	KDF	200.57
Clark	Civil War Earthenworks Fort	Clark County Fiscal Court	25.38
Clark	Lower Howard's Creek Nature and Heritage Preserve	Clark County Fiscal Court	346.59
Daviess	Adkisson Greenbelt Trail	City of Owensboro	25.00
Daviess	Yellow Creek Park	Daviess County Fiscal Court	1.43
Estill	Lily Mountain Nature Preserve	Estill County Conservation District	561.15
Fayette	Raven Run Nature Sanctuary	LFUCG	353.38
Fleming	Clay Wildlife WMA	KDFWR	811.03
Fleming	Park Lake Mountain Nature Preserve	Fleming County Fiscal Court	821.13
Fleming	Short's Goldenrod SNP	KSNPC	209.89
Franklin	Cove Springs Park	City of Frankfort	96.99
Franklin	Feindel CE	KSNPC	65.74
Franklin	Julian Savanna SNP	KSNPC	42.43
Franklin	River Cliffs SNP	KSNPC	210.19
Franklin	Rockcress Hills SNP	KSNPC	66.66
Franklin	Swallowfield—Baxley CE	KSNPC	64.35
Garrard	Tom Dorman SNP	KSNPC	802.95

## KHLCF Purchased Properties 1995 – June 30, 2015

County	Project	Agency	Acres
Graves	Terrapin Creek SNP	KSNPC	98.60
Grayson	Lone Oak Glade	KSNPC	33.53
Green	Glenview Nature Preserve	Green County Fiscal Court	168.07
Green	Wyatt Jeffries Woods	Green County Fiscal Court	57.15
Hardin	Eastview Barrens SNP	KSNPC	119.14
Hardin	Jim Scudder SNP	KSNPC	172.66
Hardin	Springhouse Barrens SNP	KSNPC	55.78
Harlan	Blanton Forest SNP	KSNPC	1631.88
Harlan	Hi Lewis Barrens SNP	KSNPC	302.00
Harlan	James E. Bickford SNP	KSNPC	347.84
Harlan	Kentonia State Forest	KDF	762.03
Harlan	Martin's Fork SNA	KDOW	1,624.41
Harlan	Stone Mountain SNA	KSNPC/KDFWR	1,025.49
Harrison	Griffith Woods WMA	KDFWR	391.37
Hart	Davis Bend	KDOW	165.00
Hart	Frenchman's Knob	Hart County Fiscal Court	64.00
Hart	Hidden River Cave	City of Horse Cave	9.759
Hart	Rush Island Bottoms	KDOW	160.00
Hart	Green River Biological Reserve	Western Kentucky University	1,524.67
Henderson	Green River State Forest	KDF	409.34
Henderson	John James Audubon State Park	Kentucky State Parks	663.83
Henry	KSU Environmental Education and Research Center	Kentucky State University	305.99
Henry, Owen	Kentucky River WMA	KDFWR	533.28
Hickman	Obion Creek and Murphy's Pond SNP	KSNPC	198.72
Hickman	Three Ponds SNP	KSNPC	528.25
Hickman, Fulton	Obion Creek and Latourneau Woods WMA	KDFWR	1,640.19
Jefferson	Jefferson Memorial Forest additions	Louisville-Jefferson Metro Gov	625.09
Jefferson	Peterson Forest	Louisville-Jefferson Metro Gov	98.13
Jefferson	Pope Lick Park (Tyler Schooling tract)	Louisville-Jefferson Metro Gov	214.65
Jefferson	Putney Pond and Woodlands	City of Prospect	24.31
Jefferson	Jefferson Memorial Forest	Louisville-Jefferson Metro Gov	61
Jessamine	Camp Nelson	Jessamine County Fiscal Court	58.53
Jessamine	Jessamine Creek Gorge	Jessamine County Fiscal Court	268.77
Kenton	Morningview	Kenton County Conservation District	222.66
Larue	LaRue County Environmental Education Center	Larue County Fiscal Court	191.00
Larue	Lincoln Boyhood Home	Larue County Fiscal Court	224.97
Larue	Thompson Creek Glade SNP	KSNPC	105.26
Laurel	Rockcastle Wild River Corridor - Sinking Creek	KDOW	300.97
Laurel	Whitley Branch Preservation	City of London	75.57
Letcher	Bad Branch SNP	KSNPC	1,192.94
Lewis	Crooked Creek SNP	KSNPC	693.47
Lincoln	Bouteloua Barrens SNP	KSNPC	261.00

## KHLCF Purchased Properties 1995 – June 30, 2014

County	Project	Agency	Acres
Lincoln	William Whitley House	Kentucky State Parks	80.24
Livingston	Livingston County WMA	Livingston County Fiscal Court	2429.92
Logan	Baker Natural Area	Logan Conservation District	66.15
Marion	Marion County WMA	KDFWR, Marion County, KDF	1,293.20
McCracken	Perkins Creek Nature Preserve	City of Paducah	80.27
McCreary	Cumberland Falls State Park	Kentucky State Parks	119.00
Menifee	Broke Leg Falls	Menifee County Fiscal Court	14.82
Metcalfe	Dry Fork Gorge	Metcalfe County Fiscal Court	79.97
Metcalfe, Cumberland	Marrowbone State Forest*	KDF and KDFWR	1,955.47
Monroe	Old Mulkey Meeting House	Kentucky State Parks	19.02
Muhlenberg, Hopkins, Ohio	Peabody WMA*	KDFWR	34,560.00
Nelson	Town Creek Greenway -Tannery Hill	City of Bardstown	16.012
Ohio	Highview Hill	Ohio County Fiscal Court	256.71
Ohio	Ohio County Nature Park	Ohio County Fiscal Court	191.25
Oldham	Morgan Conservation Park	Oldham County Fiscal Court	227.59
Powell	Natural Bridge State Park	Kentucky State Parks	471.00
Powell	Pilot Knob SNP	Powell County Fiscal Court	515.93
Pulaski	Buck Creek Preserve	Pulaski County Fiscal Court	35.26
Pulaski	Hazeldell Meadow	Pulaski County Fiscal Court	39.35
Pulaski	Frances J. Palk SNP	KSNPC	238.66
Pulaski	William H Martin Wildlife and Watershed Conservation Area	KDOW	458.96
Robertson, Nicholas, Fleming	Blue Licks State Park*	Kentucky State Parks	905.45
Shelby	Clear Creek Park Greenway	Shelby County Fiscal Court	27.02
Shelby	Shelby Trails Park Addition	Shelby County Fiscal Court	75.00
Simpson	Flat Rock Glade SNP	KSNPC	29.97
Taylor	Clay Hill Memorial Forest	Campbellsville University	103.00
Taylor	Tebbs Bend	Taylor County Fiscal Court	172.14
Union, Crittenden	Big Rivers WMA/SF*	KDFWR and KDF	6,724.00
Warren	Cave Springs	Western KY University	2.01
Warren	Lost River Cave	Warren County Fiscal Court	2.25
Wayne, McCreary	Little South Fork Corridor - Burnett WWCA	KDOW	2112.24
Whitley	Archer-Benge SNP*	KSNPC	1,863.00
Wolfe	Red Wild River Corridor	KDOW	301.26
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>89,010.12</b>

\*Other funding sources used as match \*\*All costs associated with these projects are for the protection, not purchase, of land.

### Acronym Legend:

Wildlife Management Area—WMA

Conservation easement—CE

State Nature Preserve—SNP

Watershed and Wildlife Conservation Area—WWCA

State Forest—SF

# Annual KHLCF Stewardship Award

The KHLCF Board was happy to award the 2015 Stewardship Award to the Kenton County Conservation District for their work at the Morning View Heritage Land on the Licking River. This site protects forest along the Licking River, home to some of the Commonwealth's most endangered aquatic species. Through partnership with the US Fish and Wildlife Service, populations endangered plants and wildlife are also being restored on this site.



L. to R: KHLCF Program Manager Zeb Weese, KCCD representatives John Stork, Bing Dickerson and Marc Hult, KHLCF Board Member Horace Brown.

An environmental education center and program is underway, named in honor of the late Mary Kathryn Dickerson. The site is host to a popular farm tour, and hiking trails are also in development.

For more information on Morning View, please go to <http://heritageland.ky.gov/Pages/Morningview.aspx> and [http://www.kentoncounty.org/agencies/conservation\\_district/morning\\_view\\_heritage\\_land.php](http://www.kentoncounty.org/agencies/conservation_district/morning_view_heritage_land.php).



Morning View Heritage Area photo from the book *Kentucky, Naturally: The Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund at Work* by Thomas G. Barnes

# FY 2016 Approved Projects

A total of 11 project applications were reviewed by the KHLCF Board in FY 2016, and 14 were approved at some level of funding. Funding awards totaling \$3,860,393 were approved for the proposed acquisition and management of more than 1,000 acres located throughout the state out of a total of \$2,295,393.00 requested. Local governments/university projects were approved in Livingston, Bell, Clark, Hart, Estill, Washington and Fleming counties. State agency projects were approved in Harlan, McCreary, Bell and Letcher counties.

Funds came from current year receipts plus funds from previously approved projects that could not be acquired. All funding awarded was for land purchase and associated pre-acquisition costs (appraisals, title, and survey work). No management activities were funded for these new projects.

GRANTS AWARDED	COUNTY	AWARD
<b>Competitive (local governments, land trusts, etc.)</b>		
Mantle Rock—Joiner Tract—The Nature Conservancy—	Livingston	
Pine Mountain—Thrash Tract—Kentucky Natural Lands Trust	Bell	
Floracliff Nature Sanctuary—Floracliff—Trails End Tract	Fayette	
City of Horse Cave—Underground Expansion	Hart	
Estill County Conservation District—Lily Mountain Expansion Mgmt Funds	Estill	
St. Catharine College—St Catharine Woodland	Washington	
Campbell County Conservation District—Hawthorne Crossing—Richie Tract	Campbell	
Fleming County Fiscal Court—Park Lake Mountain—Browning Tract	Fleming	
Clark County Fiscal Court—Lower Howards Creek - Rice Tract	Clark	
<b>Total Competitive</b>		<b>\$ 2,295,393</b>
<b>State Agency Grants</b>		
<b>Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission</b>		
Bad Branch—Butler Tract	Letcher	
Bad Branch SNP—Wagner additional funds	Letcher	
<b>Total Kentucky Nature Preserves Commission</b>		<b>\$ 265,000</b>
<b>Department of Parks</b>		
Pine Mountain State Scenic Trail—Additional Funds	Bell, Pike, Harlan	
<b>Total Department of Parks</b>		<b>\$ 400,000</b>
<b>Wild Rivers Program</b>		
Little South Fork—Burnett Phase 2	McCreary	
Martin Fork—Carter/Ball Tract	Harlan	
<b>Total Division of Water</b>		<b>\$ 1,650,000</b>
<b>Total State Agencies</b>		<b>\$ 2,315,000</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>		<b>\$ 3,935,393</b>



# FY 2016 Approved Projects

A total of 10 project applications were reviewed by the KHLCF Board in FY 2016. Funding awards totaling \$7,103,273 were approved for the proposed acquisition and management of more than 8,567 acres located throughout the state. Local governments/university projects were approved in Livingston, Bell, Washington, Campbell, Fleming, Clark, Harlan, Fayette, Hart, and Estill. State agency projects were approved in McCreary, Letcher, Bell, Pike, and Harlan counties.

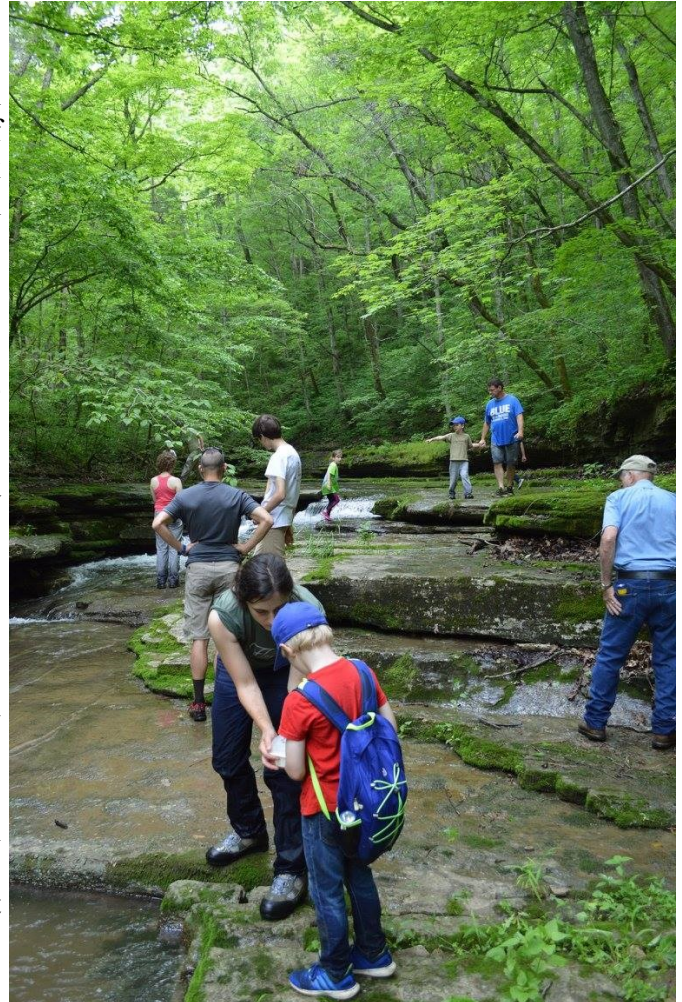
## **Local Governments, Universities, and Nonprofit Land Trusts**

### **Floracliff—Trail's End —Floracliff Nature Sanctuary**

Floracliff was founded several decades ago by the late Dr. Mary Wharton, a renowned biology professor from Georgetown University. It protects significant populations of native plants and natural geologic formations along Elk Lick Creek as it flows into the Kentucky River in Southern Fayette County. Floracliff also has a thriving environmental education program and a nature center. This property addition, funded by the KHLCF in partnership with the Imperiled Bat Conservation Fund through the Kentucky Natural Lands Trust, will protect an additional 60 acres of bottom-land forest along the river.

### **Lower Howard's Creek— Rice Tract—Clark County Fiscal Court**

Lower Howard's Creek Preserve will add approximately 83 acres to the previous acquisitions. This will be devoted to preserve the natural and cultural resources near the Kentucky River. This property contains important water resources, gentle forested slopes, and access which will allow emergency access to the northeastern reaches of the Preserve. This tract will be managed as part of the existing nature sanctuary and heritage interpretation preserve. Upon acquisition of this tract, the KHLCF will protect nearly 400 acres at Lower Howard's Creek. Clark County Fiscal Court received the 2011 KHLCF Stewardship Award for management of the previously funded property at Lower Howard's Creek.



Environmental education program at Floracliff. Photo by Josie Miller.

### **Mantle Rock—Joiner Tract—The Nature Conservancy**

While the KHLCF has long partnered with The Nature Conservancy in Western Kentucky, this is the first award to be made directly by the KHLCF Board to TNC for natural areas acquisition. Upon purchase, this nearly 150 acre property will bring together the conservation easements that the KHLCF already protects with Livingston County Fiscal Court to TNC's existing Mantle Rock Nature Preserve. The conserved land near the Ohio River will approach 3000 total acres.

### **Hawthorne Crossing—Richie Addition—Campbell County Conservation District**

The KHLCF protects over 130 acres at Hawthorne Crossing. This small addition would create improved access for hiking and potentially paddling on the Licking River.

# FY 2016 Approved Projects

## Kentucky State Parks

### **Pine Mountain Trail Additional Tracts 2016—Pike, Bell, Harlan**

One of the KHLCF's priority conservation areas is Pine Mountain, which is one of the most beautiful and diverse areas in Kentucky. For over a decade, the KHLCF has worked with Kentucky State Parks to complete the Pine Mountain State Scenic Trail, which will eventually allow adventurers to hike and backpack over 120 miles, from Cumberland Gap National Park on the Tennessee border to Breaks Interstate Park on the Virginia line. This project ties into the proposed Great Eastern Trail, a companion to the familiar Appalachian Trail. This award will help fund over 4,000 acres of conservation land on Pine Mountain and help this project become a reality.



Martin's Fork State Natural Area from the book *Kentucky: Naturally: The Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund at Work* by Thomas G. Barnes

## Kentucky Wild Rivers Program

### **Martins Fork—Carter/Ball Tracts—Harlan County**

The 1,600 acre Martin's Fork State Scenic Area, purchased entirely with KHLCF funding, is perhaps the most significant natural area managed by the Kentucky Wild Rivers Program. It is home to rare species such as the green salamander, protects breathtaking waterfalls, and includes hiking trails on Brush Mountain that lead to Cumberland Gap National Park. This award will nearly double the size of the conservation area and complete protection of the entire Martin's Fork watershed.

KET's Kentucky Life program aired a new segment at Martin's Fork in February 2016, which can be seen here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-q-uq19KGa0>

### **Little South Fork—Burnett Phase 2—King & Garrison 2 Tracts—McCreary**

The Burnett Watershed and Wildlife Conservation Area is nearly 2,000 acres of natural lands protecting land along the Little South Fork river, including important habitat for endangered aquatic species. This award will protect an additional 700 acres, including cliff-lines which harbor additional rare species.

# Financial Information

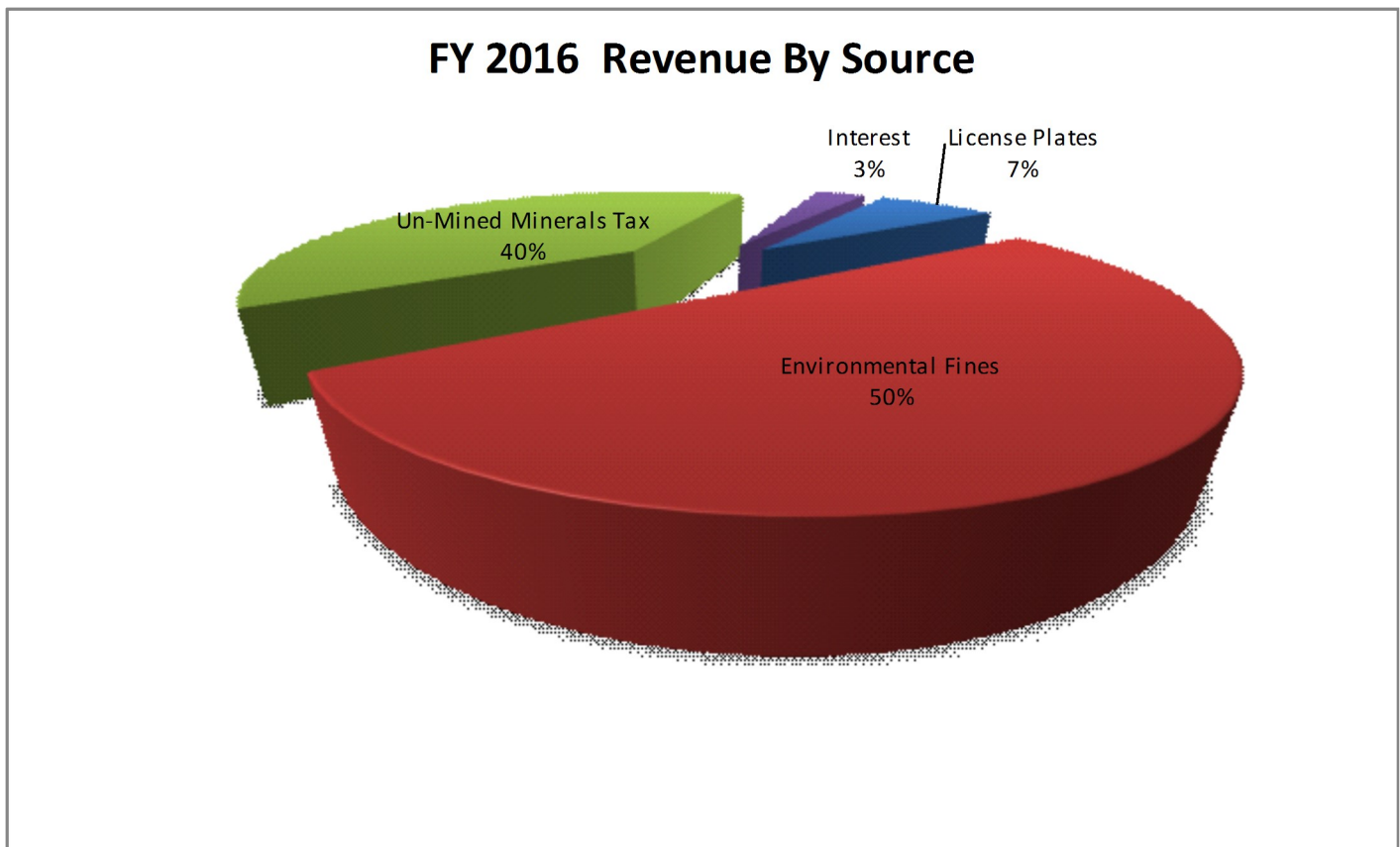
Funding for the KHLCF is generated from the sale of three nature license plates, the state portion of unmined mineral tax on coal, environmental fines, and interest income. For FY 2016 receipts were \$3,572,581.38, which does not include the \$550,000 the KHLCF transfers administratively to KEEC and DEDI by statute but is not part of the KHLCF program. The KEEC receives the first \$150,000 collected from environmental fines and DEDI receives the first \$400,000 of unmined minerals taxes and the KHLCF receives the remainder from both sources for natural areas land acquisition.

In FY 2016 the current state budget swept \$3,000,000 from the KHLCF into the state General Fund, therefore creating a balance of \$298,581.38 for FY 2016. Awards made on pages 10-12 were made from a combination of revenue held over from previous years and funds returned from withdrawn projects.

The total revenue for FY 2016 was approximately \$1,426,604.09 less than FY 2015 levels. As shown on the page 14 table, revenue generated from unmined mineral tax revenue decreased by \$649,486.96, environmental fines decreased by roughly \$702,868.95 and license plate sales revenue continued to decline as well; revenue generated from nature license plates sales fell by \$113,936 from FY 2015, while interest income increased by \$40,760.25.

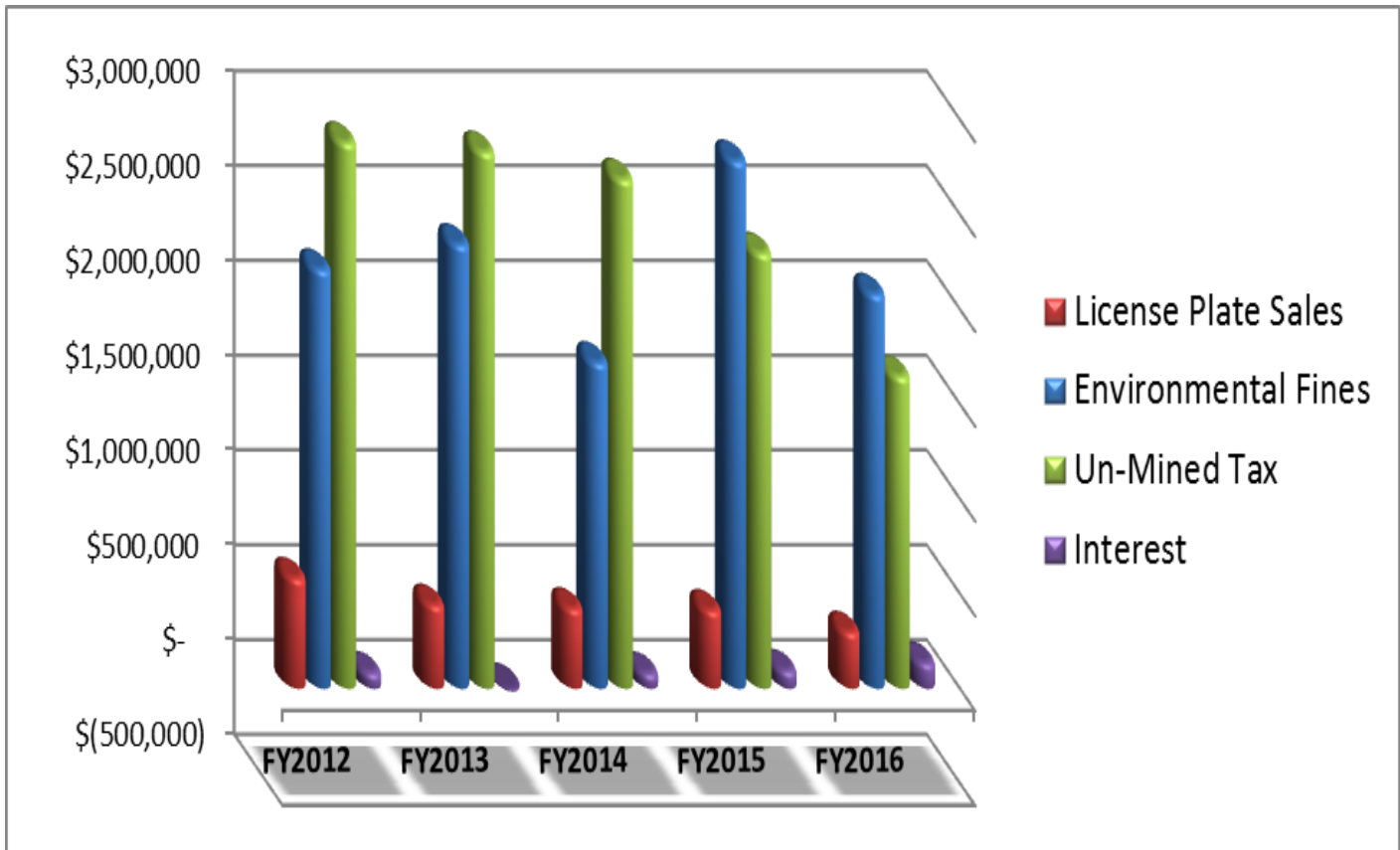
The table also demonstrates the volatility and unpredictability of our revenue sources from year to year. During the last five years, revenue from fines has seen a steady increase for four years and a sharp decrease in FY 2014, while revenues from unmined minerals has increased from FY 2009 to FY 2012, but decreased in FY 2013 to FY 2016.

License plate sales have been decreasing dramatically recently particularly the last two fiscal years. Interest income has been the most volatile over the last five years.



# KHLCF Revenue

<b>Revenue By Source 5 Year Comparison</b>					
5-Year Receipts by Source	FY12	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16
<b>License Plates</b>	\$571,970.00	\$431,100.00	\$412,370.00	\$402,118.00	\$288,182.00
<b>Environmental Fines</b>	\$2,199,707.55	\$2,332,183.04	\$1,709,372.74	\$2,773,395.70	\$2,070,526.75
<b>Un-Mined Tax</b>	\$2,870,185.73	\$2,820,757.75	\$2,676,911.60	\$2,287,058.13	\$1,637,571.04
<b>Other Receipts</b>			\$71.00	\$945.00	
<b>Interest</b>	\$74,110.72	(\$14,432.57)	\$71,525.70	\$85,541.34	\$126,301.59
<b>Statutory transfers to KEEC and DEDI</b>	(\$550,000.00)	(\$550,000.00)	(\$550,000.00)	(\$550,000.00)	(\$550,000.00)
<b>Transfer to General Fund</b>				(\$5,000,000.00)	(\$3,000,000.00)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$5,360,734.00</b>	<b>\$5,019,608.00</b>	<b>\$4,320,251.00</b>	<b>(\$941.83)</b>	<b>\$572,581.38</b>



# Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund Board Members

The 12-member board was established by the Kentucky General Assembly in 1994. Five members are appointed from state government agencies, one each from the Department for Natural Resources, the Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, the Department of Parks, the Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission, and the Environmental Education Council. Seven members are private citizens selected by the governor from nominations by conservation groups, the Kentucky Academy of Science, agricultural interests and natural resources interests. The citizen members do not receive pay for attending quarterly board meetings and serving on the active committees of the board. Board committees review applications and visit project sites, review and monitor site stewardship, and provide advice and recommendations on issues coming before the board.

The Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund Board is staffed by the Department for Natural Resources. Comments regarding this report should be addressed to:

## Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund Board

300 Sower Blvd

Frankfort, KY 40601

Phone: 502-564-2320

[www://heritageland.ky.gov](http://www.heritageland.ky.gov)

**Alexander Barnett**  
Farm Bureau  
Term Expires: July 15, 2018

**Hugh Archer - KHLCF Stewardship Committee Chair**  
Land Acquisition Expert  
Term Expires: July 15, 2018

**W. Horace Brown**  
*Ex Officio Member*  
Chair, Kentucky Environmental Education Council

**Allen Luttrell**  
*Ex Officio Member*  
Commissioner, Department for Natural Resources

**Donald S. Dott, Jr.**  
*Ex Officio Member*  
Director, Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission

**Greg Johnson**  
*Ex Officio Member*  
Commissioner, Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources

**Franklin D. Fitzpatrick - KHLCF Treasurer**  
Kentucky Chapter of the Nature Conservancy  
Term Expires: July 15, 2017

**Dr. Richard K. Kessler - KHLCF Board Chair**  
Kentucky Academy of Science  
Term Expires: July 15, 2017

**George "Bill" Little, Jr. - KHLCF Board Vice-Chair**  
Environmental Organizations Representative  
Term Expires: July 15, 2018

**Dr. Albert Meier - KHLCF Project Committee Chair**  
Kentucky Academy of Science  
Term Expires: July 15, 2016

**Dr. Paul M. Sheets**  
League of Kentucky Sportsmen  
Term Expires: July 15, 2016

**Donnie Holland**  
*Ex Officio Member*  
Commissioner, Department of Parks

### KHLCF Staff:

**Zeb Weese - Environmental Biologist Consultant**

**Stephanie Ellis - Internal Policy Analyst II**

**Erik Johnson- Property Management Program Analyst II**

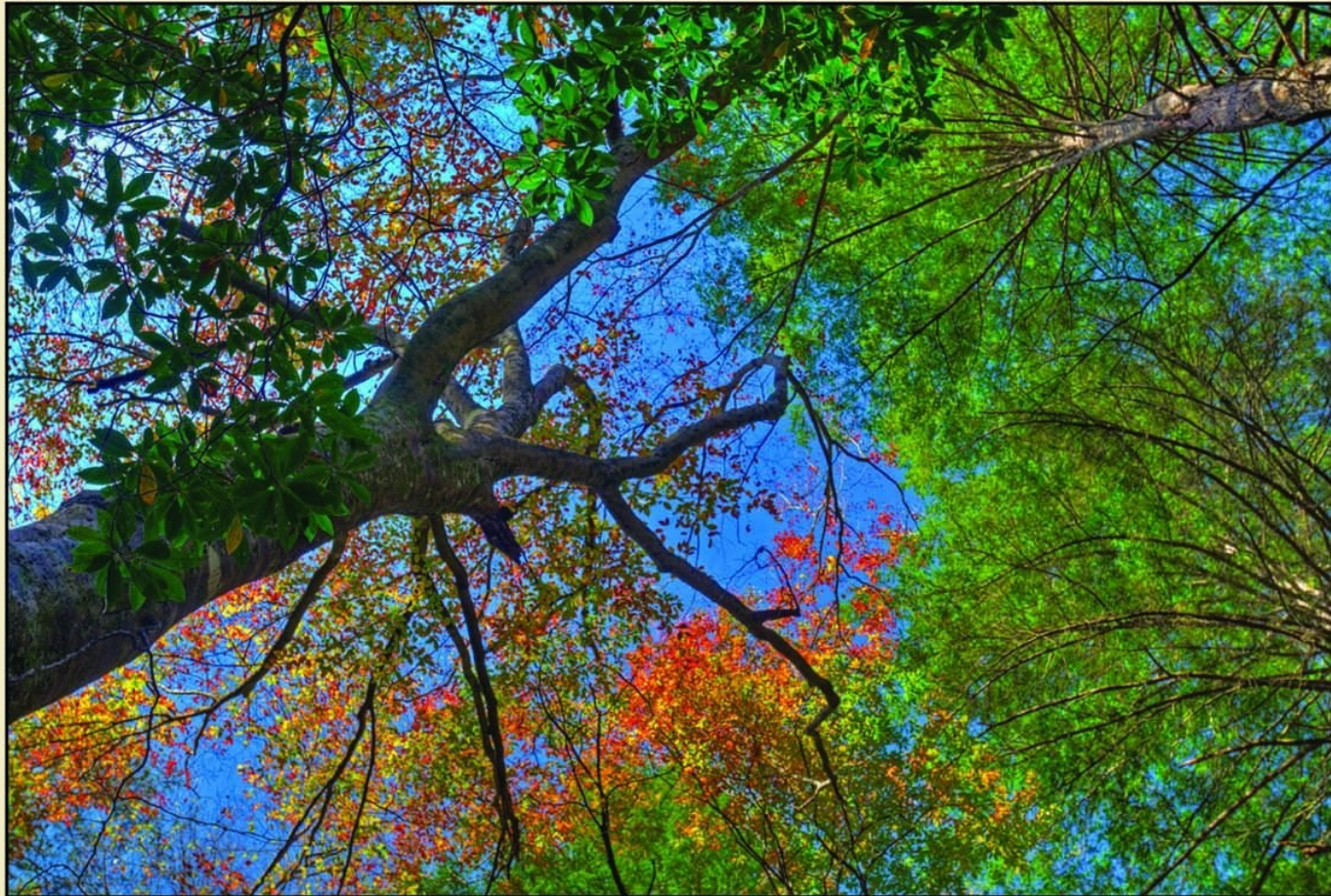
**Anna Girard Fletcher - General Counsel**

*Kentucky, Naturally: the Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund at Work* is a compilation and celebration of the properties that have been purchased with the assistance of KHLCF money during the first 20 years of the program. Award-winning Kentucky nature photographer Dr. Thomas G. Barnes displays hundreds of beautiful photographs of the state's protected lands and provides detailed descriptions of each site, including the natural flora and fauna. Through the KHLCF and public support, Kentucky's abundant natural resources and beauty can be treasured and protected for all to enjoy. Available now at your local bookstore and online.



# KENTUCKY, *Naturally*

THE KENTUCKY HERITAGE LAND CONSERVATION FUND AT WORK



THOMAS G. BARNES