Commonwealth of Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet

Steven L. Beshear, Governor

Leonard K. Peters, Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Leslie Isaman 502-573-2886

Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission Awards Volunteer Harrison County volunteer receives recognition

FRANKFORT, Ky. (Dec. 10, 2010) – The Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission (KSNPC) has recognized Jim Allen of Harrison County with the 2010 Volunteer Steward Award.

The Volunteer Steward Award recognizes a person or organization that has made a significant contribution to a specific preserve by volunteering their time, expertise or physical efforts to improve the preserve.

"With a preserves system that encompasses 60 different preserves in 38 counties and a full-time stewardship staff of only five employees, the commission certainly has its hands full when it comes to taking care of the 25,000 acres we manage. That is the reason why volunteers such as Jim Allen are so valuable to our mission," said Joyce Bender, manager of the Nature Preserves and Natural Areas Branch.

Allen, a devoted neighbor to the Quiet Trails State Nature Preserve in Harrison County, consistently proved himself to be a valuable asset to KSNPC. He monitors the condition of the hiking trails, educates its visitors and provides intricate photographs of the natural treasures located throughout the Quiet Trails preserve.

Most recently, Allen assisted the commission staff on two construction projects by installing barbed wire fencing designed to discourage all-terrain vehicle trespassing and constructing a new trailhead kiosk.

To learn more about the Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission and how you can become a volunteer, please visit the website at <u>http://naturepreserves.ky.gov</u>.