

year in review

# Kentucky

2007 annual report

The Nature  
Conservancy



Protecting nature. Preserving life.™



# year in review

# Kentucky

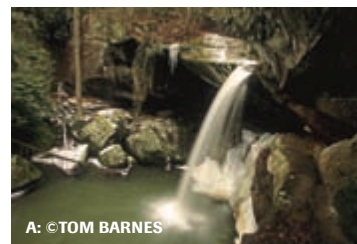
## 2007 annual report

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### Mission Statement

The mission of The Nature Conservancy is to preserve the plants, animals and natural communities that represent the diversity of life on Earth by protecting the lands and waters they need to survive.



A: ©TOM BARNES



B: ©TOM BARNES

### on the cover...

- A: Flat Lick Falls
- B: Bridge over Licking River
- C: Yellow Lady's Slipper



C: © HAROLD E. MALDE

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Kentucky Chapter of The Nature Conservancy



**The Nature Conservancy**  
Kentucky Chapter  
642 West Main Street  
Lexington, Kentucky 40508

Phone: (859) 259-9655  
Fax: (859) 259-9678  
E-mail: kentucky@tnc.org  
Web Site: nature.org/kentucky

## Acting *Director's Message*

I want to again thank the talented staff, loyal donors and Board of Trustees of the Kentucky Chapter of The Nature Conservancy who have welcomed and supported me as Acting Director since mid-November this past year.

For those of you whom I've not yet met—my name is Scott Davis and I have been with The Nature Conservancy since 1994. I served as Associate Director for the Ohio Chapter and Acting Director for the Wisconsin Chapter before becoming State Director for the Tennessee Chapter in 2000. Last October, I was fortunate to be selected by the worldwide office as the international organization's leading Director due to our chapter's accomplishments. Although I will continue my role as Tennessee State Director, I remain committed to galvanizing the conservation actions of Kentucky until a permanent director is located.

Jim Aldrich made many friends over his nearly 20-year tenure as the Kentucky State Director. Those who met Jim know him as a superb naturalist who enjoys field work and putting conservation to work on the ground. It should come as no surprise that Jim decided to spend the remainder of his career with the Conservancy developing new ideas and techniques for stream restoration that will be applicable throughout the region.

The successful conservation programs you'll read about in this review were accomplished by the dedicated, hard working staff of the Kentucky Chapter. During this transitional period, we will assess our progress department-wide to ensure the protection of Kentucky's rich natural heritage as outlined in its strategic plan.

Our quest to safeguard Kentucky's biological diversity is enormously challenging. Rest assured that within our borders and beyond, we will do more on every front: protection and sound stewardship of critical habitat in our forests, waterways and rare natural communities, for both the people and wildlife that depend on the health of these ecosystems. Within the borders of our own backyard ... and well beyond ... Kentucky will continue to make great strides toward preserving one of the Earth's best natural areas. You have much to be proud of.



Warm regards,



Scott Davis  
Acting Kentucky State Director



Field of mist flower

©TOM BARNES

The Kentucky Chapter of The Nature Conservancy conducts its operations while keeping these five “core values” in mind:



**Integrity Beyond Reproach** The trust and responsibilities placed in us by our donors, members, partners and the public are paramount. With honesty and strict accountability, we will maintain the highest ethical standards in all of our organizational endeavors.

**Respect for People, Communities, and Cultures** The Kentucky Chapter currently works in seven community based project areas across the state. Each project site has a full time manager residing near the watershed who focuses on protecting and improving the biodiversity found there; and improving the quality of life for residents within the watershed. We believe strong communities comprised of people who are aware of the benefits of a healthy ecosystem are essential to the long-term well-being of the watershed.

**Commitment to Diversity** The Kentucky Chapter continuously seeks to build diversity within its staff. The Kentucky Chapter is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

**One Conservancy** Due to the small size of the Kentucky Chapter, it is often necessary for field staff to work together state-wide in order to accomplish our conservation goals. A prime example of this “One Conservancy” attitude is found in our fire program. During the winter and spring months, most field staff work together as one team to maximize the amount of prescribed fire that we are able to achieve in our priority areas. This co-operation also extends across state lines by other state chapters to meet our collective prescribed fire goals. These efforts have included cross-boundary work with Indiana and Ohio. The Kentucky Chapter also works with the Tennessee Chapter to plan and implement work within the Northern Cumberland landscape.

**Tangible, Lasting Results** The staff of the Kentucky Chapter is committed to achieving tangible, lasting results in the areas where we work. This is achieved by habitat restoration and the development of sound partnerships with our local, state, and federal partners. Habitat restoration and forming strong partnerships are just a few ways to ensure that these priority areas will remain intact for generations to come.

## Administration

Terry Bopp | *Director of Operations*

Diane R. Davis | *Director of Philanthropy*

Scott Davis | *Acting State Director*

Lisa Morris | *Office Manager*

Sarah O’Rear | *Protection Coordinator*

Dian Osbourne | *Director of Protection*

Jeffery D. Sole | *Director of Conservation Programs*

Cadell Walker | *Philanthropy Coordinator*

## Conservation

James R. Aldrich | *Project Director for Mitigation*

John Burnett | *Buck Creek Project Manager*

Steven Fields | *Green River Project Assistant*

Joan Garrison | *Roundstone Creek Project Coordinator*

Jim Hays | *Rockcastle River Project Director*

Nathan Hicklin | *Obion Creek/Bayou de Chien  
Project Manager*

Richie Kessler | *Green River Project Coordinator*

Christopher Minor | *Licking River Project Director*

Shelly Morris | *Grand Rivers Corridor Project Manager*

# local people ... *global ideas*



© THE ESCOBARS

**Six year-old Lydia and four year-old Isabel Escobar of Berea, Kentucky** knew just what they wanted when friends asked what gifts they wanted for their birthday party.

Forget the dolls, games and toys for them to play with. What the sisters wanted was cold, hard cash.

Lydia and Isabel wanted to give their birthday gift money to The Nature Conservancy to help save the Rainforests.

You may wonder what prompted two young girls to care so much about a place they have never visited. The answer is simple – their mother, Jennifer Rose Escobar, a successful musician, singer, dancer, and teacher to Lydia and Isabel, just completed a homeschool unit on Rainforests. “The unit left the girls wanting to do something more about the vanishing Rainforests. My suggestion was to raise funds to save the Rainforests through their upcoming birthday party and the girls loved the idea” Jennifer explained.

Lydia and Isabel not only used their birthday party to raise money, they also used it as a platform to educate their guests about Rainforests. Jennifer’s husband Alfredo Escobar, a professional artist, used his creative talents to transform their home into a Rainforest for the birthday party; he even created a life-sized Kapok Tree outfitted with life like drawings of species found in the Rainforest. Lydia and Isabel each stood in front of their guests and pointed out animals on the Kapok Tree, identified the characteristics of their habitats, and then sang songs and played games that related to Rainforests.

“Everyone enjoyed themselves and told us that they thought our birthday party was a wonderful idea” said Jennifer. Lydia and Isabel sent their guests home with a homemade DVD of themselves reading aloud from, *Welcome to the Green House* by Jane Yolen and *One Day in the Jungle* from The Giggle Club.

After reflecting on the birthday party Escobar stated, “The party may have been the result of a homeschool unit on the Rainforest, but that wasn’t the deeper reason for it. We did the homeschool unit and had the party because we wanted to learn about this subject as a family and *make a difference as a family*. Partnering with The Nature Conservancy for birthday donations helped us succeed at both.”

With the generosity of their friends and family, Lydia and Isabel donated \$200 to The Nature Conservancy to help save the vanishing Rainforests.

For more information about what The Nature Conservancy is doing to combat the issue of Rainforest deforestation please visit [www.nature.org/rainforests](http://www.nature.org/rainforests).



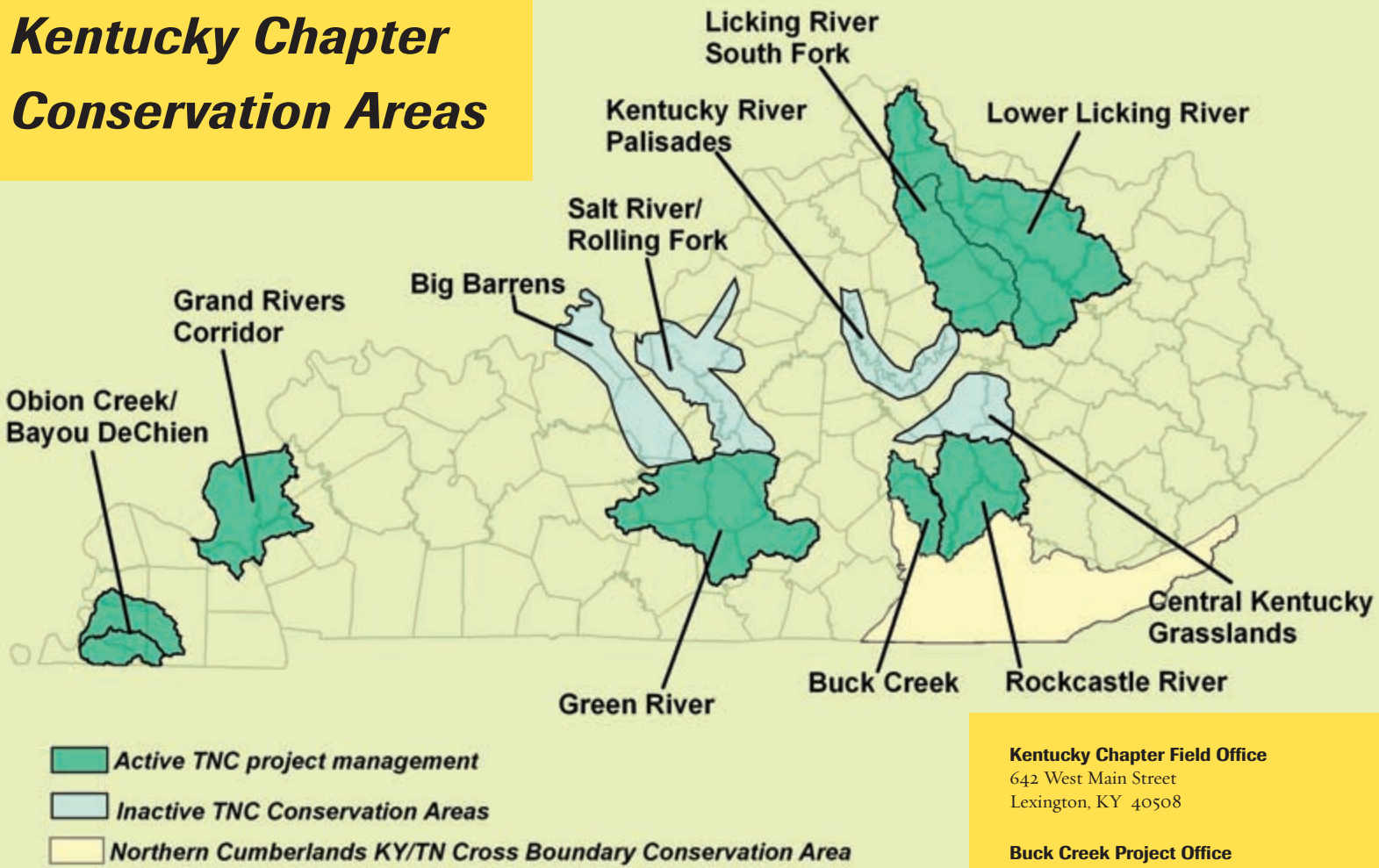
© THE ESCOBARS

**Clouds and vista at one thousand meters elevation in the Serra Bonita Reserve, Atlantic Forest, Brazil.**



©PATRICK MCCORMICK/TNC

# Kentucky Chapter Conservation Areas



**Kentucky Chapter Field Office**  
642 West Main Street  
Lexington, KY 40508

**Buck Creek Project Office**  
Pulaski County Conservation District  
45 Eagle Creek Dr., Ste 102  
Somerset, KY 42503  
(606) 678-4842 x 113 office

**South Fork Licking River Project Office**  
111 Court Street, Suite 1A  
Cynthiana, KY 41031  
(859) 234-0992 office  
(859) 234-0993 fax

**Central Kentucky Grasslands Project Office**  
Bluegrass Army Depot  
2091 Kingston Highway, Bldg S-14  
Richmond, Kentucky 40475-5010  
(859) 799-6483 office

**Green River Project Office**  
103 N. Depot Street  
Greensburg, KY 42743  
(270) 932-2220 office

**Obion Creek/Bayou de Chien Project Office**  
302 S. Washington St., Room 112  
Clinton, KY 42031  
(270) 653-6888 office

**Licking River Project Office**  
4944 Flemingsburg Road  
Morehead, KY 40351  
(606) 780-4092 office

## Acres in Permanent Protection— 6/30/07

	7/1/06 – 6/30/07	Total
Acres Protected by Conservation Easements:	104.89	5,056.08
Acres Purchased by TNC:	0	9,302.21
Assists/Transfers to Other Agencies For Permanent Protection:	251.62	23,243.09
*Co-Op Acres Protected:	302.29	2,403.09
<b>Total Acres Protected:</b>	<b>658.80</b>	<b>40,004.47</b>

\*Insures Best Management Practices for 10 years





# green river

©TOM BARNES

**The Green River** is Kentucky's crown jewel of river systems and a national treasure of biodiversity. Located in south central Kentucky, the Green River Project Area consists of the upper Green River, its tributaries, and portions of Mammoth Cave National Park, comprising a watershed of about 1,350 square miles. The Green River is home to 71 of the state's 103 known mussel species. Nearly 60 of these species including the state's only endemic mussel have been collected from this bioreserve. A number of rare, threatened or endangered plants and other animals are native to the project area as well.

The Green River Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) continued to be a primary focus for the Kentucky Chapter in 2007. Fourteen permanent CREP easements were recorded in 2007 totaling the number of acres enrolled in permanent CREP easements to over 850 acres, resulting in the protection of nearly 17 miles of riparian habitat. In 2008 we will continue to assist landowners and CREP partners in the implementation of the CREP program in the Green River project area as funds are available.

In 2007, the Kentucky Chapter reconvened with our partners on the

Green River Dam Reoperation Project which is part of the national Sustainable Rivers Project, a partnership between the Army Corp of Engineers and The Nature Conservancy. Numerous state, federal, and academic partners met to discuss the ongoing reoperation of the Green River dam as it relates to dam and reservoir management, ecological response, research needs, and the necessary next steps. This group will continue to meet once a year to provide feedback to the Army Corps of Engineers and the Conservancy regarding the appropriate strategies needed to complete this remarkable project.



# kentucky river *palisades*



© CHRIS MINOR

**The Palisades**, as it is most commonly referred to, is located on the outskirts of the Inner Bluegrass Region in central Kentucky. The conservation area encompasses approximately 600,000 acres and 100 river miles along the Palisades section of the Kentucky River. The towering limestone cliffs, deep gorges, wet weather springs, caves and sudden variations in slope, expose the meandering of the river and allow for a diversity of plant and animal species.

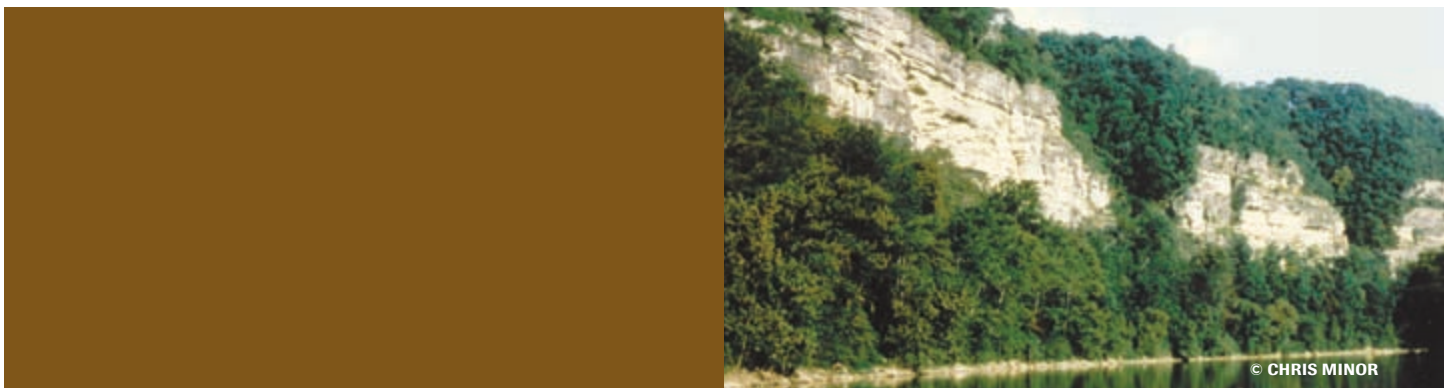
This area also harbors two species of endangered bats as well as several rare and endangered plant species. The extensive wooded corridor along the river and its tributaries provide habitats for migrating birds, a travel corridor for

wildlife and foraging areas for bats. The Palisades area supports many examples of the natural vegetation types of the Inner Bluegrass Physiographic region.

A large portion of our conservation efforts are focused on land acquisitions and conservation easements to stop development of this natural area. The Kentucky Chapter and our partners have been able to preserve priority areas within the Palisades. Preserves such as the Crutcher Nature Preserve, the Jim Beam Nature Preserve, and the Sally Brown Nature Preserve have been established to protect the land and to offer people a place to commune with nature. In 2007, our dedicated volunteers helped expand the hiking trail system

located within the Sally Brown and the Crutcher Nature Preserves for our guest's enjoyment.

We continue to work with many landowners in the region who allow us to manage and harvest native warm season grass seed on their land. This practice provides an excellent habitat for grassland nesting song birds and small mammals. This seed is also used to restore the once abundant prairie ecosystems found throughout Kentucky and adjoining states. In an effort to maintain native prairie grasses for wildlife and seed reproduction, the Kentucky Chapter burned approximately 250 acres in 2007 on four separate farms in the Palisades.



© CHRIS MINOR





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### The Grand Rivers Corridor

encompasses 513,000 acres in the watersheds of the Cumberland and Tennessee Rivers below their dams at Land Between the Lakes. This includes all of Livingston County and parts of Caldwell, Crittendon, Lyon, Marshall and McCracken counties. Important systems in the area include aquatic assemblages of the Cumberland and Tennessee Rivers, sloughs and emergent wetlands, bottomland forest, oak flatwoods, forested ravines, oak savannah, native grasslands and xeric glade communities. There are a number of rare federally threatened or endangered plant and animal species present in the area.

One of the main priorities in Grand Rivers Corridor for 2007 was to create and implement a plan for early successional habitat restoration. This

type of habitat, once prevalent across the majority of west Kentucky, is characterized by grasslands, glades, and open woodlands. These habitats are critical to numerous declining plant and animal species, and especially important to grassland songbirds.

The Kentucky Chapter along with our partners, the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources (KDFWR) and Quail Unlimited (QU) identified five areas within Grand Rivers Corridor for habitat restoration, ranging from 7,000 to 30,000 acres in size. The largest of the five areas is located in Livingston County, which includes the Mantle Rock preserve and the Newman’s Bluff State Wildlife Management Area and Natural Area.

In early 2007 the Kentucky Chapter along with QU was awarded grant money to fund a “Habitat Improvement Team” for west Kentucky. The grant allowed us and QU to focus on restoring early successional habitat for quail and grassland songbirds. The two person team was also awarded office space in Grand Rivers.

The Kentucky Chapter enrolled four of its properties into the USDA Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program in 2007. The program, which continues through 2008, will result in the conversion of over 300 acres of fescue to native warm season grasses at Mantle Rock and Reynolds Metals tracts and 30 acres of glade restoration at Mantle Rock, Crittenden Springs Glade, and Aimee Rosenfield Preserve.

Wild cotton (*Hibiscus moscheutos*) at Swan Lake



# grand rivers corridor

©TOM BARNES

# obion creek / bayou de chien

©TOM BARNES

Tupelo Swamp

The project area consists of the **Obion Creek and Bayou de Chien** watersheds in western Kentucky. These two watersheds drain over 350,000 acres of predominately agricultural land from western Graves County, southern Carlisle County, and most of Hickman and Fulton Counties. The two waterways join in Fulton County and flow for approximately 2 miles before draining directly into the Mississippi River. Roughly 90% of the project area lies within the Upper East Gulf Coastal Plain ecoregion, while the remaining 10% is in the Mississippi River Alluvial Plain.

The lack of Best Management Practices (BMP's) on the numerous agricultural fields that drain into Obion Creek and Bayou de Chien is the largest threat to

both water quality and aquatic wildlife habitat. The Kentucky Chapter worked hard in 2007 to combat the heavy amount of sedimentation found in Obion Creek and Bayou de Chien by planting 1,390 linear feet of filter strips, 50 acres of bottomland hardwoods, 30 acres of field buffers, and 13,500 feet of riparian buffers. The lack of suitable riparian or other forms of buffers on both the main stem and tributaries of the creeks not only decreases water quality from increased sediment and pesticide load, but also increases water temperature and decreases the amount of continuous corridors for wildlife use.

The Kentucky Chapter and the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources (KDFWR) teamed up in early

2007 to increase habitat for northern bobwhite quail and other grassland songbirds. Once found in abundance in west Kentucky, northern bobwhite quail have been in rapid decline since the 1980's; a result of habitat destruction due to urbanization, increased grassland cultivation, and a transitioning of once grassy fields into woods and forests. The Kentucky Chapter and KDFWR work together to identify landowners that have an interest in bobwhite quail and a willingness to create early successional grass buffers along agricultural field borders on their property. Putting these buffers on the ground benefits numerous bird species while also improving water quality.



A mussel in Obion Creek

©TOM BARNES



Cypress in Obion Creek

©TOM BARNES



©TOM BARNES

The Licking River has the largest population of fanshell mussels in the world



©CONSERVANCY STAFF

The Licking River, along with some of its tributaries, is a rare example of a native muskie stream. The Lower Licking River watershed has a diverse geography and a wide range of plant and animal species living in some of the most highly valued habitat in the region. The total project area encompasses more than 1.8 million acres, of which about 60% is open agricultural land and 40% is forested. The Lower Licking River ecosystem runs along the river from Cave Run Lake Dam to the Ohio River. To the east, the Licking River Knobs contain diverse hardwood forested areas as well as open grassy woodlands.

A total of 100 fish species inhabit this region. The river basin also supports several unique fish species including: reaside dace, mimic shiner, streamline chub, slender madtom, blue sucker, paddlefish, eastern sand, tippecanoe and sharpnose darters. There are also more than 50 species of mussels, of which 11 are endangered. The watershed also provides respite for about 250 species of migratory birds, an unusually high number.

In 2007, the Kentucky Chapter initiated a partnership with the Harrison County Judge Executive and the Harrison County Fiscal Court. The County Judge Executive's interest in conservation

inspired him to assist us with our conservation efforts in Harrison County. The Harrison County Fiscal Court applied for monies from the Heritage Land Conservation Fund Board for the purchase of an ecologically significant tract of land located along the Licking River. Protecting this tract of land will allow us to preserve favorable conditions for various mussel species found in the adjacent riffles and provide additional recreational opportunities for residents of Harrison and surrounding counties. Monies were approved by the Heritage Land Conservation Fund Board in late 2007 and acquisition of the land is in process.

Coville covered bridge



# lower *licking river*

©TOM BARNES



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# buck creek

**Buck Creek** is one of Kentucky's most outstanding natural resources, containing more than 30 species of freshwater mussels (nine of which are endangered or threatened), 77 species of fish, and one endangered bat species. Its ecosystem encompasses 188,472 acres in Pulaski, Lincoln and Rockcastle counties. It is a tributary to the Upper Cumberland River drainage and remains one of the more pristine streams in the region.

The Chapter's Pumphrey Tract located in Pulaski County had 150 acres approved for the Wetland Reserve Program through the United States Department of Agriculture in 2007. The current tile drains and drainage ditches will be plugged and/or broken in 2008 to make them non-functional and approximately 20,000 feet of stream channel built in order to restore the area to its natural hydrological regime. Bottomland hardwoods will be planted in the Wetland Reserve Project area to restore its natural state.

In 2007, Pulaski County was approved for funding through the Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund to purchase 35 acres of the Conservancy's Pumphrey Tract and 46 acres of the Conservancy's Hazeldell Tract. The Kentucky Chapter will retain permanent conservation easements on both properties. Pulaski County plans to turn both recently purchased areas into nature preserves that will be open to the public.



Dwarf sundew,  
(*Drosera brevifolia*)  
which is found in the  
Buck Creek watershed

© CLARENCE A. RECHENTHIN @ USDA-NRCS PLANTS DATABASE



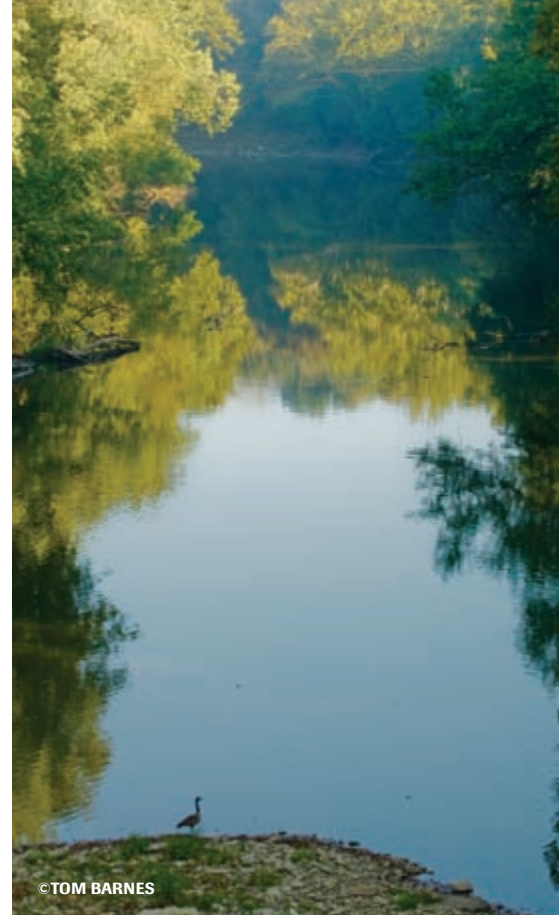
© JOHN BURNETT

The Townsend Creek watershed in northwestern Bourbon County covers over 11,038 acres and is an important tributary of the **South Fork of the Licking River**. Most of the watershed is rural and consists of farm and pasture land. The creek has been classified as a 303(d) 1st priority stream by the Kentucky Division of Water. The reason for this classification is due to heavy sedimentation, pathogens in the water, and nutrient overload. These impairments have resulted in poor water quality and make the watershed unsafe for recreational opportunities such as fishing and swimming. The riparian zones of Townsend Creek along with its tributaries consist of pasture land which exposes the creek to large amounts of sediment, nutrients, and pathogens that flow along with the water run off into the creek.

In 2005 the Kentucky Chapter was awarded a 1.5 million dollar conservation grant through the Environmental Protection Agency and the Division of Water's Non-Point Source Pollution Program; known as the 319 program. The "319" stands for the numbered

section in the Clean Water Act and is designated to address poor water quality issues and ways to educate the public about these issues. The Kentucky Chapter spent the majority of 2007 focusing on fulfilling the requirements of the 319 grant. Community outreach is a large component of this grant therefore, we held community meetings on water quality issues, visited local landowners, wrote newspaper articles, visited schools, and gave presentations on poor water quality issues in the South Fork project area.

The Kentucky Chapter co-manages and owns part of a unique conservation site in the South Fork Licking River area known as Griffith Woods. This Harrison County farm is co-managed with the University of Kentucky and the Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission. The main goal for this site is to restore its Bluegrass Savanna landscape by planting native trees and shrubs across its 745 acres. A grant was secured in 2007 to help us purchase and plant native plant species in Griffith Woods in 2008.



©TOM BARNES

# south fork of the *licking river*

©TOM BARNES

# rockcastle river



©TOM BARNES

Endangered big-eared bats can be found near the Rockcastle River



©TOM BARNES



©TOM BARNES

**The Rockcastle River** is located in southeastern Kentucky and covers part of five counties: Laurel, Jackson, Rockcastle, Clay and Pulaski. A portion of the Rockcastle River has been designated a wild and scenic river and contains federally endangered species. The community based project in the Rockcastle River will celebrate its fifteenth anniversary in March 2008. The key to the success of this project has been the diversity of partnerships that have been forged over the years with governmental agencies, legislators, and most of all the people that inhabit this beautiful, diverse and unique watershed. The years of hard work continue to pay off with improvements in water quality, acres of land protected and new partnerships.

The Jackson County Development Association and the Jackson County Fiscal Court came to a unique agreement to transform a historic log house bought by the Nature Conservancy in the watershed located on US 421 into a welcome center that emphasizes heritage and ecotourism opportunities in the area. This is just one of the ways that The Nature Conservancy partners with its local communities to improve economic conditions as well as preserve the natural environment.

An EPA 319 Non-Point Source Pollution grant in the Roundstone watershed of the Rockcastle was completed in 2007 with several dozen farmers cost-sharing to receive improvements to their farms that will protect water quality. In 2007, the Kentucky Chapter partnered with the US Forest Service to rehabilitate the Cromer Ridge area which has suffered from years of abuse by off road vehicles making steep eroded trails that produce a siltation problem for the Rockcastle River project area.

Conservation buyers purchased key tracts of land in 2007 protecting the hibernacula for Indiana and Virginia big-eared bats. Several of these tracts bordered Horse Lick Creek and will have easements that do not allow any activities that would degrade water quality or allow timber cutting. This is one more piece in the puzzle that provides clean water for endangered mussel and fish species, and habitat for terrestrial creatures that deserve their rightful place in the hills of Appalachia.

# connections with people and places



© CONSERVANCY STAFF

## Sally Brown Hike

Chapter staff and volunteers pause for a group photo after a member hike in the Sally Brown Nature Preserve.



© CONSERVANCY STAFF

## Staff Burn Prep

Three of the Chapter's burn team prepare the pumper unit for a burn at the Sally Brown Nature Preserve.



© CONSERVANCY STAFF

## Rockcastle Canoe

Chapter staff and their guests prepare for a canoe trip down the Rockcastle River.

## The Green River

There is nothing that the Chapter staff enjoys more than spending a summer day floating down the "Green" with our members.



© CONSERVANCY STAFF



© CONSERVANCY STAFF

## Staff Site Visit

Chapter staff pausing on a hike at Mantle Rock Preserve.

## Youth Member and Mussel

Youth member Chelsea learns how mussels and water quality equate to each other.



© CONSERVANCY STAFF

# prescribed *burn*



© STEVE BISHOP



© STEVE BISHOP



© STEVE BISHOP

## BURNING ISSUES – Improving Ecological Burning and Prescribed Fire Capacity

Many people are surprised to learn that fire plays an integral role in the development of nearly every type of ecosystem historically found in Kentucky. Native Americans routinely introduced fire to the landscape, leading to the development of our native forests, barrens, and grasslands.

The Kentucky Chapter's planning process has identified an "altered fire regime" as a key ecological threat to many of our conservation goals. The reason that an altered fire regime is identified as a threat is because the lack of fire is causing a decline in native habitats and various species. Consequently, the Kentucky Chapter is working to restore natural prescribed fire regimes to project areas through the use of prescribed fire. This is a daunting task when you consider the fact that there are several hundred thousand acres that need to be put under ecological fire management throughout the state.

A primary concern when re-introducing fire to our natural ecosystems is conducting the work safely. This requires trained personnel, adequate equipment and a lot of planning and forethought. For the past several years, to help build

prescribed fire capacity in the state, the Conservancy has worked with its partners to offer basic fire training to staff and volunteers. The Nature Conservancy has provided training to students at the University of Kentucky, Eastern Kentucky University, and Murray State University. The Conservancy has also assisted in conducting fire training sessions at the Bluegrass Army Depot and Fort Knox. In some cases, the Conservancy has financed the cost for its partners' key staff to attend out-of-state high level prescribed fire courses.

Over the past several years, Kentucky staff has become extensively trained in ecological fire management. A crew of highly qualified staff travels the state to implement prescribed fires for ecosystem restoration purposes. However, we are not affecting nearly enough acreage and must find ways to increase the amount of properly thought out ecological burning accomplished each year. One of the ways we are doing this is through the Conservancy Fire Initiative's - Fire Learning Network.

The Fire Learning Network (FLN) is comprised of teams from landscape level project areas. These teams work

together through a series of workshops to develop and review ecological prescribed fire management plans for the respective project areas. In Kentucky, the Conservancy has FLN sites at The Land Between the Lakes and the Daniel Boone National Forest. These projects involve working with partners from the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, Kentucky Division of Forestry, University of Kentucky, University of Tennessee, US Forest Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Quail Unlimited, and the National Wild Turkey Federation.

The Chapter is also working to double its internal prescribed fire capacity within the next two years. One prescribed fire crew will work in the western part of the state while another is working in the central and eastern portions of the state. The successful accomplishment of this objective will require the retention of highly trained fire staff, additional necessary fire equipment, and the financial ability to hire seasonal prescribed burning personnel.



## The Nature Conservancy relies on strong partnerships to leverage its conservation work. In Kentucky, for example:

- A partnership continues with the **Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources** (KDFWR) and the **Kentucky Nature Preserves Commission** (KNPC) in the implementation of the Landowner Incentives Program (LIP). The LIP grant has provided funds to support a Project Manager for the Obion Creek/ Bayou de Chien project area and has administered funding for the Grand Rivers Project Manager for the past two years. Additionally, the LIP program assists Project Managers working with private landowners to improve habitats for rare and declining species across the state. The LIP program provides funds to help landowners implement the necessary changes to their land to make their property more suitable for to declining species across the state.
- This year the Kentucky Chapter launched a new effort focused on declining early-successional wildlife species through a unique partnership with KDFWR and **Quail Unlimited**. The Kentucky Chapter and Quail Unlimited sought funding to combat this issue and were successful in attaining funds from various resources. The chapter used funds to hire seasonal staff for its prescribed fire activities and other stewardship work in project areas around the state. Quail Unlimited used their money to fund a “Habitat Team” which focuses efforts in the Jackson Purchase Area of the state, including the Grand Rivers Corridor and Obion Creek/Bayou de Chien project areas.
- The Kentucky Chapter lobbied for a federal appropriation to assist the **Daniel Boone National Forest** in acquiring land to expand the forest. The Chapter was successful in its efforts and as a result the Daniel Boone National Forest was awarded \$175,000 for land acquisition.
- The Chapter continued a partnership to co-fund the Buck Creek Project Manager position with the **Pulaski County Soil and Water Conservation District**. This partnership has been in place now since 2000 and has been the impetus for an incredible amount of conservation work in the Buck Creek watershed.



©TOM BARNES

Bayou de Chien cypress swamp

- The Chapter entered into an agreement with the **Kentucky Transportation Cabinet** and the **United States Fish and Wildlife Service** to pay for stream restoration work conducted in the Buck Creek Project Area. This exciting agreement provides funding to restore approximately 20,000 feet of tributary streams leading to Buck Creek. This stream restoration effort includes an agreement and partnership with KDFWR to provide financial resources to restore another 500 feet of one of the tributaries in the Buck Creek Project area. The project involves a wetland restoration component and a partnership with the **Natural Resources Conservation Service** to pay for the restoration of approximately 150 acres of wetlands through the Wetland Restoration Program (WRP).

# Financial Summary

(for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2007)



© TOM BARNES

Price's Potato Bean

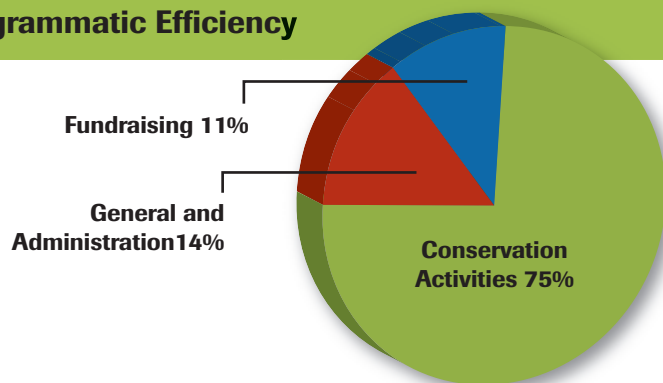
## BALANCE SHEET

	As of June 30, 2007	As of June 30, 2006
CASH - OPERATING FUND	\$ 141,240	\$ 109,483
CASH - LAND ACQUISITION FUND	395,370	406,863
LAND PRESERVATION FUND (LPF) (1)	752,466	752,466
GOVERNMENT GRANTS RECEIVABLE	345,959	139,570
ENDOWMENT FUNDS (2)	3,445,071	3,122,680
CONSERVATION LANDS (3)	11,407,383	11,543,445
OTHER ASSETS (4)	100,000	58,641
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 16,587,489</b>	<b>\$ 16,133,148</b>
INTERNAL LPF LOANS	\$ 6,734,750	\$ 6,305,095
EXTERNAL NOTES/MORTGAGES PAYABLE	32,894	38,283
OTHER LIABILITIES (5)	83,777	87,299
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>\$ 6,851,421</b>	<b>\$ 6,430,677</b>
NET ASSETS (equity in land, cash & endow)	9,736,068	9,702,471
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>	<b>16,587,489</b>	<b>16,133,148</b>
<b>NET VALUE OF CONSERVATION LAND (6)</b>	<b>\$ 4,639,739</b>	<b>\$ 5,200,067</b>

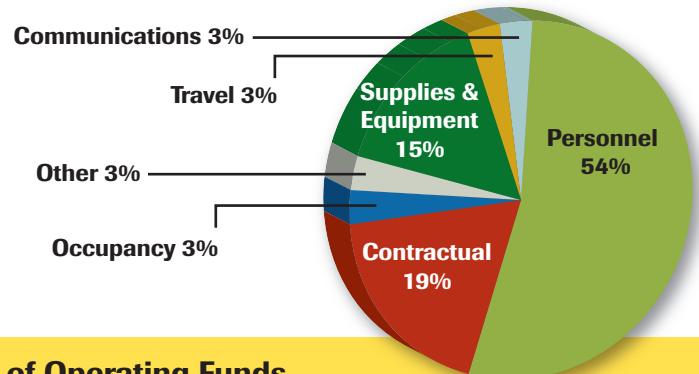
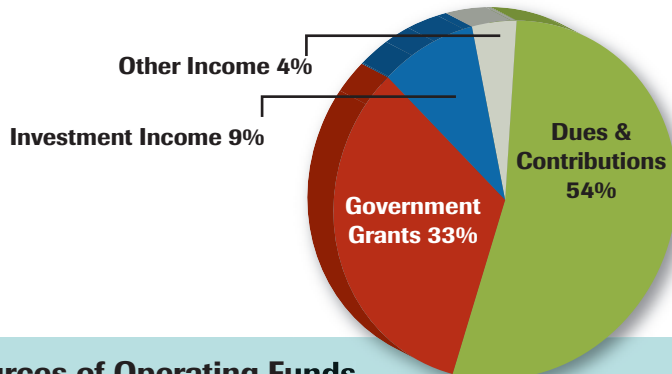
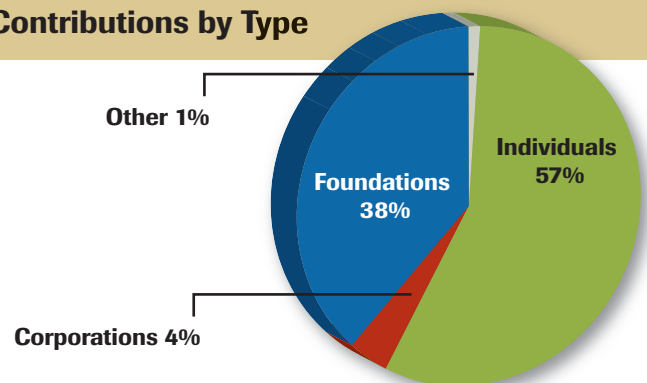
### NOTES:

- (1) Revolving fund for borrowing for land acquisition, provides interest income for operations
- (2) Fair market value at previous month's end
- (3) Book value at time of land purchase
- (4) Notes or accounts receivable, deposits paid on land, etc.
- (5) Taxes or accounts payable, etc.
- (6) Book value at time of land purchase minus current loan balance

### Programmatic Efficiency



### Dues & Contributions by Type



### Sources of Operating Funds

### Uses of Operating Funds



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Membership in ***The Legacy Club*** is available to those who have chosen to create a lasting legacy with The Nature Conservancy. You can become a member by sharing with us that you have named the Conservancy in your will or estate plan or by making a life income gift. Membership is voluntary and without obligation; it is our way of recognizing remarkable contributions made by Kentuckians to the Conservancy. For more information, call Director of Philanthropy Diane Davis at 859-259-9655 ext. 22.

*To make a gift of any kind to The Nature Conservancy is an act of generosity. To make a long-term gift – one derived from the work of a lifetime – is to make a commitment beyond measure.*

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For more information contact your county clerk or go to: [www.dnr.ky.gov/heritageland/natureplate](http://www.dnr.ky.gov/heritageland/natureplate)



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# The Nature Conservancy, Kentucky

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The Nature Conservancy is governed as a single, tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization by a worldwide, volunteer Board of Governors and is managed from its worldwide office in Arlington, Virginia. To achieve the Conservancy's place-based mission, the Board of Governors has established chapters of The Nature Conservancy at the state and country level. Each state and country program is run by a director who manages the program's annual plan and budget in support of the Conservancy's mission and goals.

Most state and several country programs are advised and assisted by volunteer Boards of Trustees. The Board of Governors relies on these Boards of Trustees for assistance in achieving the Conservancy's mission and goals and for overseeing chapter operations.

Members of both boards serve three critical functions: ambassador, conservationist, and fundraiser. They assist in setting chapter goals, review and recommend for approval annual plans, monitor progress toward the organization's goals and, importantly, subject the chapter's work to additional critical thinking. Without their existence and dedication, the Conservancy could not accomplish its work around the world.

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**CONTACT:** Diane Davis

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