

# KENTUCKY field notes

Fall / Winter 2013

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The Nature Conservancy   
Protecting nature. Preserving life.®



Terry Cook and his family at the Conservancy's new Lexington headquarters. © Neil Sulier

## COOK'S CORNER

Terry Cook, State Director

This fall, it is more exciting than ever to report on our work around the Commonwealth. In fact, you may have already read about it in the headlines making the news like no other time in our 38-year history!

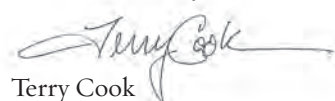
Let me summarize a little about what you'll learn in the pages that follow.

- › **Buying Big Rivers** In September, we purchased 4,241 acres of Mississippi River bottomland forest habitat having the potential to benefit as many as 16 species of plants and 25 species of animals listed as rare by the Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission. The property, and another adjacent to it, is now in state ownership and being managed as the Big Rivers Wildlife Management Area and State Forest as a sustainable timber operation and destination for hunting, fishing, hiking, canoeing, wildlife viewing and other compatible recreational activities.
- › **Nurturing Nature** Thanks to a generous legacy gift from a longtime member and former trustee, we opened the new Dupree Nature Preserve in the Kentucky River Palisades. In addition to reserving these 300 acres for the state's unique wildlife, we also invite Kentuckians, especially those residing in nearby Lexington, to visit and connect with nature for improved health and well-being.
- › **Teaching Teens** For the first time, we hosted interns from the Conservancy's nationally-acclaimed Leaders in Environmental Action for the Future (LEAF) program. In between visits to local universities, the state capitol and Toyota's Georgetown plant, Sierra Beasley, Dondra Ferguson and Kiara Knight spent their month preparing trails at the Dupree Nature Preserve, identifying and eliminating non-native invasive species in portions of the Kentucky River Palisades, planting native prairie and building bluebird houses at the Davis Bend Nature Preserve, and studying mussels and stream ecology at the Green River.

Each of these projects boasts two elements key to successful conservation efforts around the Bluegrass State. First, they resulted from collaboration and resources provided by our partners around the Commonwealth. Second, they contribute towards conserving the landscape in ways that promote clean air, water and soils and accommodate public appreciation and enjoyment.

Finally, none of these successes would have been achieved without your continued support. We appreciate that you consider The Nature Conservancy of Kentucky a favorite cause. We will continue working to earn that honor.

See You Outside,

  
Terry Cook  
State Director

### Kentucky businesses add nature to their bottom line.

Established in 2011, The Nature Conservancy of Kentucky's Corporate Sustainability Council responds to a growing awareness among state-based businesses that their operations rely and have significant impacts on water and other natural resources. These companies have learned that protecting the Commonwealth's diverse landscapes – farmlands, forests, rivers, karst systems, and lakes and streams – can improve profits and elevate a reputation while strengthening the economy and promoting a healthier world.

Would your Kentucky-based business like to join the Conservancy's Corporate Sustainability Council? Contact Cadell Walker at 859-259-9655, ext. 5017 to learn more.



One of two headlines mentioning The Nature Conservancy of Kentucky's recent successes. © TNC Staff

## LEADING BY EXAMPLE



The Nature Conservancy of Kentucky's Lexington Headquarters © Neil Sulier

In addition to using their skills and talents to protect nature, sometimes our staff is compelled to focus on the built environment: administrative offices, visitor accommodations and, most recently, the new Lexington headquarters. Specifically, we're striving to achieve Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification in an effort to draw on fewer resources in our day-to-day work.

Clive Pohl, a Lexington-based LEED accredited architect, is assisting us with our energy saving endeavors. He weighs in here.

**TNC-KY:** How did you connect with The Nature Conservancy of Kentucky?

**Clive Pohl:** I have long been a vocal advocate of green building and serve as a founding Board Member of the Kentucky Chapter of the U.S. Green Building Council. So, when I met the Conservancy's Kentucky State Director, Terry Cook, during a gathering at a residential project of mine our conversation naturally extended into the realm of LEED Certification.

**TNC-KY:** Specifically which of the Conservancy's projects have you been involved with?

**Clive Pohl:** Definitely at the headquarters now that everyone is moved in. I have also produced preliminary plans for converting the Davis Bend Nature Preserve's farmhouse into a Visitor's Center and presented ideas and drawings for a pavilion at the new Dupree Nature Preserve.

### Why move?

A recent Brookings Institution report identified Lexington as having one of the highest carbon footprints in the nation due to sprawl, traffic, inefficient homes and coal-fired power consumption. The Nature Conservancy of Kentucky looks forward to being part of the solution to reducing Lexington's carbon footprint and involving others in learning about the benefits of doing the same. Benefits of a LEED certification include:

- › Lower operating costs
- › Increased asset value
- › Resource conservation
- › Less landfill burden
- › Healthier for occupants and builders
- › Support for ecologically-minded suppliers
- › Qualification for money-saving incentives

Clive Pohl, AIA is a graduate of the University of Washington and registered architect in Kentucky. He is also a LEED Accredited Professional and a frequent speaker on the subject of green building.



**TNC-KY:** Why should the Conservancy, which is focused on wildlife habitat, pursue LEED Certification?

**Clive Pohl:** Preserving habitat and protecting natural resources through energy and material efficiencies illustrate responsible stewardship. By designing the new headquarters with the goal of achieving LEED Certification, the Conservancy has committed to operating with integrity with regard to operations ranging from indoor air quality to educating the public.

**TNC-KY:** So our staff will be healthier and we'll save money on heating and cooling the building – all while putting less stress on the natural landscape. It sounds like we're getting closer to the mission.

**Clive Pohl:** Yes, I think so!

**TNC-KY:** So what is next with regard to this collaboration?

**Clive Pohl:** I have been so impressed by the organization and welcome any opportunity to be of service to their important mission - as long as it serves the membership and this precious planet. In the short term I look forward to a successful completion of the few small projects I've mentioned.

### Support This Work

Achieving LEED certification for the Conservancy's Kentucky headquarters is expected to cost more than \$100,000.

**Help us to reduce our carbon footprint while serving as a role model for energy efficiency in the Bluegrass State. Send your donation in the enclosed envelope today!**



# LANDS AND WATERS

## Back To Our Roots

The Conservancy boasts a new number for land protection activities around Kentucky.

*Big Rivers Landscape © Mark Godfrey*

Conserving land in the midst of a changing climate, partisan politics and a growing human population requires a variety of tools, including to relying on what's tried-and-true. For The Nature Conservancy of Kentucky, that's securing land in order to protect it . . . forever.

In recent months we did that in a big way. These actions have resulted in a new number of acres we've protected in Kentucky. Drum roll please . . . **46,178!** Get the details here:

### Big Rivers

In September, we acquired 4,241 acres located in Crittenden County, KY – the



The Kentucky Prescribed Fire Council held its 5th annual meeting in September, which included a third offering of the Controlled Burn Workshop, a course specifically designed for private landowners residing in the Commonwealth. Learn more about the work of this organization which The Nature Conservancy of Kentucky is proud to partner with at [www.kyfire.org](http://www.kyfire.org).

largest land acquisition in The Nature Conservancy of Kentucky's 38-year year history. Taking such action was a no-brainer since the United States Forest Service's Forest Legacy Program targeted the parcel as a #1 priority due to its ability to improve water quality, provide wildlife habitat, generate products, and offer opportunities for recreation and other public benefits. It is a project which would have never happened if not for financial resources from the United States Fish & Wildlife Service's Indiana Bat Fund, which is administered by the Kentucky Natural Lands Trust, and the Land and Water Conservation Fund, our nation's most important tool for ensuring a vibrant future for outdoor activities such as hunting and fishing.

Not long after the acquisition, we transferred ownership of this property to the state's Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources and Division of Forestry to jointly manage the tract as part of the Big Rivers Wildlife Management Area (WMA) and State Forest for hunting, fishing, hiking, canoeing, wildlife viewing and other compatible activities. It will also be managed as a sustainable timber operation. The transfer complements a similar transaction which

took place in 2011 where the Conservancy and partners assembled resources to acquire an adjacent 2,571 acres, which will also be part of the WMA and State Forest.

### Mississippi River Basin

To date, landowners have accepted offers on 3,748 acres to be enrolled into the Wetlands Reserve Enhancement Program (WREP). Of this, 1,752 acres have been officially enrolled into the program, with the additional pending acreage set to close soon.

These parcels have been protected thanks to the Mississippi River Basin Healthy Watersheds Initiative, a new federal program which dedicated additional WREP funding through 2014 to assist landowners with restoring and protecting wetland habitats for wildlife and improving water quality locally and throughout the Mississippi River basin. Since this new source of funding became available in 2011, The Nature Conservancy of Kentucky has engaged in a strong and productive partnership with the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the local Conservation District to get the word out, assist with



*Big Rivers WMA Sign © Mark Godfrey*



Mississippi River © Bridget Besaw

“ Regardless of the method or the program, the end result of permanently safeguarding the landscapes that harbor wildlife, sustain ecological processes, support local economies, and enhance the quality of air, water and soils is well worth the investment. ”

–Terry Cook, The Nature Conservancy of Kentucky’s State Director

the process and paperwork, review sites and enroll landowners in order to secure additional natural buffer and productive

farmland for those working and residing in this unique area of the Bluegrass State.

## Tools of the Trade

At The Nature Conservancy, land protection takes many forms.

### › Portfolio Acquisition

We purchase acreage outright to be permanently included in our system of nature preserves. Together, these nature preserves boast the best of Kentucky’s unique landscapes and wildlife species.

### › Partnership

We acquire a parcel and then hand over the reins to a like-minded conservation organization or government agency better equipped to manage a property in the long-term.

### › Conservation Easements

We work with private landowners to secure these legally-binding, individually-tailored agreements to sell or donate certain rights in order to protect specific conservation values such as water quality or migration routes. We then monitor and enforce the landowner’s promise while the land remains in private ownership to provide a home and livelihood.

### › Conservation Buyer

We acquire a property that buffers fragile habitat from development or other harmful practices. Then we seek a conservation-minded buyer who will honor certain restrictions outlined in a conservation easement agreement.

Contact Dian Osbourne, Director of Protection, at (859) 259-9655 or [dosbourne@tnc.org](mailto:dosbourne@tnc.org) for more information.

## OUT AND ABOUT



During July, Sierra Beasley, Dondra Ferguson and Kiara Knight worked on the Conservancy’s projects throughout the Commonwealth as interns with the nationally-acclaimed **Leaders in Environmental Action for the Future, or LEAF**. © TNC Staff



The Nature Conservancy of Kentucky had two successful **Green River cleanups** this summer...the first on June 15th in Munfordville and the second on August 10th in Greensburg. The events, held in partnership with Kentucky Waterways Alliance, put 175 volunteers on the river to remove more than two tons garbage, including 55 tires, a toilet and an entire steering column! Volunteers from Clean the Green 2013 © TNC Staff.

## CONSERVATION NEWS



# Dedicated To You

The Dupree Nature Preserve is open for business.

Dupree Nature Preserve Sign © Craig Dooley

Science has always led The Nature Conservancy to the places it protects. And by science, we mean the type that focuses in on unique critters, habitats and ecological systems.

At the new Dupree Nature Preserve, which opened October 5th, we brought some new science into the mix – human physiology! That is because more and more research reveals a correlation between human health and well-being and time spent outside. In fact, a growing amount of data illustrates that cognitive



Tom Dupree and Wife, Ann Todd Dupree, at the new nature preserve © Tom Eblen

processes such as planning, memorizing, paying attention and problem solving are impaired by limited outdoor recreation and exercise.

With that in mind, the Conservancy designed the Dupree Nature Preserve to engage individuals of all ages and stages through an infrastructure and activities that do not exist at any nature preserve in Kentucky.

“Since it’s located just 15 miles south of Lexington, we hope the Dupree Nature Preserve will attract people interested in relaxing, exercising and taking in some fresh air while deepening their appreciation and support for our natural landscape,” says Terry Cook, State Director at The Nature Conservancy of Kentucky.

Nestled within the state’s Kentucky River Palisades, the Dupree Nature Preserve boasts beautiful forests which include American beech, tulip poplar, yellow buckeye and basswood among man

The Dupree Nature Preserve is named in honor of the Dupree family. Tom Dupree forged a deep connection with Kentucky’s forests at a very young age.

“Throughout my life, the woods have provided me with solace – it’s where I go to think,” says Dupree. “During my ‘retreats,’ I studied my surroundings – plants, wildflowers, grasses – and came to know myself. I hope the new nature preserve will serve others in the same way.”

## Partnership In Action

In addition to Tom Dupree’s legacy gift to The Nature Conservancy of Kentucky, establishing the new Dupree Nature Preserve was made possible thanks to support from the following individuals and organizations:

- James Graham Brown Foundation
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Toyota Motor Manufacturing, KY, Inc.
- Ashland Foundation
- KY American Water
- L.G. & E and KU – Plant for the Planet
- Warren Rosenthal
- Garrard County Fiscal Court
- Henry Hinkle Foundation
- Kentucky Natural Lands Trust
- Lexmark International
- Sterling Ventures
- ADEX International
- Caldwell Stone
- Ken Brooks, Lynn Schwantes & other volunteers!

species of oak, hickory, maple, ash and elm. This cathedral-like setting harbors diverse wildlife and can be witnessed from trails such as the Brooks-Schwantes Trail, named after two volunteers who donated many hours to creating this and other nature preserves owned by the Conservancy in the Kentucky River Palisades.

“The new Dupree Nature Preserve provides an added dimension to our approach to land protection,” adds Cook. “It recognizes that nature sustains not only wildlife, but human beings as well.”



Mark Tercek speaks at the Dupree Nature Preserve ribbon cutting. © Craig Dooley

# Dedicating Dupree

The Conservancy's President and CEO weighs in on the organization's newest nature preserve.

On October 3rd, The Nature Conservancy of Kentucky hosted a ribbon cutting event at the Dupree Nature Preserve to thank the Dupree family and many others for their support. At the event, Garrard County Judge John Wilson spoke about how the nature preserve represents an asset for the local community. Jim Welch, Vice Chairman at the Brown-Forman Corporation, spoke to the generosity of Tom Dupree, with whom he served on the Conservancy's Kentucky Board for

many years. And Tom Dupree himself spoke about how proud he was of that moment, since it meant he had achieved an important milestone on his personal "bucket list."

The keynote speaker on this day was the Conservancy's President and CEO, Mark Tercek, who spoke to how the Dupree Nature Preserve serves as a model for illustrating how nature – on which all life depends – makes lives better, safer and more prosperous. Tercek also outlined how the Dupree Nature Preserve contains elements that key to broadening conservation support in the future:

- The Dupree Nature Preserve will surely **increase public awareness** due to its proximity to Lexington.
- Environmental education programming, established thanks to partner Bluegrass Greensource, promises to **engage youth**.

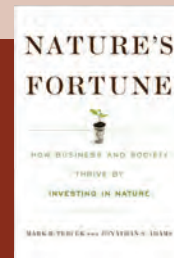


Mark Tercek, Terry Cook and Tom Dupree © TNC Staff

## Support This Work!

Anyone interested in supporting groundbreaking efforts to get more Kentuckians outdoors are invited to **donate \$10 to The Nature Conservancy of Kentucky between now and the end of 2013 by texting NATURE to 50555.**

(NOTE: The donation will appear on your wireless bill, or be deducted from your prepaid balance. All purchases must be authorized by the account holder. You must be 18 years of age or have parental permission to participate. Msg&Data Rates May Apply. Text STOP to 50555 to STOP. Text HELP to 50555 for HELP. Full Terms: [mGive.org/T](http://mGive.org/T). Privacy Policy: [mGive.org/P](http://mGive.org/P))



The Nature Conservancy of Kentucky staff has been reading Mark Tercek's book, *Nature's Fortune: How Business and Society Thrive By Investing In Nature*. Grab yourself a copy at <http://marktercek.com/natures-fortune/buy-the-book/>.

- Establishing and managing the nature preserve builds on **strong volunteerism** exhibited in the Kentucky River Palisades.

Jim Aldrich, the Conservancy's Director of Stream and Wetland Restoration and former State Director in Kentucky, echoes many of the sentiments expressed on that day. "Tom is a 'conservation angel,'" says Aldrich. "I am proud of what he has helped us to accomplish here; he has never turned me down when seeking help with fundraising, an area where he is gifted. I am glad to call him my friend of more than twenty years."



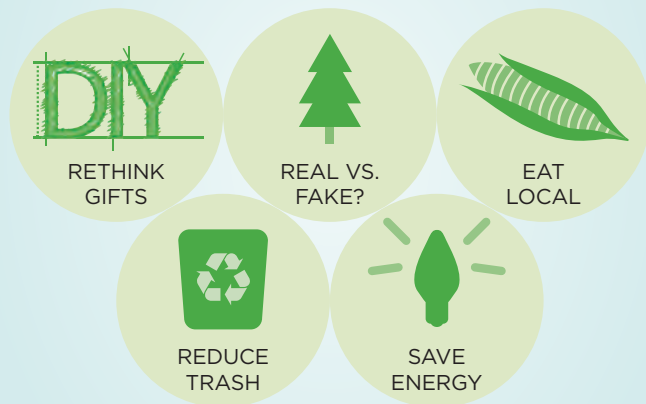
The Conservancy is a BBB Wise Giving Alliance Accredited Charity - meaning that we meet all of the alliance's Standards for Charity Accountability.



By using 30% post-consumer content paper, we preserved 23.21 trees for the future.



# How will you green your holidays?



The Nature Conservancy challenges you to rethink the holidays. Join the conversation at [nature.org/greenholidays](http://nature.org/greenholidays)

## Year in Review Goes Digital!

In an effort to save trees and mailing costs, The Nature Conservancy of Kentucky will publish its annual report in an interactive, online format. Contact [Kentucky@tnc.org](mailto:Kentucky@tnc.org) to sign up for this new and improved digital publication!

## Holiday Open House

**Date:** December 4, 2013  
**Time:** 5 p.m. - 7 p.m.  
**Place:** 114 Woodland Avenue  
Lexington, KY 40502

We are so excited to be "home for the holidays" and will be all decked out for guests. Make sure to pay us a visit to talk with staff, enjoy some refreshments and explore our new office!



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