QUIET TRAILS State Nature Preserve truly lives up to its name. Maintained within 165 acres of ridges and ravines above the Licking River in Harrison County, this preserve provides an excellent opportunity for visitors to come face to face with nature. For years, school children, scouts, and others interested in exploring the natural world have found their curiosity piqued, quenched, and inspired again amidst the solitude of Quiet Trails.

In 1991, Bill and Martha Wiglesworth donated 110 acres of woods and farmland to the Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission. They had purchased it twenty years earlier with the intention of creating their own wildlife sanctuary on the farm. The Wiglesworths planted native wildflowers and grasses to attract and sustain wildlife in the area. They planted trees where previous owners had cut timber. Bird houses were constructed for winged visitors and trails for their earthbound admirers. Evidence of these early management practices can still be seen when visiting the preserve today. An additional 55 acres of adjoining fields and forests was purchased and dedicated in 1997.

Quiet Trails supports a variety of different species, reflecting the richness of the Bluegrass flora and fauna. Observations and research on the preserve have identified over 130 species of birds, including bluebirds, scarlet tanagers, and red-eyed vireos which nest there, 98 species of trees, and over 100 species of wildflowers which fill the meadows and carpet the woods. Deer, hawks, owls, and turkeys are often observed in the area, as well as numerous small mammals such as eastern cottontail rabbits, gray squirrels, raccoons, groundhogs, voles and white-footed mice. At least 10 species of amphibians and reptiles make the preserve their home. Twenty-three species of mussels thrive in the adjacent Licking River, one of which, the fanshell, is on the federal endangered species list.

A three-mile network of mowed trails leads from one of the highest ridges in the county down 300 feet in elevation through a shaded hollow to the banks of the Licking River. The ridges and ravines are largely overlain by Ordovician age shales, limestones, and siltstones belonging to the Kope Formation. The descriptive trail names include White Tail Rest, Deep Hollow and Sassafras, which has a blind for viewing wildlife. Along the way visitors encounter fields of switch grass and Indian grass, cedar groves and oak/hickory forests. Look for numerous fern species along the slopes in rich ravines. A shelter is fixed in a cleared meadow above the river bank. It sits on the spot where a three-room trading post once stood in the 1700's, welcoming wayfarers from the river. Some of the square, hand-hewn logs from the trading post were used in the current shelter's construction. It's easy to be transported in time and hear the shouts of men floating their logs down the river to market in Covington, as they did a long time ago.

Passing from private ownership to the Commission has not changed the preserve's purpose. Mr. Wiglesworth had a vision of a refuge where wildlife could escape destruction and people could escape the commotions of daily life. His unselfish donation to the Commission has ensured that Quiet Trails State Nature Preserve will host generations of local scouts and biology classes for years to come.

The Commission's goal for the preserve is to promote environmental education opportunities for the citizens in surrounding counties, especially the children who will inherit the responsibility of protecting places of beauty and biodiversity like Quiet Trails. It is a site where people from across the state can come and experience Kentucky's natural heritage.

For more information please contact:

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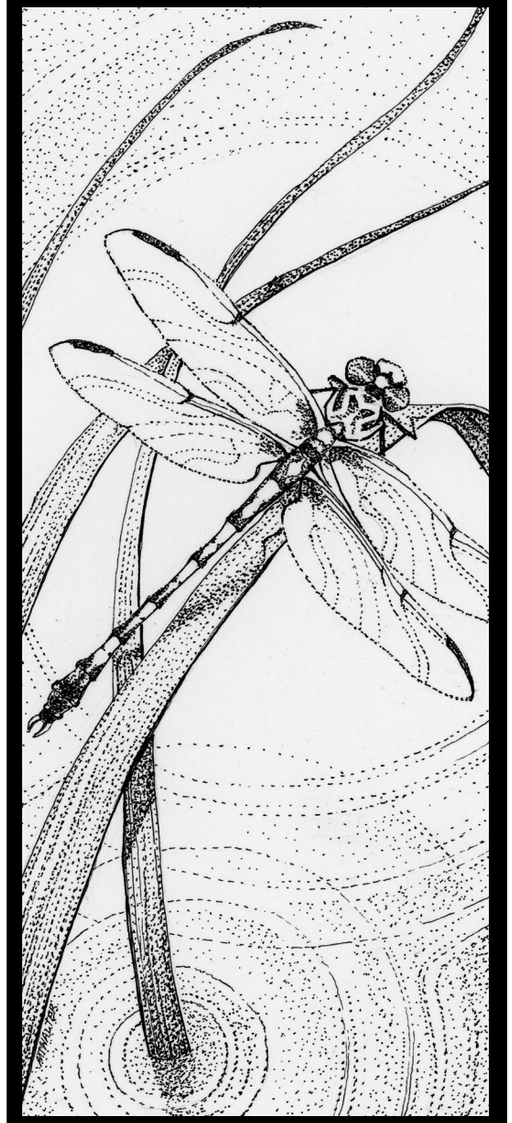
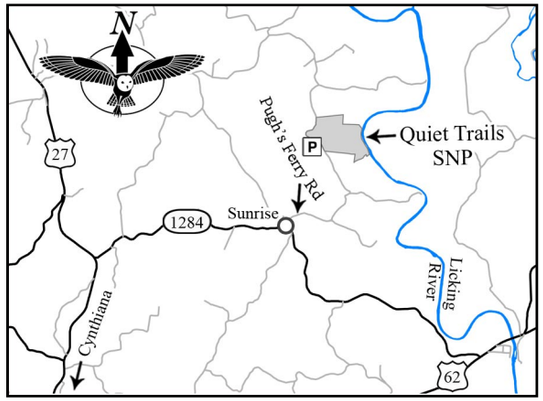
KSNPC ~ January 2008

Cover: Original artwork by Mary Walter

Kentucky UNBRIDLED SPIRIT

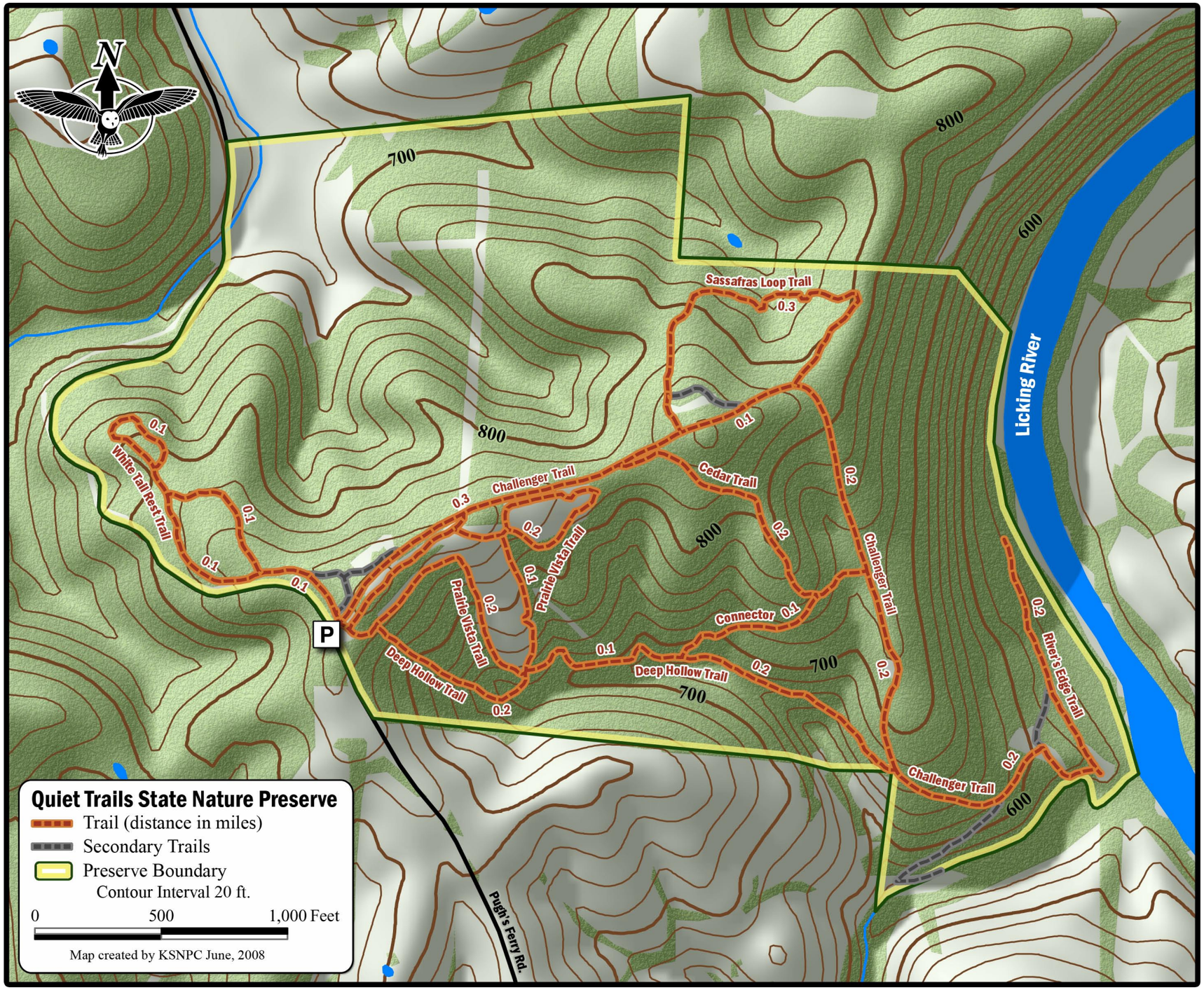
QUIET TRAILS
STATE NATURE PRESERVE





Quiet Trails SNP is in northeast Harrison County. From Cynthiana, take US 27 north approximately 10 miles. Turn right onto KY 1284, which leads to Sunrise. Take Pugh's Ferry Road by going straight through this intersection for 1.8 miles. The parking lot is located on the right side of Pugh's Ferry Road.

Help protect Kentucky's natural heritage by observing State Nature Preserves rules.

1. Preserves are open sunrise to sunset.
2. Trails are open to **foot-traffic only**. The established trail system provides the safest and best way to travel through the preserve. Visitors must not re-route or shortcut the existing trail system.
3. Motorized vehicles, as well as horseback riding, biking, climbing and rappelling are prohibited because of their destructive impacts to trails and natural features.
4. Possession of drugs or alcohol is prohibited.
5. Possession of firearms is prohibited.
6. Hunting, fishing, trapping and collecting of plant, animals, rocks, artifacts and other items are prohibited.
7. Camping, picnicking, building fires, audio equipment and pets are prohibited.
8. Remember to pack out your trash.

These RULES are established by 400 KAR 2:090. Any person in violation of this regulation may be liable for a civil penalty of $1000 per day and possible criminal prosecution as provided for in KRS 224.