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NEWS RELEASE

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**Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission To Present Mayor of Perryville With
Natural Areas Certificate
*Boyle County cave home to globally threatened species***

FRANKFORT, KY (July 7 , 2008) - The Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission (KSNPC) is partnering with the City of Perryville and The Perryville Battlefield Preservation Association to protect Harberson's Station Cave in Boyle County, home to two rare species of beetles..

On Monday, July 14, at 2 p.m. EDT, Donald S. Dott Jr., director of KSNPC, will present Perryville Mayor Anne Sleet with a Registered Natural Areas certificate designating Harberson's Station Cave as a site that supports populations of the Old Well Cave Beetle (*Pseudanophthalmus puteanus*) and Hidden Cave Beetle (*P. conditus*), two species endemic to Kentucky and listed as threatened by the Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission. The Hidden Cave Beetle is known to live in only four Boyle County locations and the Old Well Cave Beetle is known to live in only three locations (Boyle and Mercer counties) in the world. Harberson's Station Cave represents one of the best remaining sites for the conservation of both of these globally rare species.

Presentation of the Registered Natural Area certificate will take place at City Hall in Perryville, 216 South Buell St.

The City of Perryville and the Perryville Battlefield Preservation Association (PBPA) recognize the importance of this natural area and the threatened species that live there and agreed to registration of the cave to preserve its biological values.

“It is only with the help of our citizens and local governments that we can be successful in our efforts to protect the most threatened biological resources of Kentucky,” said Dott. “This is a fully voluntary commitment by the City of Perryville and the Perryville Battlefield Preservation Association that will help protect two species of life found nowhere else in the world.”

Perryville Mayor Anne Sleet said, “Perryville is a great city and one that is home to many wonderful historic and natural resources. I am very happy to learn of this designation and am honored to accept.”

Chris Kolakowski, PBPA executive director, said, “Many people – including me – never before thought of Perryville and Boyle County as a home to rare species. We are pleased to partner with the state in this designation and appreciate the commission’s help in recognizing and documenting the important natural resources in Perryville.”

The Perryville Battlefield Preservation Association is a membership organization charged with preserving and interpreting the Perryville Battlefield and town. It oversees the Perryville Enhancement Project in conjunction with the state, Boyle County, and the City of Perryville. Since 1991, the project has preserved and interpreted more 500 acres of critical battlefield land, along with several original structures in Perryville.

Information about the Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission and its mission to protect Kentucky’s natural heritage can be obtained by mail (KSNPC, 801 Schenkel Lane, Frankfort, Ky. 40601-1403), telephone (502-573-2886 or toll free 877-214-6173) or the Internet (www.naturepreserves.ky.gov).

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