

Governor Steven L. Beshear
Commonwealth of Kentucky



ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT CABINET

NEWS RELEASE

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**KENTUCKY STATE NATURE PRESERVES COMMISSION TO
DEDICATE TRAIL TO THE LATE JON E. RICKERT
*Hike Through Jim Scudder State Nature Preserve Planned***

FRANKFORT, KY (April 13, 2009) – Jon E. Rickert, a former state representative and Elizabethtown attorney will be honored with a trail dedicated in his name at the Jim Scudder State Nature Preserve in Hardin County on Saturday, April 25, beginning at 1 p.m.

Rickert, who passed away on June 9, 2008, sponsored the Kentucky Nature Preserves Act, creating the Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission (KSNPC). He also served as the first chairman of the commission from 1976 to 1988. An avid birder, he traveled to all 50 states and several foreign countries following his avian hobby, which culminated in his authoring [A Guide To North American Bird Clubs](#). He helped found the American Birding Association and served as its attorney. He also joined an expedition into the swamps of Arkansas in 2004, to search for the ivory-billed woodpecker.

After the trail dedication ceremony, Nature Preserves and Natural Areas Branch Manager Joyce Bender will lead a hike through forest and limestone glade habitat. There will be opportunities to view late spring forest wildflowers and some that are found exclusively on dry, rocky glade soils. Jim Scudder State Nature Preserve is currently accessible by guided hike only.

For registration and additional information, contact the KSNPC office, (502) 573-2886 or (877) 214-6173. The hike is rated as moderately difficult for a distance of approximately two miles.