

Spring 2007



Kinni Keeper

A publication of the Kinnickinnic River Land Trust



*Come to the KRLT
Annual Meeting on
Saturday, April 14!*

Details on Page 12

Inside this Issue:

| | |
|---|------|
| Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Fund..... | 1-5 |
| A Ride Down the Kinni | 5,7 |
| Kinnicology®: What's in Your River? | 6 |
| The Pension Protection Act of 2006 | 8 |
| Memberships, Donations and Volunteers | 9-10 |
| WAV on the Kinni..... | 11 |

Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Fund: *Leaving a legacy for future generations*

What do Kelly Creek, the Headwaters area of the Kinni, Swinging Gate and the KRLT's recent sale of the Rasmussen Preserve to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) all have in common?

They were funded, in part or in whole, through Wisconsin's Warren Knowles-Gaylord Nelson Stewardship Fund.

The Wisconsin Legislature created this program in 1989 to preserve valuable natural areas and wildlife habitat, protect water quality and fisheries, and expand opportunities for outdoor recreation. Wisconsin's Stewardship Fund Program continues the work of an original Outdoor Recreation Act Program enacted in 1961 with the support of Governor Gaylord Nelson and renewed in 1967 with the support of Governor Warren Knowles.

Both Nelson and Knowles were from Western Wisconsin. Warren Knowles was born in River Falls and grew up in New Richmond, while Gaylord Nelson was from Clear Lake and is nationally known for the creation of Earth Day.

Continued on Page 2



Cover Photo: Kelly Creek
By Margaret Smith

NOTE: All land and river photos featured in this issue are of properties protected through use of the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Fund.

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Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Fund: *Leaving a legacy for future generations*

Continued from Page 1

These two great Wisconsin conservationists envisioned the need to acquire land to preserve special habitats and also to provide opportunities for outdoor recreation. Today Wisconsin's Stewardship Fund Program works to protect natural areas, to improve Wisconsin's State Parks, to acquire land for Wisconsin wildlife areas, and to protect wetlands and fisheries. It also provides funding for acquiring easements to eliminate non-point source run-off into our waters, stream bank easements for stabilization, and trout habitat enhancements. In addition, it provides funds to aid local municipalities with recreational projects including urban green spaces, parks, and trails.

Most importantly, the Stewardship Fund provides matching grants to local governments and non-profit organizations, such as KRLT, effectively doubling the amount of money available for land and water conservation. Land trusts alone have raised \$60 million to directly match Stewardship Fund grants.

Here in the Kinnickinnic River watershed, hikers, fisherman, birdwatchers, paddlers and plant lovers have all benefited from the use of the Stewardship Fund with the purchase/

restoration of Kelly Creek, the Swinging Gate, and the Kinnickinnic State Park addition. Hunters can also enjoy the Headwaters Preserve and the State Park. We also used the Stewardship Fund in the protection of the 100-year-old Edgar family farm with its river frontage in the lower canyon. The City of River Falls has used the Stewardship Fund for Foster Cemetery, DeSanctis and Hoffman Parks, and for trail systems.

All Wisconsin citizens enjoy the ecological benefits of protected land and water, including clean drinking water, scenic vistas along our roads, and a high quality of life that attracts visitors and businesses.



Edgar Family Farm

✓ Action Alert!

We encourage our members and supporters to write or e-mail our Wisconsin state legislators by May 15, 2007 in support of reauthorization of the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Fund. This Fund has been vital to our protection efforts and our ability to fulfill our mission to protect the natural resources and scenic beauty of the Kinnickinnic River Watershed.

Wisconsin Legislators:

Governor Jim Doyle

Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 7863
Madison, WI 53707
(608) 266-1212

Senator Sheila Harsdorf

Wisconsin Senate
P.O. Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707-7882
Sen.Harsdorf@legis.state.wi.us
(608) 266-7745

Representative Kitty Rhoades

Wisconsin Assembly
P.O. Box 8953
Madison, WI 53708-8953
Rep.Rhoades@legis.state.wi.us
(608) 266-1526

Tips for Effective Letters:

- ✓ Identify your topic at the beginning of the letter.
- ✓ Be specific in stating your opinion and tell them why you care about this issue in your own words.
- ✓ Be clear and concise.
- ✓ If possible, use a personal example of how and why this issue concerns you.
- ✓ Be positive rather than negative.
- ✓ Sign your name legibly.
- ✓ Include your return address and phone number in your letter or e-mail.

See pages 4–5 to learn about the importance of the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Fund to KRLT.

Since 1990, the Stewardship Fund has provided \$60 million per year for Wisconsin land protection, acquisition, urban parks, and river programs. At less than half of 1% of the state's overall budget, the Stewardship Advisory Committee states, "... the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Fund has been an unqualified success in protecting some of Wisconsin's most outstanding lands and waters and providing world class recreation opportunities to the citizens of the state and visitors. The program will be a key player in the coming decade as we balance population and economic growth with the need to continue to protect our natural heritage and meet the recreation needs of the state."

Governor Doyle's budget is proposing an annual allocation of \$105 million to keep pace with land prices. Matching funds by local governments and non-profits will leverage these public dollars with donations from other sources for land protection and outdoor recreation efforts in the face of a rapidly changing ecological landscape. ←

Photos By Margaret Smith



Swinging Gate



Rasmussen Preserve

✓ Action Alert!

The information below will help you get better acquainted with the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Fund and what it means to KRLT.

The Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Fund Is Important to KRLT

The KRLT is fully in support of reauthorization of the Warren Knowles-Gaylord Nelson Stewardship Fund Program and in support of increasing its funds to keep pace with inflation. St. Croix County, in Western Wisconsin, is the fastest growing county in Wisconsin and is under intense development pressure. Located within St. Croix and Pierce counties is the Kinnickinnic River, a Class One trout stream and an Outstanding Resource Water, the highest designations given by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

Due to long-term community care of this river resource, the Kinnickinnic River has maintained its Class One status despite flowing through a municipality of nearly 13,000 people, a density that normally degrades streams. Maintaining this high quality resource water is an important desire of the local community and the many anglers, hikers, and paddlers who come to the area from the Twin Cities, the Upper Midwest, and the entire nation. The Wisconsin Stewardship Fund has been a critically important tool in our ability to protect this remarkable resource and its watershed from degradation while at the same time offering the community and visitors public access along its river corridor. There are 23 public access sites along the river, most managed by the DNR. The river is heavily used during the fishing season as it is a nationally known river resource.

The KRLT has used the Stewardship Fund to leverage private dollars to protect Kelly Creek, an important tributary that pumps over 700,000 gallons of water per day into the Kinni.

The DNR has restored a prairie on the site and the prairie and Creek are used for Leadership River Falls, environmental studies by local schools, numerous field trips, and seed harvesting by the DNR for other prairie projects.

The Stewardship Fund was used in the purchase of development rights on a 100-year-old farm of 280 acres. This family farm, named a Pierce County Outstanding Conservation Farm, has prime agricultural soils, a tributary stream, springs, river bluffs, coulees, rare and threatened plant species, and frontage on the Kinni. The farm is within one mile of the Kinnickinnic State Park and is adjacent to other lands permanently protected with conservation easements held by the KRLT for a continuous conservation corridor of over 4 river miles. The landowners granted daytime use of the river bank along that part of the river which flows through their land.

The Stewardship Fund was used in the recent purchase by the DNR of 39 acres from the KRLT that is adjacent to the Kinnickinnic State Park. The land and river corridor were added to the Kinnickinnic State Park, and it includes the site of the historic Clifton Hollow dam. Public access is now part of this land and river's attributes.

The Stewardship Fund was also used in partnership with funds from a variety of other sources, including Pheasants Forever, to protect 200 acres in the

headwaters of the Kinni. This land is adjacent to 100 other acres protected by the DNR. This block of over 300 acres of land is open to public access including hiking, hunting, and bird watching.

The Stewardship Fund was also used by the DNR to purchase 53 acres of land from the KRLT at the "Swinging Gate", a beloved public fishing area. Prairie restoration was undertaken by the DNR. The Swinging Gate is a favorite haunt of soaring eagles, drawn to the open waters of the Kinni with its high fish densities. The upper stretches of the Kinni contain up to 8,000 trout per mile, which is exceptional and a tourist draw for so many who come to this area to fish.

TIPS FOR YOUR LETTER: Be specific in stating your opinion and tell why you care about this issue in your own words; keep it positive, clear and concise; and if possible, use a personal example of how and why this issue concerns you.

Kinni Headwaters



The KRLT has protected over 1750 acres of land, most through donated easements, and over 6.5 miles of streambank along this Class One trout stream. Over 400 acres are open for hunting, fishing, hiking and other forms of public recreation.

We also continue to work with local family farmers who live along the lower Kinnickinnic River, an outstanding scenic and resource area. The Kinni slices through a deep gorge-like limestone canyon on its way to the St. Croix River. Wildlife abounds in this remote feeling sanctuary with its soaring cliffs, northern white pines, quiet pools, and swift rapids. Springs and weeping cliffs create a vibrant green carpet of ferns, mosses, and wildflowers, and rare plant communities are found on both its south and north facing cliffs. This area has large family farms with river frontage, and we use the purchase of development rights program of the Stewardship Fund to obtain conservation easements on these working farms with a Class One trout stream flowing through them.

The Kinni is used by the local community of River Falls not only for public recreation as a paddling and fishing resource, but also as a tourist draw, bringing tourist dollars into the community. In addition, maintaining a sufficient block of farms is necessary for sustaining agriculture in this area. Purchase of development rights, especially for those farms along the Kinnickinnic River, is essential to sustaining a vibrant agricultural industry. Intense development pressure from the Twin Cities is an immediate concern and a true challenge to maintaining and protecting this outstanding water resource and its 140 square mile watershed.

The Wisconsin Stewardship Fund has been invaluable in our efforts to protect this exceptional river resource, and we are grateful for its presence and fully support its reauthorization at higher funding levels. ➡



Swinging Gate

A Ride Down the Kinni

By D. J. Jorgenson

The Kinnickinnic River was here long before I was, and will be here long after I'm gone. The years I spent growing up on the Kinni are but a moment in its life, but are a lifetime of memories for me. This is one of them...

"Oh-Oh" my brother screamed, as we rounded the bend in the river, "we're in big trouble, Dale." We stared in shock at the angry water. From our perch atop what now seemed to be quite a small tractor tire inner tube, we could see the river attacking the lower beams of the bridge that we were headed towards at break-neck speed. Just ten minutes earlier we had launched our "riverboat" about a quarter-mile up stream from the bridge. We hadn't realized the fury of the river that early spring day.

This was supposed to be another of our many "fun" adventures on the Kinnickinnic River. At ages 12 and 13 the river had always been a part of our lives. It ran through the middle of the land that was a part of the dairy farm we grew up on in Kinnickinnic Township. Now our fun had turned into what could be a struggle to survive the rage of the swirling cold waters of the Kinni.

It was late April and my brother and I had decided to celebrate spring with a tubing trip down the river. We walked down to the river's edge. It was just a hundred yards down the cow path that led from the barn to the pasture. We could see that the river had spilled over its banks with the added spring snowmelt. The normally calm stream, which was usually no more than ten yards across, was now at least thirty yards wide. It was deep enough to completely cover the fences that stretched across the cattle crossing. "Wow," I said, "this looks like fun."

Excited by the prospect for adventure, we raced up to the machine shed to find the inner tube. As my brother looked for the tire pump, I searched the rafters to find the large tractor tire inner tube I knew was stored there. "I see it!" I hollered.

The large black inner tube tumbled down from the rafters as I pushed on it with a two by four that I had found leaning up against the north wall of the shed. The tube was out of air, and covered with a winter's worth of dust and grime. My brother had returned with the tire pump and was watching as the tube hit the ground. "We need a piece of plywood to put on the top of the tube," he said. We looked around inside and outside the shed. He found a nice piece that was about four foot square. "This will work great," he said.

Continued on Page 7

Kinnicology®: What's in your river?

On February 24, St. Croix Valley's Troop 2190 Cadette Girl Scouts presented "Kinnicology 2007" to fellow Girl Scouts and their families at the River Falls Public Library. The workshop represented part of the troop's Silver Award Project. This is the highest award in Girl Scouting for age level 13-15.

Troop 2190's brochure for the event noted, "We, Troop 2190 choose 'Kinnicology' as our Silver Award Project because keeping the Kinnickinnic River healthy is important. We wanted to educate other Girl Scouts about the importance of stewardship towards rivers. More than 70% of the Earth's surface is covered in water, but only 2.5% is fresh water. Of this 2.5%, only 3/10th of 1% is found in lakes, rivers and streams; the rest is locked up in glaciers and ice caps. It is very important to keep the fresh water that we do have healthy and drinkable."

"Kinnicology" was an educational workshop between the Kinnickinnic River Land Trust and Troop 2190. Troop 2190 members Elizabeth Camber, Elizabeth Chatt, Ella Dzubay and Emma Smith taught participants about the 140 square

mile watershed of the Kinnickinnic River including "Kinni Facts" such as being home to 50% of Wisconsin's bird species and 40% of its vascular plant species. Hands-on learning stations included information about microorganisms, insects and fish of the Kinni; stewardship practices including a listing of "ten things you can do" (see sidebar); how rain gardens work; and awareness of thermal and runoff pollution. A giant board game finished the presentation with participants playing fish in the Kinni facing real life challenges from various forms of pollution such as heat, litter, sediment, phosphorus, manure, and car chemicals.

Troop 2190 will complete its Silver Award project in the spring when it joins with the City of River Falls to apply "Drains to Kinni" weatherproof decals to the 24 storm sewer drains in the downtown River Falls area. The decals will be a visible reminder to the community that local storm sewers bring litter, sediment, chemicals, and heat from the streets directly into the Kinni. The decals provided the design for Troop 2190's "Kinnicology" patch each participant earned on February 24. ←

Troop Photos By Sue Dzubay

Girl Scout Troop 2190 (L to R) Emma Smith, Elizabeth Camber, Elizabeth Chatt, Ella Dzubay



Ten Things You Can Do:

- 1 Never dump anything down a storm drain or drainage ditch.
- 2 Throw litter in trash bins.
- 3 Direct roof downspouts away from driveways and sidewalks to places where the water can safely soak into the ground.
- 4 Keep your grass clippings and leaves from washing down storm drains.
- 5 Make sure your car is not leaking chemicals, such as oil.
- 6 Keep sprinkler water from running down the sidewalk and creating runoff.
- 7 Mow grass no shorter than two inches to create deep rooting. This helps your lawn soak up more water.
- 8 Have a rain barrel under your downspout to collect the rain (you can later use this to water your garden/lawn).
- 9 Make a rain garden.
- 10 Use fertilizer and pesticides only when needed.





A Ride Down the Kinni *Continued from Page 5*

We both took turns pumping. Slowly the tube filled with air and was soon bulging like an oversized glazed donut. We set the plywood sheet on top of the tube and admired our "riverboat".

My brother rolled the tube down the cow path while I carried the plywood sheet. We pushed the tube out into the river, put the plywood on top, and climbed aboard for what was to be an exciting ride. Our "riverboat" was immediately grabbed by the fast moving current and pushed downstream. The normally placid river, strengthened by the melted snow, was now in control. While we were able to somewhat steer the tube with our hands, it was apparent that the Kinnickinnic was in charge of this ride, not us.

We sat side-by-side watching the water boil around us as if it were heated by an unseen flame. The angry water grabbed at the sides of the inner tube as we were swept downstream. My brother laughed, excited by the adventure of it all, while I started to worry about what was happening to us. He yelled for me to look ahead downstream. What was normally a wide gentle bend in the river was now a white water course with large trees blocking our path. The powerful water pushed us toward the trees. We paddled hard with our hands to avoid them, and just missed several large tree trunks as the current pushed us around the bend.

Just as my brother yelled I looked up and saw the bridge that we were racing toward. I was scared, as scared as I have ever been in my life. There was no way that I could imagine us making it under the bridge without being wiped off the inner tube. I screamed at my brother, "We're never going to fit under the bridge!" He looked at me and we both moved to lie down on our stomachs, hugging the plywood. I didn't know how we were going to survive this.

The river was crashing against the center support beam of the bridge and swirled left and right as it raced to reach the opposite side of the structure. The water seemed to be only inches from the bottom of the bridge. The gap seemed too small for our prone bodies and the tube to fit through. The noise was deafening, it was almost as if a freight train were riding on an unseen track right beside our inner tube.

We tried to make ourselves somehow smaller. My only thought was to try and maintain my grip on the plywood. As we got closer to the bridge, the sound of the water rushing

...it was apparent that the Kinnickinnic was in charge of this ride, not us.

under it increased in pitch. Our speed increased as the angry water pushed us just under the first crossbeam of the bridge. The daylight turned to darkness. At that moment we grazed the center support beam. The inner tube was violently spun around and I lost my grip.

Both of my legs slid off the plywood and my winter boots were immediately filled with cold water. I struggled to hang on and tried to pull myself back onto the plywood. The crossbeam caught my right arm and I was thrown from the safety of the inner tube into the river. In what seemed like a slow motion movie, I watched my brother and the inner tube clear the bridge and race toward another bend.

Like an angry opponent in a desperate fight, the cold dark water took a tight grip on my clothing and pulled me down deep into its soul. I struggled to pull myself to the surface, but the river slammed me into its gravel bottom taking total control of the moment. I lost all sense of direction and felt a calming darkness spreading over me.

"Are you OK?"

"Dale, are you OK?" I could hear my name being called. As I opened my eyes I could see the outline of my brother standing over me. I was lying on the west bank of the river, just a hundred yards from the bridge. I didn't have any idea how I had gotten there, but somehow I had survived, and so had he.

We never told anyone about our wild ride down the river that day. I guess we both knew it was something best kept to ourselves. ←



Rasmussen Preserve
Photo By
Margaret Smith

Thank you for your commitment to KRLT!

Memberships, Donations & Volunteers for October 1, 2006 – February 28, 2007

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 Rick and Barbara Petrekovic
 Charles and Maxine Prokop
 Harry Rockwood
 Kate and Dan Rorabeck
 Patricia H. Rusch
 Dolores and Karl Schmitz
 Paula M. Schneeweis and Michael S. Hulse
 Mike and Darlene R. Sittlow
 John and Eleanor Strand
 Sara G. Swanson
 John Sylvestre
 Barbara Tauferner
 Bob Trevis
 Bryan and Karin Van Deun
 Bob Wesoloski

Youth/Senior (\$10)

Peter and Helen Muto

In-Kind Donations

Eric Durham
 Mark Engebretson
 Reid Carron
 Tim Huston
 Jack Kenefick
 Kevin Pechacek
 Rodli, Beskar, Boles and Krueger
 Margaret Smith

Kinni Special Places Fund

Charlie and Barb Kolpin

Miscellaneous

Mark and Carol Engebretson
 ING Employee Giving Campaign
 Nate and Linda Jackson
 Kinnickinnic Priority Watershed
 The Prairie Enthusiasts
 REI Employee Giving Campaign
 River Falls Garden Club
 School District of River Falls
 Brent Sittlow
 Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Stewardship Legal Fund

John and Linda Eggert
 Sheila and Brian Schils

Wine Tasting and Dinner Silent Auction Donations

Bentley's Outfitters
 Sam Hertogs and Associates
 Julie Kenefick
 Jim Kyndberg
 Minnesota Fly Fishers
 Dianne Mockler
 Dave Norling
 Nolan Prohaska
 Andy Roth
 Sarah Sanford
 Bob Wesolowski
 Bob White
 Lauri Wilson
 Mark Wyman
 Ray and Peg Zemke

Memorials

To:
 Virginia Adams

Brandon "Brandy" Brenna

H. Jay Hermes

Tom Parent

Helen and Walker Wyman

From:

Bob Adams, David and Susan Anderson, Anonymous, Robert Aurelius, Donald Ausemus and Nancy Nielsen, Sheryl and John Boehm, Alex and Barbara Jo Boettcher, Carolyn Carlson, Robert and Debra Davies, Cheryl and Bradley Eaton, Robert and Ruth Fransen, Tharen John Gorski, John and Kirsti Groess, Kirsti Groess, Lyth and Mary Hartz, Jon and Diane Larson, F. Patrick Leslie, Susan Steele, Betty Jean Ulrich and Ruth Ulrich Fransen, Cheri Wiegand

Pat and Debbie Huppert

Beverly Hermes

Bruce Foster, Laura Green, Ashley Garcia and Cody Clickner, Ursula Peterson, Matt C. Putzier, United Natural Foods

John Bryant Wyman

Tributes

To:
 Mrs. Stephen Budd
 Mr. and Mrs. E. Ross Hanson
 Mr. and Mrs. John Rohrbach
 Ms. Cynthia Potter
 Jerome and Scherryl Simon

From:
 Brewster Hanson
 Brewster Hanson
 Brewster Hanson
 Brewster Hanson
 Bye Barsness

Gift Memberships

To:
 Wayne and Kiki Augustin
 Mary Bergseng
 Augustus, Huckleberry and Ruby Boles
 James Camery and Tammy Tollefson
 Cole Cudd
 Deb Freeman
 Ray Galep
 Bryan Giordano
 Coty and Andy Johnson
 Joseph Marson
 Matthew Miller
 Jarred Pechacek
 Luke Pechacek
 Marcia Pharis

From:
 Jack Kenefick
 Timm Anderson
 Joe and Della Boles
 Timm Anderson
 Joshua Cudd and Jena Most
 Timm Anderson
 Timm Anderson
 Mark and Linda Giordano
 Dianne and Jeff Ginsberg
 Timm Anderson
 Ray and Zora Anderson
 Kevin Pechacek and Amy Ebertz
 Kevin Pechacek and Amy Ebertz
 Timm Anderson

Volunteers (October 1, 2006 through February 28, 2007)

We extend our grateful thanks to our volunteers and donors for October 1, 2006 through February 28, 2007. We have tried to include all of our wonderful friends and regret omitting anyone's name. If we have done so, please call us at 715-425-5738.

Annual Appeal

Michelle Bredahl
 Gale and JoAnn Forward
 Myron Mortell
 Jessie Rupnow
 Brent Sittlow
 Barbara Tauferner
 Phyllis Tauferner
 Pat Wieland
 Sandy Tauferner

Field Trips

Bill Cordua

Professional Services

Joe Boles
 Jack Kenefick
 Charlene Larson
 Jessie Rupnow
 Greg Seitz
 Donna Watson

Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

Michelle Bredahl
 Tom Carroll
 Tim Huston
 Jack Kenefick
 Doug Johnson
 Cathy Moeger
 Brent Sittlow
 Sandy Tauferner

Office Help

Don Richards
 Ken Smith

Fall Road Cleanup, November 11, 2006

Patrick Bilbrey
 Trudy Ohnsorg
 Myron Mortell
 Dave Schollman
 Margaret and Ken Smith
 Sandy Tauferner
 Carol Wilcox

Wine Tasting and Dinner

Jim Kyndberg
 Elena Leardini
 Cathy Moeger
 John O'Boyle
 Andrea Riberich
 Heather Rudolph
 Sandy Tauferner
 Lauri Wilson
 Ray and Peg Zemke



Serviceberry Blooms
 Photo By Margaret Smith

The Pension Protection Act of 2006

Increased Tax Benefits for Conservation Easements

The Pension Protection Act of 2006 significantly expands tax incentives for conservation easements donated by December 31, 2007. If you have ever considered donating a conservation easement, or know of someone who has property with wonderful conservation values, you will want to know about the new incentives.

Specifically, the new legislation:

- Raised the charitable deduction landowners can take for donating conservation easements from 30% to 50% of their adjusted gross income in any year;
- Increased that deduction limit to 100% of income if the donor is a farmer or rancher; and
- Allows the donor to carry forward the charitable deduction for up to 15 additional years, a significant increase over the former 5-year period.

The new law affects conservation easements that are donated to a qualified recipient, such as KRLT, by December 31, 2007. The property must meet conservation requirements.

An example of the new incentives: John and Mary Farmer own 200 acres of a farm and scenic woodland in a highly developable area. They decide to donate a permanent conservation easement that removes development rights and limits future timber harvest according to a woodland management plan. A qualified appraiser values those donated rights at \$1 million. If the couple earns most of their income from farming or ranching

(50% or more from "the trade or business of farming") – e.g., \$50,000 per year- they can now deduct that entire \$50,000 (100% adjusted gross income) from their income tax during the donation year and the next 15 years to come.

Another example: Bob and Sue Landowner own 200 acres with scenic and natural resource conservation values, and decide to donate a permanent conservation easement which removes development rights. A qualified appraiser values those donated rights at \$1 million. Bob and Sue Landowners' adjusted gross income is \$100,000 per year. They can now deduct \$50,000 (50% adjusted gross income) from their income tax during the donation year and the next 15 years to come.

NOTE: KRLT does not provide tax advice. Potential donors should also consult with their attorneys, financial advisors, family members and heirs.

IRA Rollover

In addition to improving tax benefits for easement donations, the Pension Protection Act of 2006 allows people age 70 1/2 and older to make cash gifts up to \$100,000 annually to qualified charities, such as KRLT, from traditional or Roth IRAs without incurring federal income tax on the withdrawal. This does not apply to other retirement plans such as 401(k), 403(b), annuities, and SEPs. The donation can satisfy the required minimum distribution amount. Tax deductions cannot be claimed for this gift. The provision is effective for the tax years of 2006 and 2007 only and expires December 31, 2007.

Using these cash gifts from your IRA to KRLT allows you to make significant donations to our land protection efforts while reducing your taxable income. Your donations will make a significant and immediate impact on our ability to protect the natural resources and scenic beauty of the Kinnickinnic River watershed for future generations.

For more information about this new legislation please call KRLT at (715) 425-5738, e-mail us at krlt@presenter.com, and contact your tax advisor. ←



DNR Restored Prairie
at River Drive
Photo By Margaret Smith



Kelly Creek
Photo By Margaret Smith

WAV on the Kinni

By Aleisha Miller

Many people want to protect their local streams, and now you can help. Stream monitoring is a fun way to be involved with your stream, and a great way to assist local resource managers. The St. Croix County Land and Water Conservation Department is involved with a Wisconsin statewide citizen stream monitoring program, Water Action Volunteers (WAV). WAV, sponsored by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and the University of Wisconsin Extension, is specifically designed for citizens who want to learn about and improve the quality of streams and rivers. The Kinnickinnic River is a great candidate for this program.

During the May through October period each year, six stream parameters are measured monthly by volunteer monitors: stream flow, temperature, dissolved oxygen, water transparency, biotic index (for aquatic insects), and habitat. The local WAV coordinator collects the volunteer data, enters it into a web-based database, and shares water quality concerns with local resource managers.

The St. Croix County Land and Water Conservation Department will hold a training session for new volunteer monitors in May. To become a volunteer monitor, please contact Aleisha Miller: aleisham@co.saint-croix.wi.us or (715) 684-2874 ext. 125. ←

To learn more about WAV visit:

<http://clean-water.uwex.edu/wav/WAV.htm>

Monthly Giving Helps KRLT

Make a monthly gift to KRLT without writing a check! With your authorization, on the 10th of each month, your bank account can be automatically debited in the amount you request. At any time, you may change or cancel your authorization. It's a great way to make a larger annual donation through smaller monthly gifts.

Simply complete the following authorization form, mail it with a voided check to KRLT, PO Box 87, River Falls, WI 54022.

I, _____ authorize Kinnickinnic River Land Trust (KRLT) to instruct the financial institution named below to automatically deduct a payment in the amount of \$ _____ MONTHLY, not to exceed a TOTAL ANNUAL GIFT OF \$ _____

BANK ACCOUNT: Savings Checking

FINANCIAL INSTITUTION: _____

BRANCH ADDRESS: _____

SIGNATURE _____ DATE ____/____/____

I have enclosed a voided check

I understand that this agreement will remain in effect until the KRLT has received written notice. This notice shall be given at least 10 business days before the next scheduled payment. I also understand that I have the right to stop payment of a transfer from my financial institution account to KRLT.



Kinnickinnic River Land Trust
 421 N. Main St.
 P.O. Box 87
 River Falls, WI 54022

Nonprofit
 U.S. Postage
PAID
 Permit #12
 River Falls, WI
 54022

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

If your membership has expired, please renew using the membership form below.

KRLT
Annual Meeting
Protecting the Kinni: Success Stories in the Watershed
Saturday, April 14, 2007
10 a.m. to Noon
River Falls Public Library, Lower Level

The Kinnickinnic Priority Watershed Protection program began nearly 10 years ago. Since then, farmers and landowners have received cost share monies for river protecting projects such as stream bank protection, erosion control, and nutrient management. Rain gardens at local schools and downtown riverbanks have benefited from Priority watershed funds. Kyle Kulow, St. Croix Watershed Specialist, and Dennis Fritz, Priority Watershed technician will share some of the major success stories of this program and what has changed for the better in the watershed. Kristy Treichel, Civil Engineer/Water Resources staff for the City of River Falls, is working with west side residents on a number of practices any homeowner can do on their properties to help protect the Kinni. These include rain gardens, rain barrels, porous pavers, swales, etc. The KRLT created a brochure for this project. Come to the KRLT Annual Meeting and learn how the Kinni has been protected through state funds and what you can do in your own backyards to protect this wonderful river. The River Falls Public Library is located on the corner of Main and Union streets.

Yes!

I want to help the KRLT work in cooperation with landowners to conserve the resources I value—clean water, wildlife, recreation, natural areas, wild trout, scenic beauty, and family farms.

Membership Categories:

- Youth \$10
- Contributor \$15 – \$34
- Friend \$35 – \$99
- Sponsor \$100 – \$199
- Benefactor \$200 – \$499
- Patron \$500 – \$999
- River Guardian \$1000+

Your support qualifies for an income tax deduction.

- Tell me about property for sale.
- I want to volunteer, please call me

Please make your check payable to:
 The Kinnickinnic River Land Trust
 P.O. Box 87
 River Falls, Wisconsin 54022



NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

E-MAIL _____

| | | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------|------------------------------|
| Please bill my credit card: | <input type="checkbox"/> Visa | Amount: \$ _____ | Card Expires: ____/____/____ |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Mastercard | Account #: _____ | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Discover | Signature: _____ | |