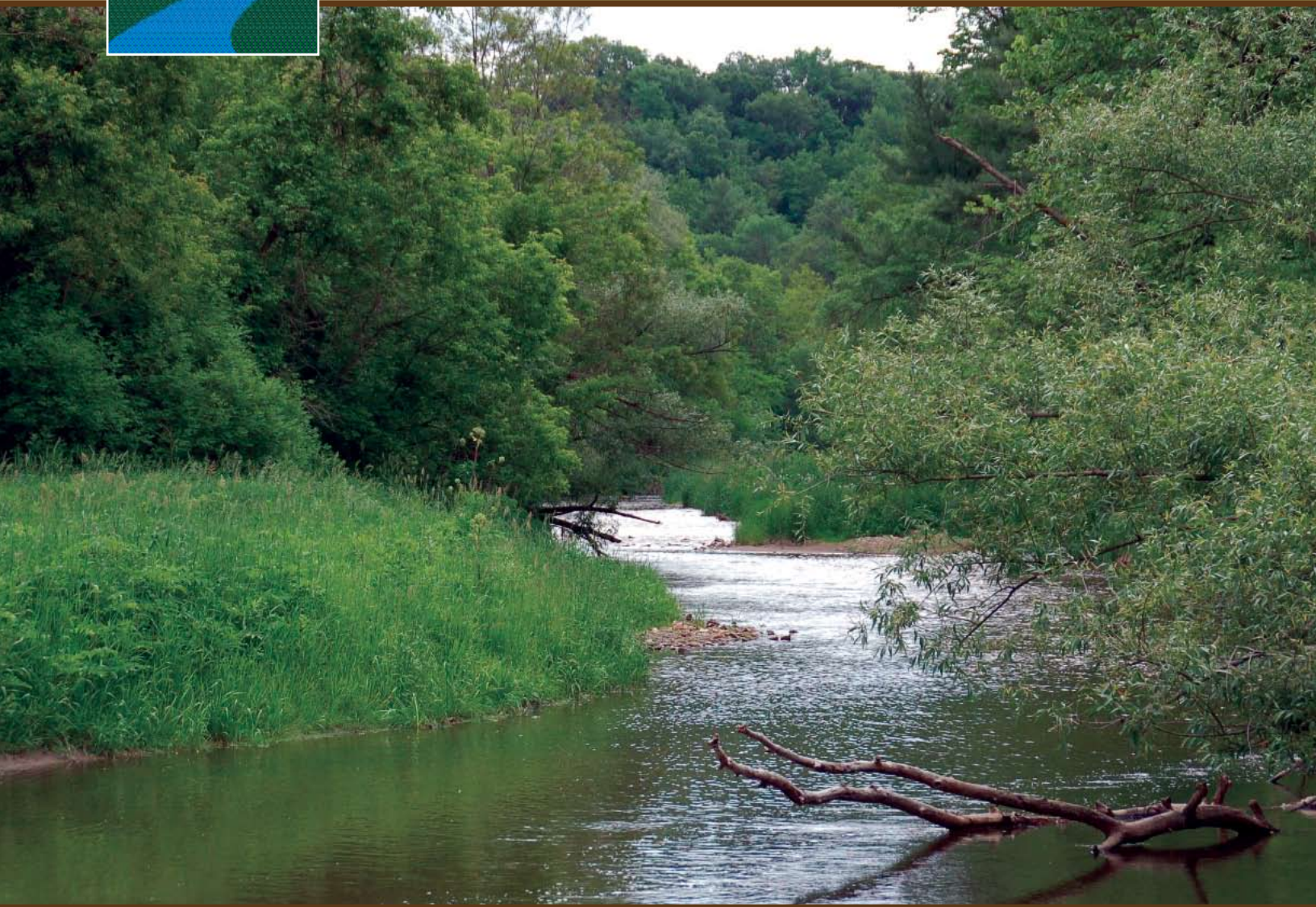


Summer 2007



# Kinni Keeper

A publication of the Kinnickinnic River Land Trust



## Inside this Issue:

KRLT Protects 45.5 Acres.....	1-2
“Discovering the Kinni ” by Rob Oden .....	3
KRLT Receives a Bequest .....	4
Sharing the Beauty of the Kinni.....	4
“Remembering Bruce Foster” by Dan Wilcox .....	5
Keeping the Kinni Clean.....	6
Splash! .....	7
KRLT Field Trips .....	8

## KRLT Protects 45.5 Acres in Lower Canyon!

In late June, the KRLT purchased 45.5 acres of spectacular property in the lower Kinni canyon from Eric and Jerilyn Jackson. Approximately 3,460 feet of shoreline, or 0.66 miles of the Kinni streambank flow through the center of the property.

With the purchase of the Jackson property, the KRLT has now permanently protected over 7 miles of streambank along the Kinni and over 600 acres of land in the lower Kinnickinnic River area. The KRLT has permanently protected 1,814 acres in the entire watershed. We are grateful to the Jacksons for giving us the opportunity to protect this exceptional property in perpetuity. They are leaving a legacy of a protected rare and beautiful river for generations to enjoy.



Cover Photo:  
The Jackson Property

All photos by Margaret  
Smith, except where noted.

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(cover story continued)

Funding for the Jackson property purchase came from the sale of the Kinni Cabin in March to a private buyer who donated a conservation easement on the Kinni Cabin property. The KRLT is applying for a Wisconsin Stewardship Fund Grant for additional funds needed towards the purchase of the Jackson property. The KRLT anticipates the property will be open next summer for public access for fishing and hiking as our Jackson Preserve.

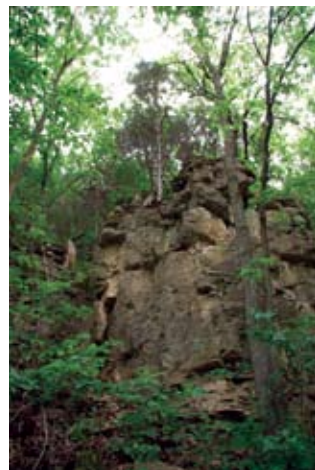


The Jackson glen

The property has steep topography, with wooded hillsides and several ravines draining to the Kinnickinnic River. There are floodplain areas and spectacular rock outcroppings on the northern portion of the property. A fairy-tale like glen contains a perennial tributary whose musical flow can be heard by those listening closely on the steep hillside above.

The property has exceptional bird habitat with its mixed hardwood forests including southern dry- mesic and white pine as well as pine relics and oak savannas. Rare goat prairie remnants are found on the steep hillsides and KRLT plans future restoration of these disappearing plant communities.

Purchasing the 45.5 acres represented an unsurpassed opportunity to permanently protect a unique, resource rich property through which the Kinnickinnic River flows, and ensure future generations have the opportunity to fully enjoy the wonderful, high quality Kinnickinnic River and utilize its banks for public access.



Rock formation on the  
Jackson property

The KRLT welcomes donations by members to help fund this beautiful property and its restoration. Please mark "Jackson Preserve" in the memo portion of your check. Thank you for your support

# Discovering the Kinni

by Rob Oden

Moving around the country, as I've done, in several academic positions, I take care to read as much as I can about the trout streams in the areas to which I'm moving. When my wife and I knew we were moving to Northfield, Minnesota, I did not need to do much reading. I'd fished the Driftless Zone briefly years ago, and I'd read lots of articles and chapters in books on trout fishing in Minnesota and Wisconsin. It all sounded pretty good, but I thought I knew better: writers about fishing, like those of us who fish, tend to exaggerate. Very few 18" browns really are a foot and a half long, and very few waters fish as well as advertised.

In the case of the Kinni, I was both right and wrong. I was right that the fishing was not as advertised. I was wrong, however, directionally: the fishing was *better* than proclaimed. First time I fished the Kinni – the first time – I came home and said to my wife, Teresa: "I've fly-fished since about the time I could walk; I've fished across the country and partially across the globe; the uncle who taught me how to fish told me, when I was thirteen years old, that I'd now fished every significant drainage in Montana, Alberta, and British Columbia; but, I think I love the Kinni most."

What is it about this river that prompts such immediate and lasting love – not just admiration and affection, but love? It's the country through which the Kinni flows, both the rolling Wisconsin farm land of the upper river and the almost spookily isolated gorge. It's the however-many-there-are-today wild browns per stream mile, with the occasional native fish in the upper reaches. It's the size of the Kinni, big enough to hold surprises, but small enough to be manageable and approachable and companionable. It's those regular hatches: I've fished the Battenkill for decades, and I've almost never seen the reputed Hendrickson hatch, nor have I seen many Hexes in Michigan; but the Blue Winged Olives and other mayflies are there on the Kinni when they are supposed to be. It's running into folks like Dave Norling and his dog – the former fishing, always, cane, and gathering morels whenever he spots a dead elm.

Maybe it's this last observation that is the key: I love the Kinni because so many others I respect love the river. But love, like everything that matters most in life, is ephemeral. While time there is, we have, all of us who love the Kinni, to give and do all we can for this beautiful, haunting little river.

Rob Oden grew up in South Dakota, from which he fished the western half of the country; he went to college in New England, then taught Near Eastern religions and languages at Dartmouth College for fifteen years, has now served as a college president for nearly two decades, and is currently President of Carleton College.



Carleton President, Rob Oden (right) teaches a fly fishing course to students.

Photo courtesy of Carleton College

# KRLT Receives A Bequest

Longtime KRLT supporter, Stephen Budd, passed away in November 2006. Mr. Budd moved to the Twin Cities in 1948, joining Dain Rauscher as a broker. He retired in 2000 after 35 years with the firm. Mr. Budd enjoyed the outdoors, including golf and fly fishing. His son, Derrick Budd, also a long time supporter of the KRLT, remarked that his father realized the Kinnickinnic River needed to be protected and supported his son's suggestion to leave a bequest to the KRLT to support its river protection efforts. This past spring, the KRLT received a substantial bequest from the Stephen Budd estate and a request that it be used to provide a handicap accessible area on the river. The KRLT is honored to receive this gift and

looks forward to providing access to our beautiful river for people of all abilities to enjoy. We are very grateful to the Budd family for this wonderful bequest which will be a source of enjoyment for so many.

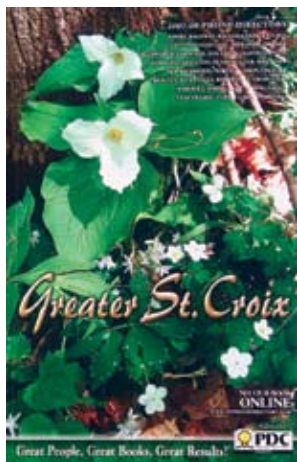
If you would like more information about remembering the KRLT in your will or estate, please contact the KRLT office at 715-425-5738. Bequests and memorials are a wonderful means for honoring a loved one and protecting this exceptional river for generations to enjoy for years to come.



Photo: Stephen Budd,  
Photo courtesy of the Budd family.

## Sharing the Beauty of the Kinni

A photo of spring blooming flowers, taken by Margaret Smith, is featured on the 2007 Greater St. Croix Phone Directory cover, distributed to over 69,000 homes and businesses. The photo was taken in a woodland outside River Falls and features



2007 Greater St. Croix Directory

trillium, spring beauty, false rue anemone and mayapple. The KRLT received \$2,500 of free advertising in the directory, including a cover credit. In addition, the KRLT has over 113 postcard images of the Kinnickinnic River, the local countryside, downtown River Falls, and the University. The postcards are sold at Freeman Drug in downtown River Falls.

The KRLT created its second notecard series entitled "Character of the Kinni" which features 5 notecards and envelopes. Each card captures the beauty and character of the Kinnickinnic River watershed with an explanation of each characteristic on the card's back.

The 5 card notecard set is \$10 and can be ordered by sending a check, marked "notecards" to the KRLT, PO Box 87, River Falls, WI 54022.



"Character of the Kinni" notecards

# Remembering Bruce Foster

by Dan Wilcox

Former KRLT Board member Bruce “Fish” Foster passed away last March. He was a legendary figure in River Falls, a merry gap-toothed giant leprechaun who meant so much to so many.

Bruce was born in River Falls in 1936, a descendant of Judge Joel Foster, founder of the city. His father, Earl Foster, was an outdoorsman and taught Bruce how to catch trout at an early age. Fishing became a life-long passion for Bruce who took countless young people on expeditions and taught them how to fish. Earl Foster was also the president of the River Falls Rod and Gun Club. Bruce, Earl, Bruce’s brother Jim, and Rod and Gun Club members worked with local landowners on many projects to improve the Kinni in the 1950s which at that time was suffering the effects of too many cows in the river.

Bruce helped his father and brother build the Foster mobile home park at the south end of Lake George in River Falls to provide low-cost housing for GI’s returning home after World War II.

Bruce was a historian for River Falls. He worked with the Pierce County Historical Society to document the early days of the City. Dressed in period costume, Bruce gave talks about the history of River Falls and the Kinni for the local cable television station.

Bruce was one of my best friends. After 30 years of work and fun with Bruce Foster, I have so many fond memories of our times together, it’s overwhelming. Carol and I first moved to River Falls in

1976. We were newly married and living in an old farmhouse east of River Falls. Bruce was running the Animal Center out on Highway 29. I guess that’s where we first met. Bruce and I hit it off right away, both of us being fishermen, hunters, dog lovers, and Eagle Scouts.

Bruce really enjoyed cooking fish for a crowd. After catching trout under the Swinging Bridge in Foster’s Hole on the South Fork, Bruce cooked lots of fish for the opening day of “Nick Jadinak Memorial” fish fries in Glen Park for many years. On one memorable opening day, Bruce showed off an 18-inch-long brook trout that he caught in the South Fork.

Having grown up on the Kinni, and having worked on many conservation projects to restore it, and knowing nearly everyone in town, Bruce was natural to

serve on the KRLT Board. He evaluated many properties for protection as a member of the Land Committee. Bruce had the “inside track” of lifetime friendships to many landowners in the watershed. Bruce penned eloquent letters to the River Falls Journal urging the city to remove the hydropower dams on the river.

These are just a few of my memories of Bruce Foster. There are countless more; about his daily good deeds, his compassion, his conservation ethic, his many friends, the rampant foolishness and joy that he instigated. We will remember him fondly and will be talking about him for decades to come. The Kinni is a better river because of Bruce.



Bruce Foster loved fish and fishing!  
Photo courtesy of Dan Wilcox

# Keeping the Kinni Clean

Over 115 volunteers participated in the Kinnickinnic River Land Trust's River Cleanup on Saturday, May 19, 2007. Over 200 bags of trash and various miscellaneous items were found along the banks of the Kinnickinnic River. Volunteers cleaned the Kinni fishing access parking lots north of town as well as through the city portion, including the White Pathway, Glen Park, along the lower river to County Rd. F, as well as the State Park area where the Kinni enters the St. Croix. Canoes were used to pull litter from the river and Lake George, and volunteers walked the banks to pick up litter. Collected were pop cans, bottles, trash, cigarette butts, plastic containers, paper, bicycles, batteries and tires. Thanks to all our volunteers for their outstanding efforts!

Special thanks to River Falls Tire Company for volunteering to take tires and batteries, to RiverLand Laser for volunteering to host the dumpster, and to Waste Management for donating dumpsters for the trash.



Thanks to all our volunteers!



St. Croix Valley's Troop 2190 Cadette Girl Scouts completed their Silver Star Award in late spring. Working with the City of River Falls, the troop applied "No Dumping, Drains To Kinni" weatherproof decals to the River Falls downtown storm sewers. The decals are a visible reminder to the community that local storm sewers bring litter, sediment, chemicals and heat from the streets directly into the Kinni. Thank you Troop 2190!

# SPLASH!



View near the Kinni Cabin



KRLT rain garden brochure



A new bench at the River Drive access site



Marty Engel, DNR Fisheries Biologist, measures a nearly 16 inch brook trout caught on a Kinni Fest field trip

## Kinni Cabin

The Kinni Cabin was sold in March to Jessica Kramer who donated a conservation easement on its 3 acres of land. The KRLT worked for many months on the sale and the easement. Jessica Kramer wrote the Board:

“...I feel humbled, honored and proud to live in such a special place, and have every intention of doing my part to maintain and preserve its character and pristine nature for many years to come. Thank you all so very much.”

## Rain Gardens

The KRLT completed its area school rain garden project with the creation of a brochure that was sent across the State of Wisconsin to other schools. The brochure is a tool to encourage educators to create rain gardens through the development of partnerships within their own communities, and to use the gardens as learning laboratories across a variety of disciplines. KRLT's brochure was designed by volunteer graphic designer Jessie Rupnow, and funding was provided through the Wisconsin Environmental Education Board.

## New Benches

The KRLT would like to thank Wayne Augustin and his woodworking students at the Renaissance Academy in River Falls for building 4 comfortable benches which are now at the Swinging Gate and River Drive public access sites and at Kelly Creek. Funding for supplies was generously provided by Arrow Building Center and the River Falls Rotary.

## Kinni Fest

The KRLT was one of the sponsors of KinniFest, held in early June at Glen Park. Field trips included learning about insects of the Kinni as well as the DNR monitoring of fish populations. Trout Unlimited also held a fly fishing clinic. Our thanks to all who participated and helped with KinniFest.



Kinnickinnic River Land Trust  
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 River Falls, WI 54022

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Kinnickinnic River Land Trust Field Trip Series - 2007

- Prairies of the Kelly Creek Preserve – Tuesday, August 21st at 7:00 p.m. Visit our different prairie restoration sites at our Kelly Creek Preserve with prairie expert Harvey Halvorsen.
- Fish of the Kinni - Thursday, September 20th at 6:30 p.m. Witness how fisheries managers find out how many and what types of fish are in the Kinni. You will also learn about fish habitat and what needs trout have to survive.
- Geology of the Kinni River Canyon – Saturday, September 29th at 1:00 p.m. Join us on a hike in the upper Kinnickinnic Canyon to see river landforms, bedrock, and other geological features. Learn how the area changed from a shallow sea millions of years ago to the Canyon we see today.
- South Fork Stream Restoration – Saturday, October 20th, at 9:00 a.m. This field trip includes a tour of the South Fork of the Kinnickinnic River stream restoration efforts. If we are lucky we may even get to see spawning Brook Trout.

Directions to the meeting locations will be sent via mail. The cost of each field trip is \$5, payable to KRLT. Indicate your trip preference and the number of people attending on the memo line of your check. Call 715-425-5738 with any questions. There is no cost for children under the age of 18. Please mail your payment, to KRLT, PO Box 87, River Falls, WI 54022

**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.

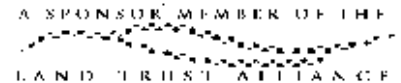
Membership Categories:

- Youth \$10
- Contributor \$15 – \$34
- Friend \$35 – \$99
- Sponsor \$100 – \$199
- Benefactor \$200 – \$499
- Patron \$500 – \$999
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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  
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ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

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