

# Kinni Keeper

A publication of the Kinnickinnic River Land Trust



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### *Exclusive!*

2009 Kinni Calendar  
and “Winter in the  
Watershed” Note  
Card Set! See Back Page.

## “Get to Know Your Forests” Field Day

by Maggie Hewitt, KRLT summer intern

KRLT hosted a Field Day on Saturday, May 31, entitled “Get to Know Your Forests” on property along Pierce County Road FF, including land protected through a donated conservation easement. Over 80 attendees including KRLT members, Master Gardeners, and residents of surrounding communities learned about many of the bird species, invasive species, and other plant and animal species living underneath a forest, as well as how to sustainably manage woodlands. The day started early with an advanced birding session where more than 40 species of birds were identified.

I worked with Troy Meacham, an invasive species specialist. Troy brought samples of six of the major invasive plant species of the upper Midwest: European honeysuckle, garlic mustard, buckthorn, Dame’s rocket, spotted knapweed, and wild parsnip. He also brought a weed wrench, used to pull buckthorn and other deep-rooted invasive plants out of the ground, and three liquid treatment samples including bark oil blue (a mineral oil that smells like fruit punch), Garlon 4 (triclopyr), and glyphosate. Troy also brought a chainsaw for use on plants too thick for nippers to clip.

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Field day participants learn about the forest floor.

Photo by Mike Miller

## Executive Director's Message

### 15 Years of Protecting the Kinni— KRLT Aims High for the Next 15!

Can you believe it? This year the Kinnickinnic River Land Trust (KRLT) is celebrating 15 years of working with the community to protect the natural resources and scenic beauty of the Kinnickinnic River Watershed.

Incorporated by a group of visionary local landowners in 1993, the KRLT has been working literally day and night with local citizens, other non-profit organizations, local, state and federal government partners to protect the Kinni and its watershed.

Our success to date has been fantastic! We have protected nearly 2,100 acres of critical lands in strategic locations within the Kinnickinnic River Watershed consisting of 26 private conservation easements, 4 cooperative projects with Wisconsin DNR, and the establishment of 3 KRLT preserves.

We are well on our way to ensuring that future generations will have a cold, clear and clean Kinnickinnic River to enjoy...but much more remains to be done.

This year we have improved our finance and accounting systems and adopted a new

fiscal year so look for our combined FY2007 and FY2008 annual report later this year. We have also applied for accreditation from the national Land Trust Accreditation Commission and we will report to you on our progress over the next year.

KRLT is now embarking on a journey for the next 15 years. We need you now more than ever before to help keep our programs strong and to provide resources to acquire additional critical lands. This year — we will ask you to continue to support our operations through your donations — and will ask you to pledge a special gift to provide the capital necessary to acquire approximately 1,000 acres of priority lands to better protect the Kinni. ←

*Our success to date has been fantastic...but much more remains to be done.*

*We hope that you, like the KRLT Board Members have done, will step up to the plate and give generously to support these important efforts.*

## Board Members

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## Did you miss the KRLT 2007 Annual Report?

At the KRLT Annual Meeting, the Board of Directors approved changing the fiscal year from a January–December calendar year to a July 1–June 30 fiscal year. With this change, KRLT will be issuing a one time 18 month Annual Report later this year which will include activities from January 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008. In 2009, the KRLT will return to a 12 month Annual Report which will highlight land protection, fiscal and membership activities completed in the new fiscal year July 1, 2008– June 30, 2009. ←

and over 8 miles of river stream bank!

## “Get to Know Your Forests” Field Day

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*The most important thing is to know what you’ve got, how it lives, and then come up with a plan of action to eliminate it.*

Troy explained that the most important thing is to know what you’ve got, how it lives, and then come up with a plan of action to eliminate it. The most common invasive species is buckthorn and Troy recommended removing isolated populations on your property before working your way into more infested areas.

Garlic mustard is a biennial nuisance plant with edible leaves that produce hundreds of seeds per plant. Garlic mustard spreads easily through many carriers including humans (pant cuffs, shoes, camping equipment, vehicles), animals, and flowing water. The most effective way of controlling garlic mustard is to hand pull and tamp the soil down after pulling to eliminate further seed germination.

Watch out for wild parsnip. The juices from the leaves, stems, and flower heads will cause blisters to form on the affected skin areas especially in hot, sunny conditions. Be sure to wear protective layering to avoid the toxic juices from coming in contact with your skin. Early detection and eradication is the best way to control wild parsnip. The goal is to prevent the plants from seeding.

After a sunny, breezy morning, KRLT’s Executive Director Nelson French cooked up some homemade Sorci Family Italian Roast Porketta served alongside chips, pickles, and chocolate chip cookies. An evaluation by the participants rated the field day as ‘excellent’ and “substantive.” It was a wonderful event filled with fun, food, education, and meeting other folks who are interested in land protection. ➡

## Four other concurrent field day sessions were held including:

- Help your Forest Recover: Fight Invasive Species (leader Troy Meacham of LandCraft Seed and Services)
- Life Beneath the Trees (leaders Harvey Halvorsen and Darcy Kind of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources [WI DNR])
- Become a Birder (leaders Larry Persico and Dan Beran, avid local birders)
- Sustainably Manage Your Woodlands (leaders Gary Zielske, WI DNR Forester for Pierce County and Don Arnosti of the Community Forestry Resource Center).

## About The Author

Maggie Hewitt graduated in May 2008 from the University of Wisconsin-River Falls with a major in conservation and an interest in outdoor activities. She was a volunteer intern with KRLT this summer.

## Kelly Creek Preserve Stewardship Update

Trudy Popenhagen of Xcel Energy Community Relations presents KRLT Executive Director Nelson T. French with a check from the Xcel Energy Foundation for \$1000 towards the Kelly Creek Interpretation and Education project. The KRLT is seeking an additional \$9,000 to fully fund this environmental and interpretative signage project. Please contact the office if you or your business would like to support this great educational project. ➡



## Volunteer of the Year

At the April 12, 2008 KRLT Annual Meeting, the Board of Directors presented Greg Seitz, pictured with his wife Katie, with the KRLT 2007 Volunteer of the Year Award for his help in revamping the KRLT’s website.





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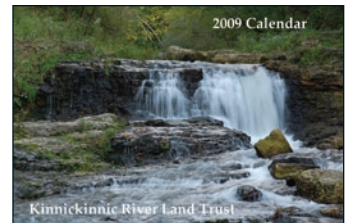
KRLT's exclusive 2009 Kinni Calendar featuring fabulous photos of the Kinni and its watershed is now available for sale! These special calendars make great holiday gifts for home or office for anyone who loves the Kinni (including you)! The calendar features photos of the upper and lower Kinni, its tributaries, and beautiful countryside.

The KRLT is also pleased to offer a new set of exclusive note cards, "Winter in the Watershed" which highlight the spectacular beauty of the Kinni River in winter. This set of 5 note cards/blank inside and envelopes is KRLT's newest series of note cards.

**EXCLUSIVE 2009 Kinni Calendar and "Winter in the Watershed" Note Card Set!**

**I would like to purchase:**

- 2009 Kinni Calendar (\$20/Each) Qty: \_\_\_\_ Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- "Winter in the Watershed" Note Cards with Envelopes (\$10/Set) Qty: \_\_\_\_ Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_



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More information is available on the KRLT website [www.kinniriver.org](http://www.kinniriver.org).