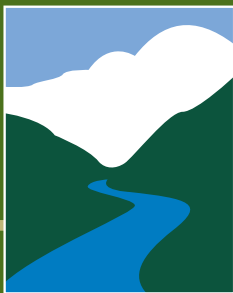


Spring 2017



KinniKeeper

A publication of the Kinnickinnic River Land Trust

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R4F River Falls Fly Fishing Festival

Friday, March 3 – Saturday, March 4

Weekend of Flies, Films, Food, and Spirits for the Kinni



The Films: Friday, March 3

5:00 pm – Doors open | 7:00 pm – Films begin

UWRF University Center | Riverview Ballroom

501 Wild Rose Ave. | River Falls, WI



Better hurry and purchase your tickets for the Annual Film Festival

We've sold out the last two years!

5:00 pm - Pre-Event

Social Gathering

Includes local artists, fly tying demos from some great local tyers, door prizes, bucket raffles, silent and live auctions, as well as food and beverages for purchase.

7:00 pm - The Films

The main event starts at 7 pm and features 6-7 films of exceptional quality, each with a running time of 10-30 minutes.

To see trailers for this year's films, go to www.flyfilmtour.com.

Be sure to stop by and visit us at our KRLT booth—we're giving away 2 YETI Hopper coolers! All new members at \$100 or more will receive an engraved YETI tumbler! In addition to generating fun, all proceeds from this fabulous event will benefit the Kinni conservation efforts of the KRLT!

Don't miss out on this fun event!

GET YOUR TICKETS TODAY

- Online at www.flyfilmtour.com
- Lund's Fly Shop in River Falls
- KRLT office



The Pour: Saturday, March 4

R4F Craft Beer and Wine Pour

5:00 pm – VIP Hour | 6:00 pm – General Admission

River Falls Golf Club | 2120 E Division St | River Falls, WI

New this year to the R4F is The Craft Beer & Wine Pour, an enjoyable Saturday evening with Name Brands and Boutique offerings!



The weekend fun continues with The Pour! Enjoy appetizers all night and live music by singer/songwriter Tim Fast. Each person attending The Pour will receive a souvenir glass. **Come and toast the Kinni!**

BUY TICKETS

- Online at www.kinniriver.org/r4f
- River Falls Locations:
 - Dick's Hometown Liquor
 - DeVine Liquors
 - River Falls Golf Club
 - KRLT office

Breweries scheduled to attend: Barley John's Brewing Company, Door County Brewing Company, Lucette Brewing Company, Pitchfork Brewing Company, Potosi Brewing Company, Rush River Brewing Company, and Summit Brewing Company.
Wineries include: Belle Vinez Vineyard & Winery, Maiden Rock Cidery, and 65 Vines Winery.

Both events benefit the Kinnickinnic River Land Trust.

For more information, go to www.kinniriver.org/r4f. Hope to see you there!

Random Casts with Chris Bye and Kent Johnson

Kent Johnson has a long-standing love for the Kinnickinnic River. An ardent KRLT supporter and former board member, Kent is the manager of environmental monitoring for the Metropolitan Council in the Twin Cities, MN. If there is a stream or body of water in the metro area, Kent is probably familiar with it. He lives in Hudson with his wife Jan (their two grown sons live in Chicago and Minneapolis) and is an avid trout fisherman. He is also the go-to guy with any environmental science questions for the media. I was honored to grab a few minutes of his time for this installment of Random Casts.

When did you know you were going to make the study of streams your life's work?

It became clear to me midway through college at St. Olaf. My advisor, Dr. Jim Zischke, was a professor of biology with multiple EPA grants, and he worked on lakes and rivers all over MN. As a student, I got a lot of opportunities to learn from Dr. Zischke and be energized and inspired by his work.

Then I went to Grad School at Michigan Tech and studied aquatic ecology, and that's where I really got interested in streams, invertebrates and trout fishing. My cohorts were fishery biologists and they were always dragging me (with little resistance) onto trout streams. I was lucky to fish streams all over the UP with very knowledgeable people.

When you drive over the bridge of a stream, what do you see that most people don't?

I'm always curious as to what is in the stream. I want to know what's in the rocks - what makes up the stream's watershed and its influences. Streams are fascinating because they are constantly changing and nothing is static. That's part of my fascination. I'm still amazed how streams can be an endless source of water that reflects how we treat their watersheds.

What makes the Kinni unique or special compared to other streams in the area?

The Kinni is an amazing stream not just in this area, but anywhere. The cold water, landscape and biomass rank the Kinni as one of the top streams in the country. I talk to fishery biologists on a regular basis, and in their minds the Kinni is one of the very best streams/fisheries in the US. Few streams have the amount of groundwater and diverse habitat to support 6,000 – 7,000 trout per mile. Most streams warm up as the water progresses down river but the Kinni stays relatively cold for its entire run to the St. Croix River. That's due to the geology of the lower canyon and the numerous groundwater seeps. When you consider that the Kinni is relatively close to a large metro area, there are very few cold water resources that compare. It really is a special river.

The removal of the dams is a hot topic (both environmentally and politically). How far along are we at ascertaining if the dams should stay or go? Do we have enough data to make a decision?

From my perspective as a scientist, the removal of the dams will greatly benefit the river, and the ecosystem overall. I have collected and examined water temperature data since 1992, and we know the impoundments have a significant influence on the lower Kinni's temperature. Both Lake George and Lake Louise increase water temperature in the summer, which can be detrimental for trout and other coldwater invertebrates. The elevated temperatures below the impoundments also reduce the "cushion" that will be needed to combat the future impacts of climate change.

Also, with the dams we are losing about a mile of viable cold-water river in the heart of River Falls, and the "lakes" currently have very marginal recreational value.

However, data and information are two different things and I don't think we have done a good enough job helping the public

...in their minds the Kinni is one of the very best streams/fisheries in the US.

understand the value of dam removal. Both impoundments have significant sediment issues, which will need to be addressed whether the dams stay or go. If we can do a better job translating the current data into useful information for the public, the ecological and recreational benefits of removing the dams will be clear to most everyone.

Moving past the dam issue, how is the city of River Falls doing at protecting the Kinni?

The primary issue for River Falls is managing storm water run off. River Falls has been very progressive and ahead of most cities on storm water management, but still has room for progress. The city developed its storm water management plan in 1994, well in advance of current state and federal regulations on storm water management. In 2002, the city passed a storm water ordinance that requires all rain events up to 1.5 inches to be fully infiltrated into the ground. However, this ordinance only covers new developments and re-development projects.

The current challenge is how to manage storm water from previously-developed areas of the city. For instance, from Hwy MM to the top of Lake George there are 24 storm water discharges that flow directly into the Kinni without treatment. And storm water from the



southeast portion of River Falls and the UWRF campus drains into the South Fork. There are lots of tools and tactics available to deal with this, but they take time and money. Hopefully, storm water management will be an integral part of the city's current Kinni Corridor Study...

What are you seeing today that you did not see 25 years ago?

From a climate perspective, we are seeing greater episodic events with more extreme rainfall than in the past. This affects the river's flow, as well as its inhabitants. We don't know much about how invertebrates respond to habitat change, temperature change, and pollutants in the Kinni, as little monitoring has been conducted since Clarke Garry's intensive survey work in 1999. If you are a fish 16" or less, you live on invertebrates. The more we know about the "bugs" in the river, the better we can help the fish. Everything is connected.

People really need to know that climate change is at the forefront of our minds as scientists. Knowing the climate is changing - it is vital we act today to make sure the river is as healthy as possible. Minimizing storm water run off/pollutants and reducing factors that lead to higher water temperatures is sort of like putting armor on the river so it can survive future climate impacts.

Within the City of River Falls, the top things we can do to prepare the river for the future are remove the dams and continue to improve storm water management. Within the greater Kinni watershed, there is a significant opportunity to work with the agricultural community to reduce the impacts of storm water runoff on the Kinni and Lake St. Croix.

What's the strangest thing you have found or encountered during your years as a fresh water specialist?

Years ago I was sitting on a log on the banks of the Kinni gathering data from a temperature monitoring device into my laptop. As I was sitting very quietly, a mink appeared on the same log dragging a 12" trout behind him. I don't think the mink saw me, as it just continued on its way. It reinforced the idea that other animals fish the stream - not just us.

Final question – if you could only fish one pattern/fly on the Kinni for the rest of your life, what would it be?

Hard to say, but probably a blue wing olive. That's one of my favorites. Or a Trico? I love that hatch! Do I get two flies??

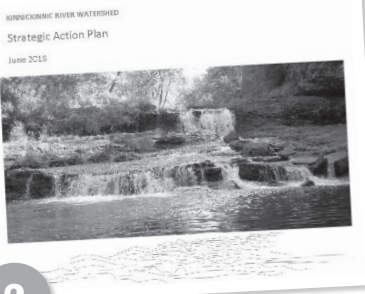
Kinni Watershed Update

As another spring approaches in the Kinnickinnic River watershed, much has been happening with the Kinnickinnic River Land Trust (KRLT) and our conservation partners to learn from the past and prepare for the future. Just about a year ago, the KRLT convened a group of our active watershed partners to develop an integrated pair of companion projects on the Kinni watershed that were published last June.



The **Community Report (1) on the Kinnickinnic River Watershed Project** details the results of the priority watershed project that was implemented throughout the Kinni watershed from 1999-2010. During this time period, more than \$1.8 million was invested in substantial rural and urban best management practices to improve water quality; however, trends in

the agricultural commodity markets at the same time led to offsetting withdrawals from other agricultural conservation programs and permanent land cover.



Building upon the work and knowledge from the **Community Report**, the KRLT and our partners developed a **Kinnickinnic River Watershed Strategic Action Plan (2)** to document and guide current and future initiatives for Kinni watershed conservation.

The Strategic Action Plan provides a vision, goals, objectives and strategic initiatives for our collective watershed efforts as a Kinni Watershed Partnership.

Both projects and reports were partially funded by the McKnight Foundation and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources with consultant services from Harmony Environmental. The reports are available from the KRLT office or on our website at www.kinniriver.org/kinnickinnic-river/watershed-publications/.



In keeping with the idea that plans are best when implemented, related actions are underway to implement the Strategic Action Plan. The UW-River Falls Kinni Consortium of faculty focused on Kinni-based research and teaching offered to host and coordinate the Kinni Watershed Partnership and the implementation of the plan. The Kinni Consortium is hosting quarterly Partnership meetings and organizing a major conference and workshop session for the St. Croix Summit on April 21-22 at UWRF. More information on the Kinni Consortium is available online at www.kinniconsortium.org.



Another strategic initiative included by the City of River Falls in the **Kinnickinnic River Watershed Strategic Action Plan** is the City's Kinni Corridor Project. This initiative is a two year project to examine and plan for six miles of the urban portion of the Kinni. Among a broad evaluation of Kinni issues and opportunities, the project will help the City Council decide the future and fate of the City's hydroelectric dams and their impoundments. KRLT Executive Director Dave Fodroczi has been appointed to the Kinni Corridor Project Committee which was established to guide the process. More information is available on the project website at www.kinnicorridor.org.

BE INVOLVED! *Your support is critical to accomplish our mission.*

MEMBERSHIP

- Become a member
- Renew your membership
- Become a *sustaining* member with a recurring monthly donation.

MEMORIAL OR TRIBUTE

- Give a gift in memory of someone
- Give a gift in tribute for a special occasion for you or someone else

DONATE A GIFT OF:

- Stock
- Real Estate
- Conservation Easement
- Include KRLT in your will or estate plan

VOLUNTEER

- Professional Services
- Office Assistance
- Easement/Preserve Monitoring
- Annual *KinniRiverCleanUp™*

MATCHING GIFTS

Doubling your donation is easy when your employer (or former employer, if you are retired) matches gifts!

Volunteer hours are also paid for by some companies!

By using your employer's **matching gifts** and **volunteer programs**, you can easily increase the impact of your donation!



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River Land Trust
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River Falls, WI 54022

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Upcoming Events

Friday, March 3

R4F Fly Fishing Film Festival
See cover for details

Saturday, March 4

R4F Craft Beer and Wine Pour
See cover for details

Thursday, March 9

Kinni Corridor Project Tech Talk #2
River Ecology
River Falls Library • 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.
Get more information at www.kinnicorridor.org/.

Thursday, April 6

Kinni Corridor Project Tech Talk #3
Economic & Neighborhood Development
River Falls Library • 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.
Get more information at <http://www.kinnicorridor.org/>.

Saturday, April 29

24th Annual *KinniRiverCleanUp™*
Glen Park, River Falls • 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Come help keep the Kinni cold, clean and free . . . *forever* by removing trash from the Kinni and its watershed! Lunch will be provided by local sponsors. Watch for registration on our website at www.kinniriver.org or on Facebook.

Saturday, May 6

"Wings of Spring" Bird Festival
River Falls City Hall • 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

This free celebration of the migratory birds' journey from north Latin America and southern North America is hosted by the St. Croix Valley Bird Club. Say hello to KRLT board members and staff at our own booth and learn about your Land Trust.

Thursday, May 18

Kinni Corridor Project Tech Talk #4
Hydro Facilities & Relicensing
River Falls Library • 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.
Get more information at www.kinnicorridor.org/.