

1993-2013 KINNIKEEPER

20th Anniversary Special Edition



Kinnickinnic River Land Trust

"Long Live the Kinni!"

That was the hope of KRLT in the *Tenth Anniversary KinniKeeper*. At the time of the ten-year anniversary, KRLT was not only celebrating its past, but was already looking ahead to the future and wondering what KRLT and the Kinnickinnic River watershed would look like in 2013. There were no specific goals to be met, but there was the promise that KRLT would continue its hard work of protecting the Kinni and its watershed.

The KRLT board of directors, staff, landowners, volunteers and supporters had already protected 1,687 acres of land and 5 miles of Kinni shoreline. As we celebrate our 20-year anniversary, KRLT has succeeded in adding to that legacy by protecting an additional 1,000 acres of land and 4 miles of shoreline.

Today, we have the same opportunity to reflect upon our past and look ahead to KRLT's 30-year anniversary. We would like to extend that same hope for the future of KRLT: continue to build upon the successes and hard work of the past to help make the Kinni and its watershed even better for tomorrow.

Thank you to all of our supporters over the past 20 years. The success of KRLT is a testament to how strongly the Kinni flows through the hearts of each and every one of you! Please enjoy reflecting upon the Kinni as you read through this *KinniKeeper* and remember to look ahead to a future where the hope continues to be:

"Long Live the Kinni!"

The Kinnickinnic River Land Trust was founded in 1993 by a group of concerned landowners and community leaders committed to the protection of the exceptional natural resources found in the watershed of the Kinnickinnic River. KRLT is a non-profit, 501(c)3 tax exempt organization.

Founding Steering Committee Members

Ray Anderson
Phil Betzel
Pat Casanova
Robert Chambers
Judy Edgar
Greg Erickson
Susan Goode
Sheila Harsdorf
Skip James
Doug Johnson
Rita Kozak
Richard Magnuson
Finette Magnuson
Mike Miller
Mike Most
Keith Rodli
Angie Tornes

Founding Board Members

Barbara Butler
Pat Casanova
Robert Chambers
Judy Edgar
Susan Goode
Art Kaemmer
Vern Kusilek
Paddy McNeely
Virgil Nylander
Keith Rodli
Dan Wilcox



Photo by: Rob Chambers

Looking Back...

KRLT Highlights from 1993 to 2013

1993

Kinnickinnic River Land Trust Founded

December 14th KRLT receives Articles of Incorporation and 501(c)3 tax exempt status

Kinnickinnic River nominated as a Wisconsin Priority Watershed Project.

1994

1995

Florence, Clarke and Robert Chambers donate conservation easement on 22 acres on the banks of the Kinni River in the Town of Clifton.

Greg Erickson and Jamie McNaughton donate a conservation easement on 68 acres of land along the river in the lower Kinnickinnic canyon.

Maureen Ash and Richard Purdy donate a conservation easement on 195 acres of their Rocky Branch farm.

1996

1997

5 easements totaling 190 acres are donated by Rob Chambers, Doug Johnson and Patrice Veit, Greg Erickson and Jamie McNaughton, and Roald Evensen and Pamela Thurow.

KRLT purchases most of Kelly Creek from Allan Klein and Harriet Lansing. They also donate a conservation easement on the remaining 22.5 acres of land allowing KRLT to permanently protect an entire tributary to the Kinnickinnic River.

1998

1999

KRLT purchases 53 acres of the "Swinging Gate", a river access point on Highway 65, north of River Falls.

Keith and Barb Avise donate a 20-acre conservation easement of wetlands, Kinni River frontage and uplands. They also donate daytime public use of the riverbank that borders the Kinni.



Photo by: Burt Levy

20 Years of Accomplishments:

33 Conservation Easements

2,800+ acres of protected land

3 Preserves

9+ miles of protected stream bank

2000

KRLT purchases the 110-acre Kersten Farm in the Town of Warren, which includes the mainstem of the Kinni, the South Branch tributary, springs, wetlands, native plants and upland habitat. The property also borders 100-acre Concordia land and over 100 acres of DNR land.

Bill Rasmussen Family and Mary Jane Madden donate 25 acres of land in the lower Kinnickinnic canyon adjoining the Kinnickinnic State Park. This is the first outright fee land donation to KRLT.

2001

2002

KRLT purchases conservation easement on 280-acre farm owned by Jerry and Judy Edgar, located in the Town of Clifton. This is KRLT's largest and most expensive single conservation project in the organization's history.

John and Linda Eggert donate conservation easement on 130 acres of land in the Town of River Falls, South Fork watershed.

KRLT purchases conservation easement on 253-acre Rohling Acres Farm owned by John and Jeanne Rohl located in the Town of Clifton.

2003

2004

"Headwaters Project Area" is completed with the protection of the remaining 17 acres of Dorwes Farms in Town of Warren owned by David and Cheryl Cowles. This is in addition to 23 acres of land that were protected in 2003.

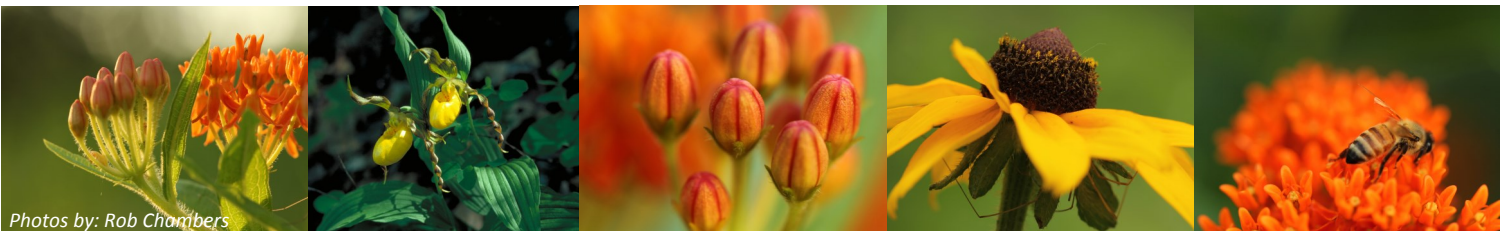
Brian and Sheila Schils donate a conservation easement on 10 acres in Town of River Falls.

2005

2006

Richard and Finette Magnuson donate a conservation easement on 10 acres of land south of lower Kinnickinnic canyon.

KRLT purchases remaining 14 acres and "Kinni Cabin" from Rasmussen Family and Mary Jane Madden.



Photos by: Rob Chambers

2007

KRLT purchases conservation easement on 195 acres on Lyle and Roberta Johnson's farm located in Towns of River Falls and Clifton.

KRLT purchases 45.5 acres from Eric and Jerilyn Jackson in lower Kinnickinnic canyon.

KRLT purchases conservation easement on 127.4 acres on Dwayne and Lois Johnson property in the lower Kinnickinnic canyon located in Town of River Falls.

2008

2009

KRLT is the first Wisconsin land trust to be awarded national accreditation by the Land Trust Accreditation Commission.

KRLT, with the assistance of many partnering groups, purchases 204 acres from Vern and Becky Nagel in St. Croix County. KRLT intends to donate the property to the WI-DNR for inclusion in the Western Prairie Habitat Restoration Area.

KRLT partners with Wisconsin DNR and Kinni Chapter of Pheasants Forever to acquire 232 acres from the Manion family in Town of Clifton. 158.4 acres is transferred to DNR as wildlife management area with the remainder of the property sold to private landowners with conservation easements.

2010

2011

Vern and Becky Nagel along with family and friends come together to celebrate the formal dedication of the Nagel Wildlife Management Area. The area includes a parking lot, signage and hiking trails for the public to enjoy.

KRLT completes the School District of River Falls' *School Forest Protection Project*. KRLT was able to protect the 55 acre School Forest property with a permanent conservation easement and facilitate a protected land exchange with neighbors Lyle and Roberta Johnson.

2012

2013

KRLT finalizes its first urban project with the acquisition and protection of 4.34 acres of land and 700 feet of Kinni River frontage on Riverside Drive in the City of River Falls. With a generous donation from attorney Chuck Bye, the previous owner, and a significant contribution from the City of River Falls to match state Stewardship funding, the 2010 transaction is completed, and the property is transferred to the City with a reserved conservation easement as conservancy land.

*We work with the community
to conserve and protect
the beauty and health of the
Kinnickinnic River and its watershed*

Kinnickinnic River Land Trust

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Photo by: Rob Chambers