

Summer 2016



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# KinniKeeper

A publication of the Kinnickinnic River Land Trust

*Join us...*

CHILL ON THE HILL

**Summer  
Concert**

**SERIES  
2016**

UNIVERSITY OF  
WISCONSIN **River Falls**  
DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS | STUDENT INVOLVEMENT

In partnership with the University of Wisconsin River Falls, we are proud to be sponsoring:

**ST. CROIX VALLEY COMMUNITY BAND**

*Celebrating Nature: Rivers, Lakes, and Our Beautiful America*

**Tuesday, July 26**

**@ Melvin Wall Amphitheatre • 7PM • FREE**

*Grilled Food, Ice Cream & Beverages available for purchase*

*You are invited to join us...*

for this **KRLT member appreciation event** on the banks of the South Fork which pays tribute to the natural beauty in our own backyard and across our country!

**As our special guests, KRLT members who pre-register for the event will enjoy:**

- ✓ **Reserved seating** in an optimal location
- ✓ **KinniBucks** to spend on grilled food, ice cream or beverages

**Join today if you are not a member!**

Contact Kim at 715-425-5738 or [kim@kinniriver.org](mailto:kim@kinniriver.org) for your membership status!  
Register now to reserve your spot and your KinniBucks!

Contact Kim or visit [www.kinniriver.org/upcoming-events](http://www.kinniriver.org/upcoming-events)

This event is our way of saying *thank you* to our **KRLT members!**

# Random Casts

by Chris Bye with Andy Roth

*The inaugural installment of "Random Casts" features an interview with Andy Roth aka "the Goat." "Random Casts" consists of random questions cast toward the unsuspecting interviewee and may become a regular feature of the KRLT newsletter. Andy is a longtime fly fishing guide on the lower Kinni and considered a "pseudo celebrity" in the fly fishing universe. A long time supporter of the KRLT, Andy's musings (among other information) can be found at [graygoatflyfishing.com](http://graygoatflyfishing.com). Andy was the 2015 KRLT Volunteer of the Year.*

## Compare the Kinni of 30 years ago to today.

Very similar....We always judge fishing on size and numbers, but that is not what it's about. The good thing is I see the river reasonably unchanged – which is amazing when you consider how the usage of the Kinni (both lower and upper) has increased. Years ago the "fishing opener" seemed to be a bigger deal, but over the years the "every day" use of the river has increased significantly.

## What keeps you up at night with concern regarding the river 30 years from now?

Regardless of the source, I am always concerned about the temperature of the river. If the average temperature increases over time, it will have a significant effect on the trout and river ecosystem. For the Kinni to be healthy it needs cold, clear ground water. We do have the ability (to a certain degree) to control the water that flows into the Kinni from the watershed. For this reason, I am really interested in the dam removal project, and how that will impact the long-term health of the river. I think the removal of the impoundments will only make it better, more healthy.

## Hypothetical question that really has no answer. If you could go back in time and fish the Kinni 400 years ago, what do you think it would be like? Lots of big fish?

Of course no one can really answer this question – but it is fun to think about. Just walking down Jackson Preserve provides evidence of multiple geologic eras just by looking at the plant life. The lower you get in the canyon, the further back you go. The lower Kinni is part of the driftless area, where the upper Kinni did experience glacier drift. The Kinni lies right in the geological transition zone, which makes this a really interesting question. I would like to believe that except for the farmland bordering the river, the make up of the trees (pines, oak, etc.) would be remarkably similar to what we see today. We know the fishing would be different as the brown trout were not introduced until the 1880's, so the predominate fish would be brook trout. In my fantasy, the Kinni was

full of large, hungry brook trout. I think an interesting question is if we managed the fishery 50 years ago like we do today, with a predominance of catch and release, primarily of the larger breeding fish, would we have a larger population of big brook trout?

## You know it's going to be a challenging day on the river when....

When the sun is high and the water is low, clear and spooky. These factors always make catching numbers of fish much more difficult. Surprisingly enough, some of the largest fish I have caught on the Kinni have been under these conditions. Go figure!

## I knew I was going to spend the rest of my life fishing the Kinni when....

I grew up fishing still water (lakes), and the Kinni was my first experience with moving water when I came to UWRF in the late 70's. Part of what hooked me was the wilderness experience the lower canyon provided. Once I realized the river had fish, the game changed to learning how to best catch them. The fact that I could fish and be in a true wilderness setting AND stand in the water and explore the stream without needing a boat...I was hooked.

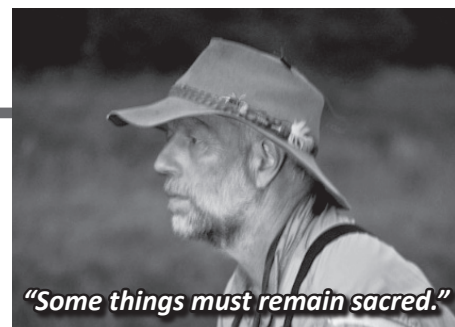
## A few years ago I was guiding a husband and wife when the wife encountered...

### When guiding, do you prefer beginner fly fishers, experts, or somewhere in between?

Skill level of the guest is not the determining factor. Fly fishing for anyone, regardless of ability, is a means to "sanity" in a world that is so overrun with information, connections and electronic overload. Of course, this is coming from me who does not even have a cell phone. For me, it much more about sharing the river with people and showing them all the amazing places on the Kinni. Everyone likes their home stream, but there is really something special about the rivers in this area. Weirdly, I was a bit miffed when they opened up the Jackson Preserve. For years and years I had the mid canyon sort of all to myself. However, I soon realized for the river to be protected, it needed to be seen and experienced. I got over my greediness quickly when I really thought it through.

### What's the strangest thing you have encountered on the lower kinni?

This answer could go a million different directions, as you can imagine. One story definitely comes to mind, which is maybe not the strangest, but certainly one of the most amazing. A few years ago I was guiding a



husband and wife when the wife encountered a family of river otters. There were four pups and a mother. The pups appeared curious and swam in a perfect circle around the woman, who stood in calm silence and seemed as curious as the pups. The mother otter was on the bank barking at her brood, but like any group of children, they ignored their mom and circled her 3-4 times at least. It was one of those surreal moments when nature and humans connected in a way that is rarely seen.

**An old timer once told me he only fished with a size 14 adams dry fly, and any fly fishing with nymphs was not really "fly fishing." As a guy with the license plate "NYMFUR," I am sure you have a comment on this.**

(Laughs uncomfortably) In my "humble" opinion, an angler with the ability to fish dry flies, wet flies, emergers and streamers will catch more fish than those that only use one type of fly or technique. It really comes down to the overriding concepts of catching versus fishing, and which is more important. The great thing about fly fishing is that it should always be more about the fishing than the catching, and each person is allowed to define it the way they feel most comfortable. After all, if fly fishing promotes and provides sanity, then each individual should be able to achieve sanity on the river in the way that works best for them...be it dries, nymphs, streamers, etc. As a guide, I always emphasize fishing over catching, but of course catching is fun. Fly fishing is humbling enough, and the more we can do to remove our egos from the entire endeavor, the happier everyone should be.... right? maybe?

### Is there a best age to introduce a child to fly fishing?

No.. It's putting the kids in the environment and on the river that is important. I think letting kids explore and be in the river that is going to instill the ethos of the sport. It seems if they know that mom or dad fly fish - that is what matters. The fishing seems to come when they are ready.

### If you had to fish one fly for the rest of your days, would you feel comfortable sharing this with the esteemed membership of the KRLT?

Seriously? Absolutely not. Some things must remain sacred.

# KRLT & A New Generation of Kinni Kids

KRLT celebrates the youth in our community for their efforts in working to keep the Kinni cold, clean and free . . . **forever!** Take a look at some of their recent accomplishments:



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Above are pictures of some of the Kinni Kids who joined us to clean up the Kinni: **(1) Heartland Montessori and River Falls Public Montessori Elementary** students decorated and filled snack bags for the 140 volunteers who made a difference at our *KinniRiverCleanUp™*. **(2)** River Falls High School students Britta Carlson and Nan Stifter enjoying lunch with UWRF student Sophia Koch. **(3)** **Falcon Falls 4-H** and **(4)** **Town and Country 4-H** showing some of the trash they removed.



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**(5)** In May, Mitchell Wolf and fellow Boy Scouts installed 15 pollinator bee houses at our Kelly Creek Preserve as part of an **Eagle Scout** project. **(6)** A group of 30 **Meyer Middle School** students cleared invasive plants, **(7)** built and installed a dozen blue bird houses at our Jackson Preserve for their annual service learning day.

**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!

Contact the KRLT office for information about any of the methods of giving • **Phone: 715-425-5738** • **Email: [info@kinniriver.org](mailto:info@kinniriver.org)**



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## Upcoming Events

### **Friday, July 8**

#### **River Falls Days Parade**

**6:30 p.m.—Main to Second Street**

Enjoy the River Falls Days Parade and watch for the KRLT float! Wave to Scrappy, dressed with trash collected from the *KinniRiverCleanUp™*, and use the garbage bag we will be handing out to collect your trash.

### **Saturday, July 9**

#### **River Falls Days**

**Noon—4:00 p.m.—City Hall Plaza**

Enjoy the Kinni—Celebrate the “River” and “Falls” in River Falls! An event celebrating the Kinni sponsored by the Kinnickinnic River Land Trust, Friends of the Kinni and other conservation and business partners. River related activities, displays and demos. Visit “Scrappy” before 2:00 p.m. and then watch Scrappy get undressed between 2:00 and 4:00 p.m.!

### **Tuesday, July 26**

#### **KRLT@ChillOnTheHill.FUN!**

**7:00 p.m.—Melvin Wall Ampitheatre, UWRF**

Join us for our KRLT member appreciation event! Celebrate nature with music by the St. Croix Valley Community Band. Pre-registered KRLT members will enjoy preferred seating and *KinniBucks* for purchasing food and refreshments!

### **Saturday, September 10**

#### **Kinni Guardian Recognition Dinner**

**4:30 p.m.**

This is a very special evening hosted by the KRLT to recognize our Kinni Guardians.

*Please Join Us!*