

Summer 2018



KinniKeeper

A publication of the Kinnickinnic River Land Trust

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Celebrating 25 YEARS of protecting the Kinni!

To Our Members and Friends:

Thank you for your continued support during an eventful year! As the Kinnickinnic River Land Trust (KRLT) enters into its 25th year, I am both grateful for and impressed by the continuing commitment from so many people to help preserve our beloved river and its watershed. Your efforts and contributions of time, talent and treasure have protected nearly half of the stream and its tributaries. Given the beauty of our landscapes and improved roadway access, we face new and intensified conservation challenges in the years ahead. I remain hopeful that with the high level of public awareness of the importance and uniqueness of the Kinni, combined with your passion and generosity, we will continue to make a positive difference.

Now that we are free from the burden of debt, we can expand our conservation footprint. We are focused on our networking with like-minded organizations to improve our effectiveness. We are also intent on developing new means to communicate the rationale, importance and urgency of our conservation work to members, donors, landowners and local government. It will take a team approach to accomplish our future work.

I hope we can continue to count on you to do your part in assuring that the Kinni runs cold, clean and free . . . forever!

Sincerely,
Dave Drewiske - Executive Director

KinniRiverCleanUp™

Our 24th annual KinniRiverCleanUp™, held on Saturday, April 28, was another success! A record 200 volunteers collected almost two dumpsters of garbage and recyclable materials. Many of the odd pieces of trash were used to “dress” our beloved mascot Scrappy.

The day started with volunteers enjoying the delicious hot coffee provided by WE Market Co-Op, signing in to get their assigned areas and then heading out to clear garbage from the Kinni and its watershed. Experienced paddlers checked in at Kinni Creek Lodge and Outfitters and were transported to the Upper Kinni where they began their CleanUp by water. They had so much fun they decided to spend the day on the river and hauled back bags of garbage and two mattresses!

After their hard work, volunteers enjoyed beverages and a delicious lunch cooked by the River Falls Rotary and provided by our sponsors: Ameriprise Financial-Wayne Wulf, CFP®, ChFC®, CLTC®, Best Maid Cookie Co., Bremer Bank-New Richmond, Catalyst Sports Medicine, Edward Jones Financial Advisors: Nick Jackson, CFP®, Brian McQuade, AAMS®, Vince Seidling, and Jim Williamson, Leitch Insurance Agency, Randy Cudd and Associates Keller Williams Realty Integrity, West Wind Supper Club, and Viking Coca-Cola.

Many thanks to our volunteers and sponsors for helping us keep the Kinni cold, clean and free . . . forever!



RIVER ROYALTY by Mike Hansen

It was shortly after the third night of our annual fly fishing weekend, where we had sat around a campfire feasting on freshly caught Brown Trout, wild leeks and Morel Mushrooms that the guys had harvested in the Clifton Hollow, that the term “*River Royalty*” was first introduced into my vocabulary. A friend of mine who owns an amazing home on the Kinnickinnic River, which we rented once or twice a year, commented that a meal like that was: “fit for *River Royalty*.” *River Royalty*. Hmmm. If there is such a people, such a clan, tribe, family — I would be honored to belong to it. *River Royalty*.

If there is such a clan, and I have a hunch there is, I believe them to be fly-fishermen (women); and to take it one step further — fly fishermen who passionately pursue the art and science of outsmarting the wily Trout in their natural surroundings using a fly rod and tiny hooks wrapped with animal hair and bird feathers, thread and whatever else one might think to wrap around it. Fly fishermen mind you, of every race, creed, gender, economic status, age and skill level, each and every one with a fly rod and artificial flies, seeking to outwit the elusive trout.

Each and every member of *River Royalty*, if there be such a family, has their own unique story. For instance: when and how were you first introduced to fly rods, fly casting, rivers, streams and little hooks wrapped with animal hair and feathers? What was the first river you waded into as you began your personal pursuit of native trout? Did you land any? Or, was it miles of wading and thousands of casts before you outsmarted and landed and released your first Brown, Brookie, Rainbow or Cutthroat Trout? And why did you pick up that fly rod again, after hours of futile casting, arm pump, knotted tippet and fly line and the agonizing “*cracking of the whip*” sound followed by the annoying, redundant “ten and two” reminder of your mentor as he/she coached you from the sidelines. What kept you coming back with a fly rod in your hand after investing hours and hours on the river with no return for your investment, when you knew damn well that if you had a Folgers coffee can loaded with night crawlers you could have filled your creel. And how many nymphs, dry flies and streamers did

you sacrifice to the “river gods”? How many re-ties, and new tippet, and torn or worn out waders, and fly rods did you contribute to the cause? How many mosquito bites, tick bites, burning nettle rash, blood, sweat and tears were shed?

Were these experiences — difficult and painful as they were — perhaps the baptism into *River Royalty*? Were they perhaps the *passage of rites* every member of *River Royalty* must go through to enter the clan?

So — when did you begin to dream about being in the river with a fly rod in your hand? While at work, family gatherings, church, business meetings, lunch breaks? And when did it happen that you, and other members of *River Royalty* began to

...when and how were you first introduced to fly rods, fly casting, rivers, streams and little hooks wrapped with animal hair and feathers?

scheme and dream and plan and schedule times when you could be together on a river somewhere, with a fly rod in your hand, casting little hooks wrapped with animal hair and feathers in an attempt to outsmart the wily Trout?

And when did the woods and the rivers finally begin to share some of their secrets and joys with you that

they only share with members of *River Royalty*; like clusters of Morel mushrooms safely hiding under Burning Nettle bushes, or where the old Trout lies are and what fly would elude them and put them in your net giving you the privilege of releasing them unharmed, back to their *lie*? And when did the woods and the waters begin to open your ears and your eyes and your nose to her sounds, and sights and smells that only members of *River Royalty* enjoy? The therapeutic, melodious songs of warblers; stunning sheer vertical rock walls, luscious green overhead canopy of leaves and, if you listen carefully — the very words of God whispered from under the rocks in the riffles.

And when was it that it first happened — you remember the moment — when you first felt as one with it all, while standing there waste deep in the cool moving water: feeling, listening, smelling — *being* — and not doing.

Author's Note:

Mike Hansen and his family spend a week each year staying in River Falls and fishing the local rivers. From Hayward, WI, Mike's father put a fly rod in his hands 50 years ago - and he has passed on the tradition to his sons through countless expeditions, and others through his writing. This excerpt of his “River Royalty” essay was inspired by his recent visit in May 2018.



*Josiah, David, Caleb and Brad Hansen
- members of the River Royalty clan*

Northwest Passage Program



KRLT partners with Northwest Passage – providing outdoor experiences for challenged youth.

Northwest Passage (nwpltd.org), a residential facility in Frederic, WI, provides intensive multidisciplinary treatment for boys and girls experiencing significant emotional and behavioral disorders. Using a mix of traditional and forward thinking therapies, Northwest Passage encourages its residents to find healing expression through interacting with the outdoors. With cameras in tow, the young adults of Northwest Passage document and express themselves through images and videos of the woods and waters of northwestern WI.

Throughout the Summer of 2018, the KRLT is working with Northwest Passage, welcoming their residents to make the entire “Kinni” their studio. This unique partnership will provide a one-of-a-kind experience, allowing the residents to witness and record the Kinni as it transforms from a spring pond to a rural – urban – canyon waterway. Expect beautiful photo essays and dramatic underwater videos!

Their photos and personal reflections will be shared with the KRLT, and their work will be displayed for all to see this Fall in River Falls (date TBD) and at the R4F Fly Fishing Festival on March 8, 2019.



KINNI GUARDIANS

Conserving & Protecting the Kinni

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST KINNI GUARDIAN JESSICA KRAMER!

Jessica has made the commitment to donate annually to the KRLT at a leadership level of \$1,200. *If you have any questions about becoming a Kinni Guardian, please call us at 715-425-5738 or email at kim@kinniriver.org.*

Thank you Jessica!

RIVER FALLS DAYS 2018 • JULY 13 - JULY 15

Parade Friday, July 13 - 6:30pm

Scrappy will again be on parade this year, dressed in the latest pieces pulled from the Kinni at our March KinniRiverCleanUp™. Join us and walk next to Scrappy - you can even pass out bags to parade viewers so their trash can be thrown away instead of landing in the Kinni. Make a difference while having fun!

Scrappy - Saturday, July 14

Play “*I Spy*” and find some of the interesting pieces of garbage removed from the Kinni and its watershed. Then, help “undress” Scrappy for his next appearance at Hudson’s RiverFest, where he will be “dressed” with trash from their Tuesday, July 17 River Clean-up!



**Interested in being part of our parade float Friday night?
Interested in helping to “undress” Scrappy?**

Register at <https://bit.ly/2xx2Fv8>
by **Monday, July 9** to participate in one or both events!





Kinnickinnic
River Land Trust
P.O. Box 87
River Falls, WI 54022

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MEETING NOTICE

KRLT Annual Meeting

Tuesday, June 19 • 7:00 p.m.

**St. Croix Valley Business Innovation Center — Training Room
1091 Sutherland Avenue — River Falls**

Please join us for a very important Annual Meeting at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 19 in the St. Croix Valley Business Innovation Center Training Room. The Annual Meeting of the Kinnickinnic River Land Trust (KRLT) will include the business meeting with annual reports, the election of new Board Members (only current KRLT members can vote) and a program on “*Kinni Preservation History Journey*” by Executive Director Dave Drewiske.

Please Join Us!

Please RSVP!

Refreshments will be provided in celebration
of our **25TH ANNIVERSARY.**

Please RSVP by Friday, June 15:

- **Online:** www.bit.ly/2wOVVIN
- **Email:** kim@kinniriver.org
- **Phone:** 715.425.5738