

Spring 2019



# KinniKeeper

A publication of the Kinnickinnic River Land Trust

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## Spring Greetings



Spring has finally sprung and the Kinni is bursting with energy! We begin this season with gratitude and thank you for your continued support! The first four months of 2019 have proven to be busy as we plan for new restoration projects, continuing landowner dialogue and dreaming of what is possible in the year ahead. Spring is known as a time of change, especially after such a stark and memorable winter. As you read on, you'll learn that the Kinnickinnic River Land Trust is in transition in many ways. We say hello to a new Office Manager and a new Conservation Land Management Intern.

Thank you for your on-going support through your financial gifts and volunteer hours that are so vital to our mission. ***Your support helps ensure the Kinni remains cold, clean and free...forever.*** Enjoy the Spring season by visiting Trumpeter Swan, Kelly Creek or Drewiske Preserve as they are glorious this time of year!

Sincerely,  
Charlene Brooks - Executive Director

## New Office Manager



I am excited to announce that as of February 18, 2019, the Kinnickinnic River Land Trust has a new Office Manager, Molly Barritt. We look forward to introducing Molly as the year continues. She will be very involved in our day-to-day operations, serve as the primary contact for the office, and will lead KRTL outreach events, volunteer engagement, and marketing communication. She will be an active part of our goal to support and foster the relationships that drive our successful mission. Molly joins us after a management position

at the River Market Coop in Stillwater, MN. She has extensive experience with employee management, delivering on customer needs, and implementing projects to meet the co-op's larger mission.

## New Conservation Land Management Intern



KRTL is thrilled to announce that as of March 04, 2019, we have a new conservation land management intern, Siri Doyle. Siri will be working on restoration planning for our KRTL Trumpeter Swan Preserve. Siri was part of Dr. Kevyn Juneau's Forest Restoration Management course at UW-River Falls where she worked as a team on a restoration plan for the property. We are excited to bring her expertise to the Kinni river watershed and ultimately to you.



## Letter from KRTL New Office Manager: Molly Barritt

I am honored to be the newest member of the KRTL family. I have a passion for preserving natural landscape and the want to educate more people about the beautiful Kinni river. I was lucky to be able to grow up with parents that instilled an importance of respecting nature. They both encouraged my brother and I to explore and not be afraid to play in the dirt. We spent most family outings being surrounded by plants and trees at local State and County Parks. My Father was the first person to teach me about the beautiful waters of the Kinni. He had been kayaking on the Kinni many times and knew the river well. He took me out for a paddle one day, it was early summer. I remember going around a bend and there in front of us was a mother deer and her baby fawn standing in the cool blue water. It was incredible... I felt like I had just floated into a storybook. It was at that moment that I knew that this was a very special place. As we paddled further down the river the weeping cliffs came into view, it was another spectacular sight. The cliffside was covered with bright green moss and ferns with water slowly flowing over the plants. I never imagined that one day, I would be able to be part of a wonderful group of people that shared the same love and appreciation for the Kinni that I did. I am looking forward to helping KRTL continue its preservation of land and the watersheds.

## Letter from KRTL New Conservation Land Management Intern: Siri Doyle

I am grateful for the opportunity to be a part of the Kinnickinnic River Land Trust and to help preserve the Kinni river watershed. I am a recent graduate from University of Wisconsin-River Falls majoring in Environmental Engineering Technology with a minor in Conservation. Growing up, I have always had a love for the outdoors, and I want it to be a part of future. My favorite past times are going hiking during the spring, summer and fall seasons and cross-country skiing during the winter. I am originally from Hayward, Wisconsin, and my whole life I was doing something that relates back to nature. During the summer I would go canoeing, kayaking, and fishing on the Chippewa Flowage and that is where my love and interest for watersheds began. I find it fascinating how much life and beauty a small body of water can hold not to mention a full-scale watershed. When I first arrived at UW-River Falls, I went straight to the waterfalls near Glen Park, because I heard about how breathtaking the Kinni river was. From there on out, I have walked every trail near the Kinni in River Falls and have been kayaking down it quite a bit. Even while studying, I would find the Kinni peaceful and relaxing at my favorite quiet spot. My dream is to help preserve ecosystems and restore pieces of land to what they were centuries ago and I feel this position will be a great fit for me to help fulfill that vision. I could not be more excited to begin my journey as a member of the KRTL team!

## My Favorite Place *by Margie O'Loughlin*

The Kinnickinnic River is a spring fed, cold water stream that flows for 22 miles through southwestern Wisconsin. I only know seven miles of the river, but I know those seven miles very well. My husband, Pat, first brought me there almost 25 years ago. It is the best gift he ever gave me.

For us, paddling the Kinni starts with a 45 minute drive from South Minneapolis to the take-out south of River Falls. We drop a shuttle bike there, and circle back to the put-in seven miles upstream; we squeeze our car into a little patch of shade. Pat and I used to be stronger, with one of us carrying the canoe on our shoulders to the river. These days we carry the canoe together; one of us on each end. Juggling life jackets, water bottles, paddles, and a good lunch, we swat mosquitoes and trudge happily along.

Kinnickinnic is a word borrowed from the Ojibwe. It refers to the mixing of plants and bark to make tobacco -- to release as smoke in a sacred offering. The Kinnickinnic River is the most sacred place I know. At the bottom of those long, uneven, wooden stairs, there she is: clean, and cool, and singing in the morning light.

We glide out onto the water in our canoe. In the spring, white, pink, and purple phlox wave to us; black-eyed Susan and bee balm in the summer; purple aster in the fall. There are just a few quiet moments to savor the wildflowers before the river starts her strong, steady pull downstream. She wants us to go now.

The Kinni loves to twist and tease. My husband taught me early on to follow her outer curves, because that's where the deep water is. When he and I paddle

### The Kinnickinnic River is the most sacred place I know.

together, I take the bow. When I go with one of our kids or a friend, I take the stern. No matter where I sit, I have an important job to do because this is a tricky river. She is bumpy, fast, and full of rocks. I've tumbled out of the canoe plenty of times, laughing and trying to catch my paddle before it floated away.

These seven miles we love are called the Kinni Canyon, because the river drops steadily through steep banks on its way to meet the St. Croix. Along the

ridge lines are scattered Burr Oak trees, whose ancient, gnarled branches protect the grasses and flowers below. Here and there is a small farm, a white pine forest, a sedge meadow, an alder-filled wetland. There are no roads, but there are lots of places to swim, to hop from rock to rock, to bask in the summer sun, to practice silly dives with old friends. There are sand bars for picnicking, or sitting quietly, watching Kingfisher and Great Blue Heron soar. There are trout that jump, and dragon flies that sparkle. There are feeder creeks that trickle, tumble, and fall; there are maidenhair and ostrich ferns that blanket the limestone banks, their roots gripping tiny cracks in the rocks too small to see.

The only rule we have when paddling the Kinni is this: we stay just as long as we wish. Whoever holds a paddle has agreed to the covenant of a free, unstructured day. I've spent as few as three hours on this adventure, and as many as 14. I've been down this river more than 70 times in the last quarter century, and have never tired of her beauty. For the peace she has given me, for the laughter and the joy, I mix together these words as an offering of thanks -- and let them rise.

# Kinni River Land Trust Updates



## ARE YOU AN EDUCATOR?

As you plan your curriculum, keep our preserves in mind. They make excellent outdoor classrooms. If you are interested in more info please give us a call (715) 425-5738 or e-mail us at [info@kinniriver.org](mailto:info@kinniriver.org)



## 2019 Fly Fishing Film Festival

This years R4F event was a hit! Because of your generous contributions, KRLT received over \$25,000 to help continue the work of keeping the Kinni and it's watershed beautiful and healthy. We want to thank all of the vendors, sponsors and volunteers that made this event possible. A special acknowledgement goes out to the R4F team. Thank you guys for all of your hard work and planning, you make this event extraordinary!



## KinniRiverCleanUp™

Saturday, April 27th

Join us at Veterans Park in River Falls, WI at 9 AM. We will be there bright and early, ready to give the Kinni a spring cleaning. WE Co-op will be handing out free coffee! Following the clean-up at 11 am we will have lunch available for all you hard working volunteers at the United Methodist Church in River Falls, WI.



This year we are excited to be working with giveBIG St. Croix Valley, you can be part of 24 hours of giving on April 30th. It is a great opportunity for us to share our story and connect with people who want to help us make a difference in the community. Your donations will allow us to continue our mission to keep the Kinni river and its watershed a beautiful place for generations to come.

## DREWISKE PRESERVE CONSERVATION PLAN

Dr. Kevyn Juneau of University of Wisconsin-River Falls (UWRF) and his Forest Restoration and Management course students started work in January 2019 to update and enhance the management plan for KRLT's Drewiske Preserve. Located in the Kinni's lower canyon in Clifton township, Pierce County, WI, this preserve is critical in the watershed. The students will be unveiling their collective vision for review by the KRLT Board of Directors in May 2019. KRLT also continues to participate in the Kinni Partnership lead by UWRF to implement the Kinnickinnic River Watershed Strategic Action Plan adopted in June 2016.







## MOVING RESTORATION FORWARD AT TRUMPETER SWAN

The Trumpeter Swan Preserve is a 48-acre multi-habitat in the headwaters of the Kinnickinnic River. Building from the forest restoration plan developed by UWRF students in 2018, KRLT is working towards logistics planning and restoration of the preserve. Currently, the property is over run with invasive species like boxelder and buckthorn and is considered a Red Pine plantation compared to its original condition as an Oak savanna. With support from donors and new foundation partners, KRLT will help restore the Trumpeter Swan Preserve to a healthy ecosystem by reducing the impacts of excess nutrients and increasing habitat quality. Public access currently serves as a primary focus! A portion of this process is funded by the Laird Norton Family Foundation is based in Seattle, WA. The goal of the Watershed Stewardship program is to create enabling conditions for long-term social and ecological health and resilience in places of importance to the Laird Norton Family."



## TROPICAL WINGS SUPPORTS KRLT WITH \$1000 GRANT

We are excited to announce a partnership with Tropical Wings, who has provided \$1000 to invasive species management at KRLT's Trumpeter Swan Preserve. Tropical Wings is a non-profit 501c3 organization composed of volunteers supporting education and conservation for Neotropical Migratory birds through the Sister Parks Agreement between National Parks in the Upper Midwest and Costa Rica's Osa Peninsula. Come see us celebrate on May 10th at the Phipps Center in Hudson, Wisconsin.



## NEW WADERS FOR THE BIOLOGY CLUB

KRLT, in partnership with the River Falls Fly Fishing Film Festival (R4F) that was held in early March 2019, donated \$1,000 to River Falls High School Biology Club led by teacher Nicole Feldmeier. These funds will go a long way replace leaking and irreparable waders and repair kits. Thanks to Lunds Flying Fishing Shop in River Falls, WI, for helping making these dollars stretch even further. Here's to exploring the Kinni and its watershed!

# Memorial - Richard Magnuson August 25, 1925 - March 16, 2019



Richard was born in Willmar, Minnesota in 1925. In 1943 after graduating from Montevideo High School, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy and

served as a navigator on a LCT landing craft in the South Pacific. After World War II, he attended undergraduate school on the GI Bill at Gustavus Adolphus College, the University of Oregon and the University of Minnesota, from which he graduated. In 1952, he earned his Juris Doctor degree from the University of Minnesota Law School.

Richard married Finette Love in 1952. Together they raised a family of four children. Richard became an expert in agricultural cooperative law and served as General Counsel to Farmer's Union Central Exchange/Cenex. In 1970, Richard was hired as General Counsel to Land

O' Lakes, Inc. where he set up their legal department and eventually also became their Senior Vice President of Government Relations. Richard provided legal services to Group Health Plan (now HealthPartners) in its fledgling years, helping the organization get established and serving as its board president.

In 1983, he joined the Doherty, Rumble and Butler law firm. Beginning in 1991, he was asked to provide agricultural legal services to several countries of the former USSR. In that capacity, he traveled to Poland, Estonia, Lithuania, and Russia. Similar work brought him to the Kirghiz Republic and Eritrea. In 2000, Richard was the first lawyer inducted into the Cooperative Hall of Fame. Richard served on the boards of Northern States Power Company, the Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute at Northland College, as well as on the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board.

He loved traveling, hunting, skiing, canoeing and spending time with his family and friends at his cabin on Lake Owen in Cable, Wisconsin.

He is preceded in death by his father William, mother Ruth and brother William. Survived by his wife of 67 years Finette; children Marcus (Gina), Scott, Nettie and Leif (Sushma); grandchildren Christina (Michael), Caroline (Tony), Eleanor (Mason), Neil, Nina, Noah and Selene; and great-grandchildren Sofia, Lucia, Finn, Stella and Thomas.

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***Richard and Finette donated a conservation easement on their farm to the KRLT.***