



KinniKeeper

A Publication of the Kinnickinnic River Land Trust

Land Trust Days

Each year events are conducted at land trusts for Land Trust Day in which KRLT participates. This year's KRLT event was an Autumn Hike at The Community Forest on Friday, September 30, 2022, from 6-8 pm as part of Wisconsin Land Trust Days. The event was free and open to the public and hot cocoa, cider, and popcorn was provided by Whole Earth Market Co-op. Over 160 people registered for this event. It had a wonderful turn out and was great connecting with the community.

For your hike, flameless candle luminaries will light the paths at The Community Forest, a 40-acre, old-growth forest in the lower river canyon downstream of the City of River Falls. The purchase of The Community Forest in 2021 helped to provide access to The School Forest owned by the River Falls School District, which had been landlocked for years.

Kinnickinnic River Land Trust is proud to host these events in conjunction with the fifth annual Wisconsin Land Trust Days celebration, a series of outdoor activities and family-friendly events that take place every year in August and September. This year, 20 land trusts will host 37 events throughout the state. A full list of Wisconsin Land Trust Days events is available at www.HaveFunOutside.org. Thank you to the Whole Earth Market Co-op for your partnership and support!

Autumn Hike at The Community Forest



Free, 6-8 pm

Sept. 30, 2022

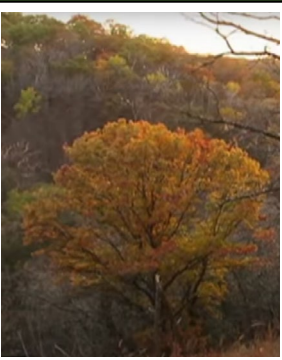
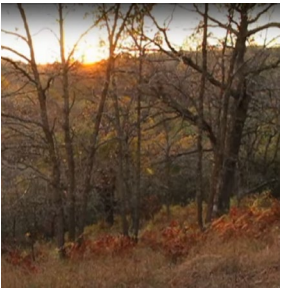
River Falls, WI

About Wisconsin Land Trust Days:

Wisconsin Land Trust Days is a statewide promotion sponsored by Gathering Waters: Wisconsin's Alliance for Land Trusts (www.gatheringwaters.org). Wisconsin Land Trust Days brings attention to its member land trusts and the important work they do to protect Wisconsin's natural resources in the communities they serve. Gathering Waters also helps land trusts, landowners, and communities protect the places that make Wisconsin special by advocating for funding, providing land trusts with resources, and creating a network of peers for collaboration.

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Stories from the Water

The community showing of Mike Wurm's movie, *Stories from the Water*, on September 10, 2022, at the University of Wisconsin River Falls (UWRF) University Center was very successful!

The event was sold out with over 200 people. The evening began with a social prior to the movie and was capped off with a question-and-answer with Mike Wurm and the youth who participated in the movie!

Thank you to the sponsors and all who contributed!

From the President Charlie Rader



Fall is a time of transition and reflection. As I write, the first frost of fall is burning off and this starts me to think of how the year has gone and all that still needs to be accomplished. It is with regret that the KRLT needs to inform you that, Julie Smith, our Executive Director, will be resigning effective October 5th due to personal reasons. The KRLT Board thanks Julie for her diligence over the past six months; she has been active in all our operations and writing grants to help move things along. We wish Julie the best in her future endeavors.

At the board's request, I will be stepping down from the board and taking on the role of Interim Executive Director and David Gregg, Vice President, will take on the role of President. The search for a new executive director has begun. It has been an honor to serve as president for over the past year.

We feel that this approach allows us to maintain momentum on our current projects and plans with a minimum of disruption in our operations. The KRLT is financially secure and operationally on solid ground. Our existing staff, Molly Barritt and Marty Engel, are remaining in place, and we are confident that we will find a strong and inspirational Executive Director to lead us into our 30th year of protecting the Kinni. We want to reassure you that your continued support will help us to continue to work toward keeping the Kinni "cold, clear, and free...forever." As always, transitions are challenging, but they also create new opportunities. We've had a great deal going on with the KRLT this year and it has been an exciting time to be with the KRLT.



Stop the Racetrack!

Thanks to numerous community members organizing, the Kinnik Development Group has withdrawn its "Racetrack" proposal. Vigilance is still needed as the developer is planning to propose a development that may negatively impact the South Fork of the Kinnickinnic River. The South Fork tributary harbors heritage trout and the surrounding land holds wetland habitat for other species. Wetlands help filter water prior to its run into the river.

Visit our website at www.kinniriver.org to read KRLT's statement of opposition to this development.

Executive Director Transition, Deb Wulf, KRLT Secretary

It is with regret that we are announcing that the KRLT executive director, Julie Smith, is resigning from her position for personal reasons effective October 5th. Julie, who began her role in March, has made some significant achievements during her brief tenure with the KRLT. With the support of her staff, she was successful in obtaining several successful grants and donations over the past six months and leading efforts on obtaining three additional conservation easements. The KRLT Board thanks her for her hard work over the past 6 months and wishes her well in her new position. The KRLT Board will immediately launch the search for a new executive director. In the interim, Board President Charlie Rader will temporarily resign from the Board and

serve as acting executive director in a paid, part-time position until the search is concluded. During Charlie's absence on the Board, Vice President David Gregg will act as Board President and other members of the executive team will remain in their current roles. "Our organization is financially secure and operationally solid, with our existing staff remaining in place," said Charlie. "I'm confident that we will find a strong and inspirational director to lead us into our 30th year of protection of the Kinni."

Visit the KRLT website for a position description for the executive director, including responsibilities and desired qualifications. Any questions about the application process should be directed to Molly Barrett at the KRLT office.

From the Managers...

Molly Barritt, Donor and Community Relations Manager
molly@kinniriver.org

The beauty of fall has begun! I hope that you had a wonderful summer and were able to spend time enjoying the Kinni. In the spirit of moving from one season to the next, we are in the process of transitioning to a new outreach and donations system. This transition will provide us with a better system to connect and engage in ways we haven't had the ability to do before. If you donate monthly, I will be reaching out to you towards the end of October as part of that transition. One of the aspects of working with the land trust that brings me the most joy is the ability to connect with people and hear their stories about the Kinni. If you would like to share your story, I'd love to meet with you! Let's take a walk at one of KRLT's nature preserves or meet for coffee and chat via email or 715-301-0753.

Marty Engel, Land Stewardship Manager
marty@kinniriver.org

Preserve Management: The Kelly Creek Preserve prescribed burn this spring has worked wonders and the prairie has been rejuvenated. Check it out if you get a chance. Additional prairie restoration work has begun this fall on the Drewiske Preserve Access (4-5 acres) and the Headwater Access (1 acre). Both access lanes have been mowed this fall in preparation for the restoration. Additional vegetative control will occur in October and next spring. Then late next spring prairie

seed will be planted. These projects should help diversify the plant community and add more scenic qualities to the properties. This October the Headwater Preserve will receive its second round of invasive species control in preparation for future oak savannah and prairie restoration projects on the property. The work will be conducted by Zumbro Valley Forestry LLC and funded partially through a Land Management Grant from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. The Community Forest access lane has been widened by the River Falls School District in order to gain vehicle access to the school property. Additional work is expected throughout the fall and winter to clean up stumps and burn brush piles. Currently, joint signage (KRLT and School District) at the Community Forest parking lot is under development. The kiosk will share space with the School District including a map showing both properties, the trail systems, regulations for each property and other background information. The County Highway staff will soon be installing directional signs to the properties along the highway right-of-way.

Conservation Easements: It is that time of year KRLT staff, interns and volunteers begin monitoring conservation easement compliance on its 35 conservation easements and four preserves. Conservation easements are perpetual and recorded on warranty deeds of the landowner. KRLT staff have been entrusted with the responsibility to monitor conservation compliance on each property and when necessary, enforce or work directly with landowners to resolve problems that occur on the properties. Currently, KRLT is working with three individual landowners wishing to place a conservation easement on their property. If all goes well, an additional 59 acres of land within the watershed will be permanently protected by KRLT conservation easements.



Board of Directors

- Charlie Rader, President, River Falls, WI
- David Gregg, Vice President, River Falls, WI
- Mark Ritzinger, Treasurer, River Falls, WI
- Deb Wulf, Secretary, Troy Township, WI
- Holly Dolliver, River Falls, WI
- Kevyn Juneau, River Falls, WI
- Aleisha Miller, River Falls, WI
- Violet Penman, Savage, MN
- David Sienko, River Falls, WI

Have a passion for the Kinni? Help us protect and conserve this wonderful river by joining our Board of Directors. We seek additional members who represent diverse interests, ages and cultures including those with experience in land sales, land management, conservation, agriculture, recreation, education, mental health and/or who are property owners with a conservation easement on their land. Please contact the KRLT office by phone or email to express your interest and a board member will be in touch to answer your questions.

**KRLT
MEMORIAL
BENCH
PROGRAM**



<https://kinniriver.org/gifts-in-memory-or-tribute>



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