

KRRC NEWSLETTER



KR Volunteers fight back against the Spruce Bud Worm!

Have you noticed all of the dead balsam fir? The Spruce Bud Worm is a caterpillar insect that feeds off the new buds of balsam fir and spruce trees. This destructive caterpillar eventually turns into a moth that lays eggs on the trees' needles and the cycle continues year after year until the food source (the host trees are exhausted). Large stands of dead trees create a fire hazard for the surrounding area and forest and prevent more desirable seedlings from growing.

As we are currently witnessing, our forest around the KR Trail has been hit hard! The majority of the balsam fir along the trail is dead. According to the U of M extension site, removing the dead and infected trees is the best way to manage large outbreaks. Over five work days in March, an ambitious group of KR volunteers started to tackle the bud worm problem on the 10 acres of trail land gifted by community members. Many dead and infected trees were cut and burned providing dramatic changes to this 10 acre area. Thank you volunteers!



Forest Restoration Project

The clearing of the dead balsam fir and spruce on the 10 acres has opened the forest floor for continued planting and protecting of white pine, red pine, and cedar.

Terminal bud capping is a way to protect the terminal bud (uppermost bud on the tree) on the pines. Paper caps are placed on the terminal bud in the fall to protect them from hungry deer and rabbits over winter. The caps fall off or can be removed and disposed of during the warmer spring so the tree has opportunity to grow. Cedars need cages for protection. If you are out for a hike feel free to remove or pick up any caps currently on the trees or the ground!



KRRC believes the continued efforts of the forest restoration project will lead to a happy and healthy forest and river. This hard work will benefit wildlife, fish, and our community alike.

Top photos: Capped white pines. Notice on the top right photo how all branches below the cap are chewed off. This white pine has a chance of survival thanks to capping.

Bottom photos identify cedar seedlings that will ideally need cages for protection.

KR mid-May Arbor Day

White pine seedlings will be arriving from the Soil Water and Conservation District during mid May.

Volunteers will be needed to plant and make cages for the new seedlings. Date to be announced!

Contact Steve Betzler for questions.

Congratulations to Gary Ojard for winning the Winter Solstice Light Up the Town Contest!

Get your rods out! The river is flowing! The Steelheaders' website noted with this year's warmer winter and thin snowpack the lower water levels will come sooner than expected.

Take advantage of all the rain we have been having, get out on the river and toss a line!

KRRC welcomes new board member Laura Stone !

Happy Spring!



It is always fun to see the seasons change and hopefully through the spring we will see the pandemic change too. I anticipate that we will be able to have more usual activities this summer. Necessity however is sometimes the mother of invention and works out for the good. We can certainly say that about our Huldrefolk trail. We had hoped to establish a safe activity that families could do over the holidays as a substitute for Julebyen. Suffice it to say, it was very successful! On several occasions I counted more than 20 cars parked there and we have received several touching notes. We had intended to take the trail down January 1 but kept it up until mid March because of continued interest. It was fun to see the notes that people left on the tree decorations and the little additions and trinkets that were left in the troll houses and along the trail. Thank you to Anne Jaspersen for taking the lead on this! She has great friends whose talents she tapped! Thanks to: Carolyn Rock for making the story boards; Lise Lunge Larsen for the charming story about Knut; Laura Stone for the magical art work; Patricia Canelake for the tricky trolls; and Jim Madison for the xylophone. Thanks to the Betzlers, the Jaspersens, the Russells, the Caines, the Andersons, Mary Von Goertz and Delores Jackson. Thanks to the trail committee for having the nice walkways and trail there to begin with. Thanks to Jodi Anderson for her daily sunset walks to monitor and replenish supplies. A special thanks to everyone who enjoyed and embellished it! It will return next year.

-Anne Skadberg

Check out our new beach sign! Notices and rules are now easy to display.

Thanks to Joe Russell for the idea and coordination.



KRRC is following state guidelines for building rentals and children's programs. We are reassessing this every meeting.

Check out our website at kniferiver.org

Stay in touch through our **Knife River Recreation Council Facebook** page

JULEBYEN: KRRC is optimistic that Julebyen will be able to return this winter but anticipate that it will have some changes to adapt to the pandemic as well as to restructure with the goal of decreasing work while maintaining charm and fundraising. Regretfully, our team captain, Carol Carlson has had to take the year off. We thank her for the excellent framework that the committee has established under her leadership. Helene Hedlund has graciously agreed to step into those big shoes for the coming year. Thank you Helene! If you are a committee chair expect to get an email from Helene inviting you to a brainstorming meeting in May where we will share ideas of what can happen for Julebyen 2021! If you would like to be part of that meeting please email Anne Skadberg at askadberg@gmail.com and we'll get you on the list.

2021 MEMBERSHIP FORM

Member(s) Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____ Type to
enter text

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E-Mail Address: _____

Membership: Family @ \$25/yr. _____ Individual @ \$15/yr. _____ Additional Donation
\$ _____

Make checks payable to: KRRC

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Knife River Resident

KRRC
P.O. Box 266
Knife River, MN 55609