

THE HUNGRY BEAVER

The Journal of the Kekekabic Trail Club



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Go to www.kek.org/MWTA2004.html for a copy of this years
Clearing Schedule

A GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY

Mentor a Girl Scout leading one of this May's Trail Clearings

My name is Tara Langsdorf and I am a senior at Eden Prairie High School. I have been involved in Girl Scouts for nine years and joined because of my desire to camp. Similar to the Boy Scouts' Eagle Award, Girl Scouts are able to earn what is called the Gold Award. Its purpose is to contribute to society through planning and volunteering time for a project of one's choosing, with a minimum of 50 hours of service.

My Girl Scout leader learned about trail clearings in the Boundary Waters from a coworker of hers, Terry Serres. When our leader mentioned these trips to the troop, the whole idea really excited me. I love camping and this excursion will give me the opportunity to take on greater responsibility for planning and executing a trip. The Kekekabic Trail Club trips I've heard and read about sound like a lot of hard work but very satisfying.

The club's board has given me a trip on Snowbank Lake the weekend of Memorial Day, May 28-31. I am eager to start my project, but am in need of a co-leader from the Kekekabic Trail Club to assist and mentor me. I have already begun recruiting my crew and will have no trouble filling the trip with enthusiastic young adults. I am also committed to signing up at least one other older adult.

I am dedicated to making this a great trip, with sound planning, hard work, and guidance from an experienced member of your club who can accompany my group.

Note from Terry Serres. What a great opportunity! Many of us joined the KTC wanting to give back to the trails that have invigorated and inspired, brought peace and purpose. Here's a chance not only to give back but to pass on that inspiration. Tara's Memorial Day weekend trip will be co-ed, so anyone from the club, man or woman, can step forward.

I have acquainted Tara with everything that goes into a Kek trail clearing and am giving her materials to help her start planning. Tara's trip is at the same time as one that I am leading on the same lake. Since it's the last weekend of the "season," we will be able to coordinate to tackle the sections of trail in the Snowbank area most in need of attention.

Anyone interested in taking on this trip, call Terry Serres at 612.414.4116 and I will put you in touch with Tara.

President's Column

This is my last President's Column. I am turning over the reins of the Kekekabic Trail Club at the next Board of Director's Meeting at 6PM on **April 6th** at Midwest Mountaineering. At this meeting we will be electing officers to complete the rest of the year. As always, all members are welcome to attend the Board Meeting. As for myself, I have enjoyed my most recent tenure as president but can not continue in this role as well as leading the Trail Committee.

Following the KTC Board Meeting, be sure to hear John Kron of Granite Gear speak to the Club at our Membership Meeting at 7 PM on **April 6th**.

If May is Clearing Month for the KTC, April should be called the training month. Starting on **April 14th and 15th**, we will be hosting volunteer training at REI-Bloomington for first time clearing participants. Even if you are a trail-clearing veteran, you are encouraged to

attend. You can assist the Club in relaying our message to this year's newbies (as well as remembering your first time on the trail).

The following weekend, **April 17th and 18th**, we will have our saw training. This year we will cover both Cross-cut Saw and Chainsaw Training. This training will be at Bunker Hills Regional Park. Cross-cut training can be completed in one day, but plan coming back for at least some time on Sunday also for Chainsaw Certification. The Cross-cut Saw Refresher should only take a couple of hours on Saturday OR Sunday Morning.

Don't forget to sign up for your clearing trip(s) by **April 22nd**.

On **April 23rd – 25th**, plan to spend a couple of hours at the KTC Table at Midwest Mountaineering's Outdoor Expo. This is a great opportunity to share your experiences on the trails in the BWCA with other outdoor enthusiasts. It never fails that someone comes by and shares THEIR trail experiences with me.

Still have time to spare in April? I am sure that there will be Club Members that go up to the BWCA early to hike the trails to provide scouting reports for our May Trips. Send an email to the Kek-list@topica.com to express your interest in joining one of these trips.

Then on **April 30th**, for the first time that I can remember, the first KTC Clearing Trip heads out for Eagle Mountain.

Think Spring!

Derrick

Upcoming Member Meetings:

Tuesday, April 6, 7 PM at Midwest Mountaineering – John Cron from Granite Gear in Two Harbors will talk about the history of the company and the development of specialized back packing and canoe gear. He will also discuss the testing of gear and provide tips on appropriately fitting a back pack. There will be updates on the training sessions and the plans for the trail clearing trips.

Tuesday, May 4, 7 PM at Midwest Mountaineering – speaker/program to be announced. We will talk about the trail clearing trips and discuss plans for summer and early fall events.

Membership Corner

MEMBERSHIP: If your membership has expired or you wish to become a new member, please fill out and mail in the membership form in the Hungry Beaver. Remember that you can give a KTC membership as a gift. The KTC currently has 142 paid members. We would like to have 200 members by the end of this year. Talk up membership among your friends, relatives and colleagues. Personal invitations to join are frequently the most effective.

Members are the backbone, heart and guts of the club. Members are needed to help with the trail clearing and other club activities. Join and show your Kek colors. Join and be part of an activist group. Join and help ensure that wilderness trails will endure in the Superior National Forest.

Call or e-mail **Terry Bernhardt** (651-226-6546, tbernhardt1@comcast.net) about KTC member meetings or general questions about membership.

Call or e-mail **Liisa Beckman** (612-729-7675, beckm012@umn.edu) if you have specific questions about the status of your membership or if you have changes in your contact information. Liisa is keeping track of the member data base and the renewal letters.

Nature's Furniture at Bargain Prices

By Justin Bodie,

One of the joys of wilderness travel is furniture and appliance shopping. Of course, you won't find any salespeople out in the woods, and you won't need your credit card. Try to fill this checklist of woody furnishings on your next trip:

1. The La-Z-Rock: Perfectly contoured to fit the male, female, or canine anatomy, the La-Z-Rock may be found at select BWCA campsites, mostly on canoe routes. The "Rock", heated by solar energy, reflects a warm, soft heat long after its energy source (the sun) has receded for the day. Optionally, your "Rock" may come with ridges or bumps which can provide a massaging effect after a hard day of paddling or hiking.

2. The Campfire Couch: Most campfire couches are constructed out of pine logs and placed within three feet of most BWCA fire grates. The deluxe model comes with a flat seating surface, formed by axes or saws, while base models might still have bark. Couches are available with multiple seating areas for changing wind conditions. Bonus: the deluxe model can act as a food preparation or dish drying area. Added bonus: can act as a firewood protection chamber if installed above ground level.

3. Canadian Shield Mattress: Maybe you've tried a Serta or Happy Sleeper. Maybe it's time to treat yourself to the Canadian Shield. Carved by glaciers long ago, the Canadian Shield Mattress works "hard" to support your tender joints and muscles when darkness falls in the woods. Canadian Shield Mattresses come standard with a solid rock base. Optional packages: add rocks, roots, sand, you name it! The discriminating camper will enjoy the luxurious Pine Needle model. Throw away that clumsy self-inflating pad and go with the choice of woodland creatures everywhere!

4. Bear-O-Matic: It's simply the best food processor known to humankind. Ronco doesn't sell it, but you can find it in the BWCAW. Just leave your food pack (preferably the really good stuff) on your La-Z-Rock or Campfire Couch. When you return from your day hike, those carrots and potatoes will be chopped up and ready to throw in the soup. Remember to pack extra food because there might not be much left over; the Bear-O-Matic tends to fuel itself with the food it processes.

Well, there's my recommendation for making your trip to the Wilderness the best it can be. Use this shopping guide to convince your townhouse-dwelling suburbanite friends to go on a BWCAW hiking adventure or trail clearing trip. You just may thank me for it.



KTC MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

Name _____ Home Phone () _____
Address _____ Work Phone () _____
City, State, Zip _____ E-mail: _____

YES, sign me up at the following Annual Membership Level (all levels include a 1-year subscription to the *Hungry Beaver*):

- _____ \$20 **Individual**
- _____ \$35 **Family**
- _____ \$50 **Sustaining** (Includes your choice of a 3-map set of the Kekekabic Trail OR a KTC T-shirt—indicate below)
- _____ \$100 or more **Trail Guardian** (Includes **both** a 3-map set of the Kek Trail AND a KTC T-shirt—indicate below)
- _____ Yes, send me a 3-map set of the Kekekabic Trail!
- _____ Yes, send me a KTC T-shirt! Circle shirt size: SM MED LG XL
- _____ Special gift

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED Check this box if you do not want your name in the KTC phone book.

Return this form with your check made payable to: *Kekekabic Trail Club, 309 Cedar Avenue S., Minneapolis MN 55454*
The KTC is a nonprofit, charitable organization under 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Contributions are tax deductible.

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Calendar

Apr 6, 7PM Monthly Membership Meeting,
Midwest Mountaineering 309 Cedar Ave S.,
Minneapolis, MN - **John Cron** from **Granite
Gear** in Two Harbors will talk about the history of
the company and the development of specialized
back packing and canoe gear. He will also discuss the
testing of gear and provide tips on appropriately
fitting a backpack.

Calendar continued

April 14th and 15th, we will be hosting volunteer
training at REI-Bloomington for first time clearing
participants.

**Apr 17 and 18, 7PM Crosscut Saw Training and
Recertification** - This training will be at Bunker
Hills Regional Park. This is our 4th Annual
Crosscut saw training and 3rd year for the refresher,
so we should have them figured out. This will be our
1st year to offer Chainsaw training, so that may
encounter a few bumps in the road.

On **April 23rd – 25th,** plan to spend a couple of hours
at the KTC Table at Midwest Mountaineering's
Outdoor Expo.



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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED