

KNIFE RIVER HERITAGE



& CULTURAL CENTER

July/August 2026

By Paul von Goertz

KRHCC BOARD MEMBER

PO Box 240 • 180 Marina Road
Knife River, MN 55609
info@krhcc.org

Legacy Tree Dedication- A community expresses its remembrance

It was a beautiful spring morning on Sunday, June 14, when more than 50 members of the Knife River (KR) community came together to express their admiration and love for 15 people memorialized or honored with a native hardwood tree planted on the KRHCC site. And the trees did not disappoint as they proudly displayed their colorful spring foliage!



Photo above: Todd Monger (far left) addresses the 50+ community members who attended the Legacy Tree dedication. Photo credit: Paul von Goertz

The weather, the message of our speaker, and the purpose of the occasion made for a very memorable day in the history of Knife River.

The dedication of the KRHCC'S Legacy Trees was the final step in an initiative that took place over two years, to help beautify the KRHCC site and give community members an opportunity to honor or memorialize a loved one or special person. Savannah Krech, co-owner of Anderson's Greenhouse in Two Harbors ("buy local") was instrumental in the selection, planting and caring for the trees as they took root. A special shout-out to Louise's Place in Two Harbors for amazing pastries following the dedication (repeat: "buy local").

The dedication speaker was Todd Monger, a part-time KR resident and clinical/mental health counselor. He and his wife, Katie, sponsored a tree in memory of Katie's parents.

Todd's message was very insightful and carefully tailored to the occasion and perhaps the emotions of all those in attendance. Here it is repeated with some edits for brevity.

The Legacy Tree Program
Knife River Heritage & Cultural Center
June 14, 2026

" Like branches on a tree, we all grow in different directions, yet our roots remain as one". Suzy Kassem.

It is a great privilege to be asked to share some thoughts with you today as we honor and dedicate these incredible and beautiful trees known as: "The Legacy Trees." Thank you for taking the time out of your morning to join us for this special tribute.

Today we gather to recognize, remember and renew our commitment to this town and the rich history it holds. While the land on which we stand lies within the ancestral and current homelands of the Dakota and Anishinaabe peoples, it is also home to now four generations of those who gathered on this space to call it home. I count it an honor, as one of the newest members of this community, to carry this history and legacy forward to the next generation. In fact, I think it a great symbol of the "torch being passed" when Paul reached out to me, a newcomer, to ask if I might give this address today.

Several years ago, I was doing some writing and reflection on what makes a successful ecology. Often, we limit our understanding of "Ecology" to just nature – plants, animals, soils, water ways – but "Ecology" is defined as the study of living organisms and their environment.

In 2020, I wrote a paper entitled *Building an Ecology of Success*. As I studied this concept, I did so from my area of expertise in psychology and boiled it down to seven principles needed for a successful ecological system.

They are as follows:

A successful ecology

... must have the right Atmosphere

... recognize Symbiotic Relationships

- ... have the right Diversity
- ... have Resiliency
- ... manage Change Fatigue
- ... make room for Death
- ... have Love and Intimacy

Atmosphere is more than just the air we breathe, the sun we feel, or the rain that feeds. Atmosphere is the attitude, the joy, the compassion, the intentionality, and the spirit that says: "You are welcome here, and you belong".

Symbiosis is the term used to describe the relationship between two dissimilar organisms and the art of living together. Many times, it is one of governance and sustainability. Ecologies that thrive, work together for the good of the whole, that when one succeeds the other flourishes, and when one suffers the whole system becomes compromised.

Diversity and difference bring new perspective and insight. Diversity enhances one's own culture and enriches the way of viewing the world. Infusing a variety of difference into the same space creates a strong web that undergirds a system creating a more complex ecology in which the system itself can draw from to return to equilibrium after stress.

Resiliency is the process of adapting in the face of suffering, adversity, struggle, pain, or loss. Resiliency is the "ability to recovery quickly from difficulties, toughness," strong ecological systems are not fragile entities, rather they are buoyant when hardships come their way, be it storms, drought, snow, wind or hail.

And what of this idea of "Change Fatigue?" Greek philosopher Heraclitus of Ephesus first posted the saying: *The only thing constant is change itself*. His philosophical ideas included an allegory that life is like a river; water that is in constant flux or change. His saying, "*you can never step across the same river twice*," referenced the idea that river water is always moving, always changing, never still.

Such change can bring hope, especially in places and spaces in which the *river water* we step across today may not be as pleasant as the water we hope to cross tomorrow. Ecologies change constantly because they are always in flux. Change is good, change can be healthy, and change brings excitement for new possibilities.

Death plays a key role in a healthy ecology even though at times it is wrought with sadness and grief. Haruki Murakami provides the following statement in his fictional book *Norwegian Wood (2000)*, "Death is not the opposite of life but an innate part of it. By living our lives, we nurture death." A healthy ecology makes room in the story for death to play a powerful and important role to the new life that follows. Be it the death of leaves that fall to bring nutrients to the ground, to the memory of those who have passed on and leave us with the joy of their love.

And finally, Love and Intimacy. Intimacy is the human experience of feeling emotionally close, the sense of connection, of being known by another in a deep way, all enveloped in a space that feels safe and supported.

As I look around at the Knife River Heritage & Cultural Center and these 15 beautiful trees that have been planted and stewarded, I see these seven principles at work in this ecology. From the fish tug to the Viking ship. From the depot to the picnic table. This very place continues to be building an ecology of success.

So, a heartfelt thank you to Paul von Goertz and the entire KRHCC board for giving Knife River this sanctuary of historical significance. Thank you to all those who were inspired to donate and plant a tree in memory or honor of those who have given so much to us so we can appreciate what this place means.

And thank you to all of you for celebrating this amazing moment knowing that we are all carriers of the story of Knife River together. We all have a role to play in the Knife River Ecology of Success as we cradle the story with confidence for the generations to come.

I want to end this time with the reading of a short and famous poem by Joyce Kilmer written in 1913 simply entitled:

Trees.

*I think that I shall never see, a poem lovely as a tree.
Against the earth's sweet flowing breast; a tree that looks at God all day,
And lifts her leafy arms to pray; a tree that may in summer wear,
A nest of robins in her hair; upon whose bosom snow has lain;
Who intimately lives with rain. Poems are made by fools like me,
But only God can make a tree.*

.....

I felt many in attendance were touched by Todd's words, and the solemnity, yet found comfort of the service to respond to my request that they write about the person they honored or memorialized. Following are some responses.

Laura Stone: Knife River

Jackie Ojard called me frequently in the mornings to come up to her home for coffee where I joined Hans and Ivar Peterson at the table for some amazing, sweet treats and lots of stories about fishing on Lake Superior. I wanted to memorialize time spent with those three and the colorful Knife River histories they shared.

Susan Olin: Knife River

David Olin, along with his wife, Mary Olin, lived in Knife River from 1984 until his passing in 2022. He thoroughly enjoyed both the place and all the people here, relishing the changing seasons and life along Lake Superior. For many years he docked the CATALYST, his sailboat, at the Knife River Marina, and loved sailing the lake, which he and Mary circumnavigated one summer.

This tree is given in his memory by his daughters Sara Olin Codrea, Julie Olin-Ammentorp, and Susan Olin.

Deb and Jim Allert: Knife River

There is very little that Todd Lindahl does not know about the railroad, mining and logging history of our area. He carries a vast library of information in his head including the findings of scientific papers, geological and historical maps, logbooks, newspaper articles and a wide assortment of stories and anecdotes of the past.

Todd has hiked every trail and railroad grade in Lake County and bushwhacked many miles through woodlands and marshes in pursuit of knowledge to fill in the gaps of understanding that he finds in the historical record. Todd is an expert archaeologist, who treats his findings with the respect and honor they deserve while also drawing new connections between his discoveries and past knowledge. He also shares information and stories generously.

For many years Todd has given fascinating talks throughout our region to community groups, university students, and historical societies. Those of us who know Todd are always treated to fun facts and interesting stories about everything from prehistoric times in our region to its recent history. Todd always has a way of making the past come alive and leaves us with a deeper understanding of who we are and from where we have come.

Todd is an all-round nice guy. He is always willing to pitch in and donate his time and expertise. He has helped to restore old train engines and has worked endless hours helping to restore the Knife River Train Depot being careful to get the details, colors and equipment as close to the original as possible. Todd has a twinkle in his eye that belies his sense of delight in what he does. No one enjoys learning, investigating and explaining the history of our area more than he.

And these are only some of the things Todd has been involved with. His interests are many, his understanding is deep, and his curiosity and energy know no bounds.

Katie and Todd Monger: Medina, MN

Our tree is planted in loving memory of Kay and Steve Howe, parents to Katie. Together, they raised three daughters, instilling the values of kindness, hard work, and family that continue to guide future generations. Kay passed away prematurely at age 43 and Steve nearly 30 years later. Their legacy lives on through their seven grandchildren, who carry forward the love, laughter, and wisdom they shared throughout their lives.

May our tree stand as a living tribute to their enduring legacy. While they were never able to appreciate the North Shore that has become our second home, we are proud to be able to share it for the community to enjoy.

Lee Cohen: Knife River

Gene Rondeau was a medical partner of mine in Two Harbors for many years. Deb Allert and Tom Peterson also had the pleasure of working with him. He was a unique medical practitioner in that he was both a general practitioner and a trained psychiatrist. After years of general practice in Two Harbors, he and his wife, Jean, had twin boys affected with muscular dystrophy. The specialized care required for the boys convinced the Rondeaus to move to a center in the Pacific Northwest offering more specialized care. After the deaths of the boys, the Rondeaus moved back to Two Harbors, and Gene worked again at the Community Health Center and

Lakeview Hospital. He proved to be an invaluable source for mental health care in the county. In addition, he had a broad spectrum of general practice, and for his regular patients he provided both mental and physical health care, a combination not seen today.

Gene was a warm and outgoing person and a great outdoorsman. Although he lived near Two Harbors, he had many links to Knife River. Here he had many friends, patients, and coworkers. When the Superior Hiking Trail built the trail that formed the basis for the Knife River Hiking trail, Gene was a member of the original construction crew. He is fondly remembered by many of us, and a tree is a perfect memorial.

Cathy Wurzer: MPR News Host

The Linden tree planted in honor of Fritz and Georgie Wurzer was selected for its importance to the Wurzer family. My grandfather, Frank Wurzer, immigrated from Feistritz Austria, which has a yearly spring festival that features a special dance of married couples around the little town's HUGE and ancient Linden tree.

We've had the good fortune to watch that dance and wanted to bring a little taste of Feistritz to Knife River.

DD and Joe Friebe: Larsmont

Joe and I donated an apple tree to the Knife River historical and cultural center in honor of and memory of our daughter Sarah Marie Friebe. She was born in 1982. In 1986 she was diagnosed with leukemia and in 1989 she died from complications of leukemia. She was our first child. Sarah had brown hair and brown eyes. She was such a lovely baby and a good soul. She loved helping take care of her two younger sisters, Melissa and Rachel. She was very brave when she was diagnosed with her illness and she went through a lot. She did it all graciously.

This year we're making a quilt out of her clothing from when she was a baby and little girl. I discovered something I didn't know, which was that a lot of her clothes are pink so having a pink flowering, apple tree is perfect for her.

Thank you very much for making this opportunity available for us, to support the Center by funding a tree in Sarah's name.

Paul R. von Goertz: Richardson, TX,

Sonja Gab: Rapid City, SD

Christian von Goertz: Two Harbors, MN

Paul A. von Goertz is honored by his three children, their spouses and grandchildren. He has put so much time, energy and love into the heritage center and Knife River in general that they found it only fitting to honor him this way. He not only has a great passion and love for the community but also his family who always comes first. He is an amazing example of what a father, grandfather and husband should be. We love you tons!

Lee Bujold: Knife River

Granite Point neighbors came together to plant a tree in honor of the first residents of Granite Point. Indigenous planning based on "seven generations ahead" is an ancient

Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) philosophy that requires us to consider how our decisions today impact descendants roughly 150 years into the future. It promotes intergenerational equity, holistic sustainability, and long-term stewardship of natural resources.

Local tribal councils (such as the Grand Portage and Fond du Lac Bands of Lake Superior Chippewa) utilize this framework for environmental sustainability, climate adaptation, and protecting traditional ricing and fishing waters for future use.

Anne-Lù Basson-Hovis and Steve Hovis: Knife River

The Burr Oak is planted in honour of Hendrik and Laetitia Basson, and Terry and Beverly Hovis.

The Basson's started visiting Knife River after their daughter (Anne-Lù) moved here and have spent holidays visiting her and their son-in-law. They have participated in community events and love the people. They are both avid naturalists and gardeners. Laetitia also has a special connection with the railroad as her father was a train engineer in Namibia and South Africa. The Knife River Depot brought back many memories of her childhood.

The Hovis family discovered the North Shore in the 1980s when they travelled to camp and enjoy the beautiful area. They too, through their son (Steve), have made a special connection with Knife River and the people.



Photo above: Those who either dedicated a tree in honor or memory of a loved one, or were the recipient of a tree, gather for a photo at the conclusion of the dedication.

Photo credit: Anonymous attendee

Viking ship LEIF ERIKSON - still a Northland attraction

About 100+ people showed up to celebrate the LEIF ERIKSON's new home in Knife River and dedicate its shelter at a gala reception held at the KRHCC on Saturday, July 25 from 1 – 3 PM. The significant attendance and coverage by Duluth media helped show that the ship still has a fan base. It was also a meaningful occasion for all those who served on the Save Our Ship (SOS) committee for the past 30+ years who never lost faith that the ship would find a permanent home where it would be valued and cared for.

According to Neill Atkins, SOS board chair, the ship is about 75% restored and will be completely restored for the 100th anniversary of its arrival from Bergen, Norway, to the head of the lakes next summer. The ship took the same route to North America believed to be taken by Leif Erikson in about 1100, thus supporting the claim that the Norwegians were the first Europeans to discover the Americas centuries before Columbus.

The two-hour gathering of organizers, volunteers and guests included a short program and ribbon-cutting ceremony. The event included traditional Scandinavian music, food, silent auction and contests.



The ship, long a Duluth icon, was relocated to the KRHCC in 2021 when the City of Duluth acknowledge it could not provide a suitable location for it, or maintain it. SOS asked the city to gift it to them, which the city council voted to do.

Photo above: Some of the many who attended the ship/shelter dedication ceremony and helped show that the Viking ship still has a fan base. Photo credit: Paul von Goertz

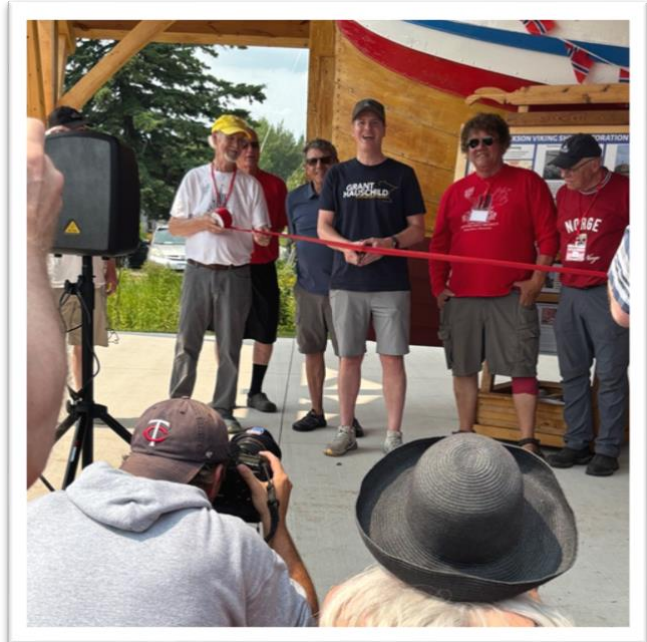
Photo right: Minnesota District 3 Senator Grant Hauschild, surrounded by SOS board members, cuts the symbolic ribbon to officially open the Viking ship shelter to the public. Senator Hauschild was instrumental in securing state funding to build the shelter. Photo credit: Mary von Goertz

Words of “Thanks” to all who gave Viking ship LEIF ERIKSON its new home!

Submitted by: John Vigen

Development Coordinator - LEIF

ERIKSON - Save Our Ship Committee



The LEIF ERIKSON crew thanks the Knife River community for its support in our efforts to develop the ERIKSON display, as well as your participation in our recent dedication of the ship's enclosure. It could not have been achieved without your support.

The LEIF ERIKSON development committee felt it important to employ local craftsmen for the project. We would like to again express our appreciation to those who made the project a success;

Mike Ostman of Ostman Trucking for all the preparatory site work.

Chris Kappes of Primetime Concrete for installing the concrete slab.

Kenn Pietila of Iron Ridge Construction for the custom metal roof.

John Christensen of Clover Valley Electrical for electrical and security systems.

Joe Fransen of Countryside Trucking who delivered the buildings protective bollard rock.

Savanna Krech of Anderson Greenhouse who completed decorative landscape.

Gerald David of GDF Woodworking who designed and constructed the building.

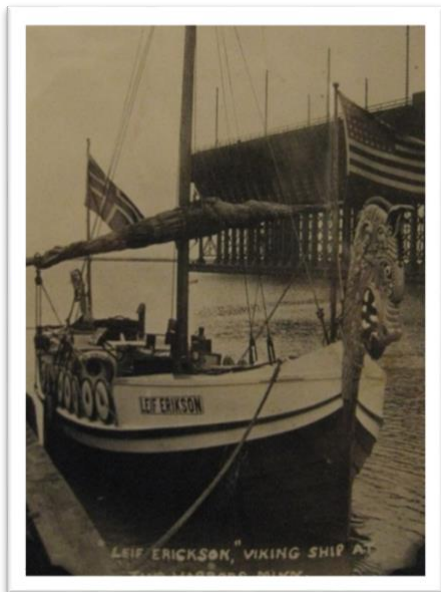
A SPECIAL THANKS goes to **Dick Tousignant** (Knife River) whose company “E-Con-Placer, a concrete pumping system, donated all time/equipment necessary to reach over site obstacles to complete the concrete slab in a continuous pour.

Also THANK YOU to Great! Lakes Candy Kitchen and Larsmont Trading Post, local businesses, both of which donated merchandise gift cards to the dedication event silent auction.

ALL EFFORTS ARE GREATLY APPRECIATED. Combined, the contractors and community have contributed to the LEIF ERIKSON development success.

100 years ago Two Harbors and KR shared in welcoming LEIF ERIKSON to western Lake Superior

The 100th celebration of the arrival of LEIF ERIKSON should be stated as “to western Lake Superior.” That’s because the ship first stopped in Two Harbors where it was greeted with a festive celebration. Knife River got into the act as well when the ship departed from Two Harbors, it was becalmed outside of KR. Two KR fishermen saw the ship’s plight and towed it until the wind freshened and so the ship was able to make its triumphant entry through the Duluth ship canal to the excitement of thousands of spectators.



While Duluth will have its own observance of the arrival of the ship, the KRHCC, as the new home for the ship, will have a celebration of international significance, as in Norway the ship continues to give testimony to Leif Erikson being the first European to discover North America, centuries before Columbus. The ship followed the same route to North America thought to be taken by Leif Erikson.

Photo left: LEIF ERIKSON stopped in Two Harbors on its way to Duluth where it was celebrated by the local Sons of Norway lodge.

Photo credit: Randy Ellestad Collection

A Bold New Chapter for Knife River!

By Lee Bujold

The remarkable work to preserve the railroad and boatbuilding history at the Knife River Heritage and Cultural Center is testament to the ability of community volunteers to work boldly to bring a vision to life. Over these last seven years with grit, determination, friend and fundraising the Depot, CRUSADER II and LEIF ERIKSON Viking ship have created a beautifully restored focal point for our sweet community calling attention to its rich history.

Over the course of two years, the impressive work and result at KRHCC provided encouragement in another way as the board of directors of the Knife River Recreation Center engaged the community in visioning and planning through the “Empowering Small Minnesota Communities” grant program.

As a result of community input sessions in 2025, a new community vision emerged; the Rec Center Board brought a vote before members to purchase the Knife River Campground on July 22. The vote to purchase the campground was overwhelmingly supported by 82.4% of members present: 107 “yes” votes: 20 “no” votes. The purchase agreement was signed on July 26 and the deal will close on November 2nd, completing Knife River’s “Central Park” corridor and tying in our recreational amenities and public access.

Stay tuned for “Next Steps”. This is just the beginning. There’s still a lot of work ahead, and a lot of dreaming to do about what this land can become for our community. We will need your voices and your ideas as we figure that out together!

Follow <http://www.kniferiver.org/> for ways to engage in this exciting new initiative!

Landscape plan update

The KRHCC developed a landscape plan in 2024 in anticipation of having it implemented by summer of 2027, in time for the 100th anniversary of the arrival of the Viking ship LEIF ERIKSON to the western tip of Lake Superior.

The plan has been evolving but has hit a speed bump with grant support. Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation (IRRR) has been very supportive over the years, but their current grant cycle does not work with the summer months when we need to complete our landscaping.

The IRRR funding cycle is October 2026 through May 2027. This means that to have our site ready for next year’s 100th celebration we may need to fund most of our landscape plan with existing KRHCC and SOS funds. The KRHCC and SOS are partnering in the landscape plan as it serves our common interests.

As mentioned, many times in this newsletter, the KRHCC relies on grants and donations to carry out its work. When grants fall short, we need to look to our friends and neighbors for donations. Can you help? The KRHCC is an IRS-recognized 501(c)(3) so all donations are tax deductible. Send to KRHCC, POB 240, Knife River, MN 55609.

Photo right: A signature fence along Marina Road will be a replica of the fence at L'Anse aux Meadows, an archaeological site located near St. Anthony on the northernmost tip of the island of Newfoundland in the Canadian province of Newfoundland and Labrador. It is a Norse settlement dating to approximately 1,000 years ago, first excavated in the 1960s. Carbon dating estimates place it between 990 and 1050 AD with tree-ring dating of 1021, L'Anse aux Meadows is the only undisputed site of pre-Columbian trans-oceanic contact of Europeans with the Americas outside of Greenland. Photo credit: Internet public domain



Photo left: Fencing to define and protect green space will be “post and rope,” indicative of a seacoast community.

Photo credit: Internet public domain

Photo right:



“Dolphins” will be placed near the entry to the Center with a flagged cable extended between to block entry to the site during the “off” season. Our site has been vandalized by motorized vehicles early and late winter when the earth is soft. Dolphins are groups of piles (wood, steel, or concrete) driven into the seabed and connected, designed for ships to tie up to when there is no continuous pier or wharf.

Photo credit: Internet public domain

Pastor Lisa Buchanan begins her ministry at KRLC

Photo credit: Ed Lee



Pastor Lisa Buchanan began her call at Knife River Lutheran Church on June 21, after completing a two-year interim call at Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Duluth.

Previously, she served at Bethany Lutheran in Deer River for eight years. Pastor Lisa has also served Trinity Lutheran in Cook, Bethany Lutheran in Cromwell and Gethsemane Lutheran in Virginia.

She graduated from Allegheny College in Meadville, PA, with a B.A. in Environmental Studies and then received her M. Div from Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg, PA, (now United Lutheran Seminary) in 2008 where she met her husband, Ben.

Ben is also a Lutheran pastor and currently serving in his inter-faith role as chaplain with Duluth's Air National Guard Unit on deployment. Lisa and Ben feel so grateful for their twins, Alexander and Scarlett, 10, who

keep them busy with school activities, questions and the latest slang. A mini Bernedoodle, named Latte, also lives with the family.

Pastor Lisa looks forward to learning more about the Knife River community as well as exploring the beautiful North Shore. She has appreciated the welcoming ethos of Knife River Lutheran Church and hopes to continue such a legacy.

KRHCC to host North Shore-themed quilting show

Celebrating culture and heritage through fabric

The KRHCC is partnering with the Lake Superior Modern Quilt Guide (LSMQG), to celebrate Knife River and the North Shore heritage and culture through North Shore quilts.

The LSMQG is based out of Duluth and serves a wide area. Members are mainly from the wider Duluth community; however, it does include members from Grand Marais, Knife River to Tamarack, and neighboring counties in WI.

This event will be the first of its kind in Knife River. It will be held at the KRHCC on August 22, 2026, from 10 AM – 4 PM. Rain day will be the following day. Traditional, modern and art quilts will be on display including antique quilts from North Shore families. Two “Quilt for Veterans” will be displayed near the KRHCC veteran memorial. Attendees can enter/nominate a local family veteran to receive the quilt.

Photo right: Railings around the CRUSADER II and LEIF ERIKSON shelters lend themselves to displaying quilts. Photo credit Anne-Lù Hovis



As an inaugural event, and to encourage participation by quilters, there is no charge to quilters for displaying their quilts. There will also not be an admission charge this year.

While quilting isn’t as widespread as hobbies like gardening, cooking, or photography, it remains one of the largest and most enduring fiber arts, with millions of participants worldwide.

Quilting is particularly common among adults and retirees, but there has also been growing interest from younger makers through modern quilting styles and social media.

The show will bring together quilt artists, educators and community members for an engaging exhibition that promotes artistic expression, preserves traditional textile arts, and provides educational opportunities for participants of all ages. Groups participating in the show is the LSMQG, Two Harbors Quilters, SAQA-MN chapter and Knife River Lutheran quilters. It is sponsored in part by Lovin Lake County, Lake County’s marketing arm.



Quilting in Knife River – 20 years of giving

By Anne-Lù B. Hovis

Knife River is rich in history and more known for its fishing, logging and rail. However, little is known about the history of patch work quilts (sometimes incorrectly referred to as blankets). Many of the families who have worked hard during the day fishing, logging and rail, would likely have been covered at night by a quilt that was carefully sewn together by hand, and sometimes a sewing machine, by patching pieces of scrap fabric together.

So, now I am on a mission to learn more about the quilts of this wonderful town. Asking around who may know more of the most recent quilting history in Knife River, everyone I asked said: "Susan (Sue) Hubbartt, she is the one you should talk to". And so I did.

On a Saturday afternoon, sitting outside enjoying the summer warmth, Sue and I started talking about her history of sewing and what she knew of quilts/quilting in Knife River.

Sue grew up in Knife River and learned how to sew from a young age. Sue learned how to make garments and have made many a wedding dress and bridesmaid dresses too. Recalling how good it felt to make garments that looked good and fit well.

She continuously learned new and difficult techniques, looked at garments and could say 'I did it'. Not only is Sue known for her garment sewing skills, but also for making quilts. Many quilts! Not only has she made quilts for friends and family, but also for each of her 10 grandchildren, each one unique and special.

Her skills were later also put to good work when Knife River Lutheran Church (KRLC) quilting group was formed in 2006. It started when another area church had extra fabric that was gifted to KRLC. Several ladies joined the newly created quilt group. They initially brought their own sewing machines to church, and a group of four or five members started putting blocks together to create beautiful quilts.

Through donations and fundraisers, machines and more fabric could be purchased, and even more quilts could be made. The quilts have been sent nationally and internationally through the ELCA to locations where people are most in need. More recently, KRLC quilters have been donating quilts to more local groups in Two Harbors and Duluth. In addition, quilts are still being made for weddings and baptisms. The most recent gifted at a baptism in August.

Over the last 20 years, many quilts were made with love and care. On average, about 15-20 quilts were gifted/donated each year. Quilters coming together do so for the camaraderie, for laughter, for building friendships and for supporting each other. These are the same reasons that quilters have been coming together in years past. Creating quilts provides comfort and warmth, especially during our cold winter months.

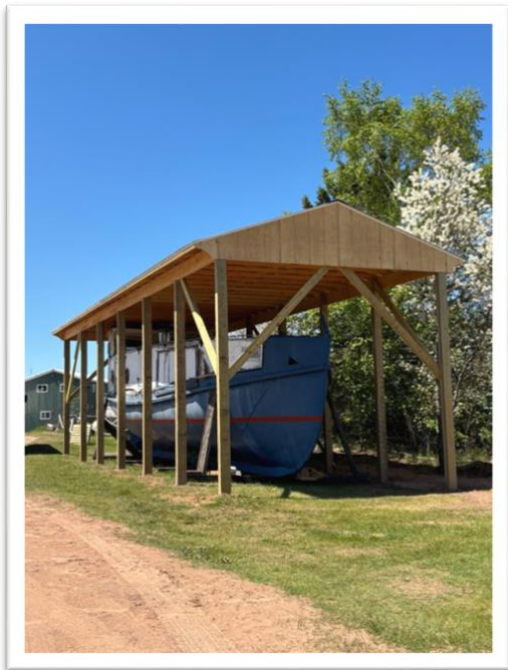


Photo left: KRLC quilters pulling a quilt top over a quilting frame.
Photo Credit: A. Hovis.

This is only a very small snippet of quilting in Knife River. I would like to hear more about other family quilt histories. If you have a story and photo of quilts made in KR, let us know by submitting it with photo to the newsletter editor at info@krhcc.org

Cornucopia takes a page from the KRHCC (?)

Mary and I drive to Bayfield each May to take in the apple orchards northwest of town in full bloom, although this year we missed it by about a week.



We always drive along Wisconsin Scenic 13 to check on what may be new in commercial fishing towns of Port Wing and Cornucopia. This year we were thrilled to see a shelter being built over LIBERTY, a steel-hulled fish tug that ended its days as a dive boat. It is one of four on display on the waterfront near their heritage center. The other three are being reclaimed by nature.

We would like to think the Corny community may have been inspired to save one of their tugs by what we have done with CRUSADER II, although we wish they had incorporated a viewing deck into their shelter as we have done.

Fish tug LIBERTY with shelter under construction.
Photo credit: Paul von Goertz

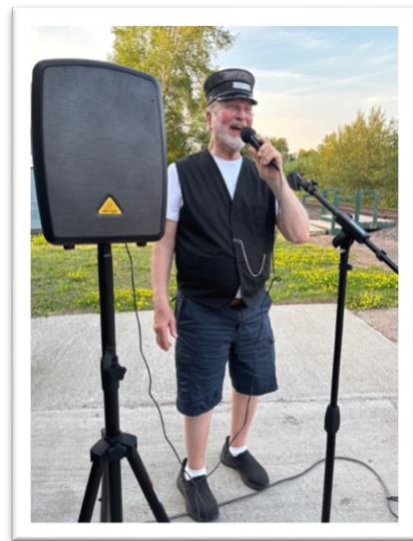
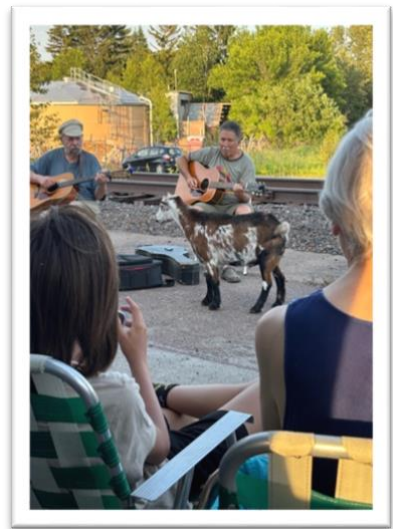
Go Go Goats crash July "Toe-Tapping Tuesday."

Just as we were trying to contend with 93-degree heat, humidity at about the same number, and angry ankle-biting black flies, brother boat goats, Allouez and Pinto, the two lawn-mowing goats who call NÓATÚN their home, barged in and crashed the jam session at the depot. Thankfully, the lively music prevailed to the delight of the 20+ folks who braved the conditions.

NÓATÚN is our good neighbor across the tracks. They are active wooden boat builders and maintain a wooden boat shipyard.

Photo right: "Mind if I join in?"

Photo credit: Paul von Goertz



The August Toe-Tapping Tuesday jam will be held on August 18. A report on that session will appear in the September/October KRHCC newsletter.

The July jam session premiered the KRHCC's new portable sound system donated by Bill Berg in memory of Terry Berg. Thank you so much Bill. Paul von Goertz, as Depot Agent, used the new system to introduce Lee Cohen, who then introduced the evening's musicians.

Photo credit Mary von Goertz

Grandparents Day is August 23

Editor's note:

I wrote the following story for the June Knife River Lutheran Church newsletter as a reflection on Father's Day, Sunday June 21. The story resulted in several positive comments, which inspired me to include the story in this newsletter issue. It is timely as it allows me to acknowledge that Grandparent's Day is August 23.

The incident that I relate took place, as close as I can figure, in 1928. The values at that time were different from today, so please try to place the actions of the people in the story in the context of their times.

What children can learn from their grandparents.

Reflection by Paul von Goertz

Mary and I are blessed to be grandparents to seven beautiful (in all respects) grandchildren. My grandfather on my mother's side had a profound influence on me that helped forge my path in life, and so now I wonder how my words and actions may be affecting our grandchildren.

My grandfather, Paul Oldenburg, was born to German immigrants in the late 1800s and grew up in northern IA and later Elmore, MN, within sight of the MN/IA border. He had only an eighth-grade education but was a hard worker and had entrepreneurial instincts.

A big man, his first enterprise was digging farm drainage ditches. He then tried raising chickens, but most died. He had a pleasant way with people, enjoyed selling and so decided to become an auctioneer. I loved to hear his rapid-fire auctioneer voice! Farm equipment that didn't sell, he would buy and soon found himself in the used implement business.

His business grew and was soon noticed by the John Deere Co. and so he became a dealer for them. That was a very prestigious position in a small town like Elmore. I remember my older sister and I, each holding one of grandpa's hands, walking "uptown" and he being greeted by just about everyone we met. I was named after my grandpa and so with his name, I wanted to be like him – respected as a fair and honest businessman, and as an active and responsible community member.

My mother told me grandpa served as president of the board of elders at Trinity Lutheran Church in Elmore, a Missouri Synod congregation, for an amazing 34 years.

Mom attended confirmation class with another 14-year-old, a boy called "Lummy," a nickname I assume came from "lummox," meaning someone awkward or clumsy. I don't like referring to him now as "Lummy," but I don't know his given name. Lummy may have had a disability as we call it now. He was teased relentlessly by other children, but my mom, a very kind and caring Christian, had compassion for him and so befriended him.

One day, Lummy was called for noon dinner but did not respond. A family member found him hanging from a barn rafter.

A debate broke out among church members whether Lummy should be buried in the church cemetery, given he had taken his own life, a mortal sin in the Missouri Synod Lutheran Church. The local newspaper picked up on the debate and grandpa feared other small-town papers may follow. He soon called a closed meeting of the church elders. After about 45 minutes, grandpa emerged to say that Lummy would be buried in the church cemetery. And Paul Oldenburg's word was final.

When I reflect on how my grandpa helped me at an early age establish my values by his example, I try to be cognizant of how my actions and words may influence our grandchildren. I was reminded of this a few months ago when I dropped a plate of something on the kitchen

floor, and in front of Elin, our 11-year-old granddaughter, I said “Son of a bi – biscuit! The next time I saw Elin, she came up to me and said “Papa, instead of ‘son of a biscuit,’ I think you should say ‘daughter of a dumpling.’”

Grandparents can learn from their grandchildren, too.

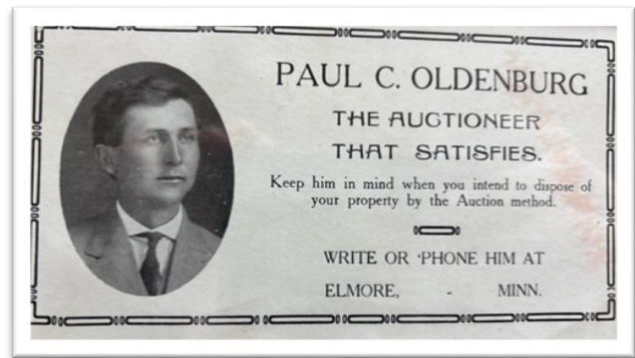


Photo right: Paul Oldenburg business card. Auctioneering was a fast way to sell items in the 1920s.

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Honorarium:

- Bill Berg to general fund in memory of Terry Berg

Donations:

- Public address (PA) system given by Bill Berg in memory of Terry Berg.
- Krista Mosby winter flag (Krista, a member of the Wieme family that sponsored our community flagpole, has donated all the winter and summer flags for the KRHCC. The winter flag is smaller than the summer flag and so better able to handle winter storms.

Please remember the KRHCC if you plan to gift in tax year 2026. The KRHCC is an IRS recognized 501(c)(3) so all donations are fully tax deductible. Send to KRHCC, POB 240, Knife River, MN, 55609. Thank you!

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Editor/Writer: Paul von Goertz; Historians/Researchers: Todd Lindahl, Randy Ellestad and Paul von Goertz; Graphic Design and Production: Anne-Lù Hovis.

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