

Boundary Waters Advisory Committee 2008 Annual Report



Volunteers Karen Meyman and Jennifer Leazer working on the Brule Lake trail, October 2008

Photo by Martin Kubik

Since 2002, BWAC has engaged more than 150 volunteers to restore, clear and maintain the following Boundary Waters area trails:

- *Eagle Mountain – Brule Lake Trail (9 miles)*
- *Snowbank Lake Trail (portions of an 18-mile trail)*
- *Kekekabic Trail (portions of a 42-mile trail)*

BWAC advocates for the return of historic trails to the Forest Service inventory:

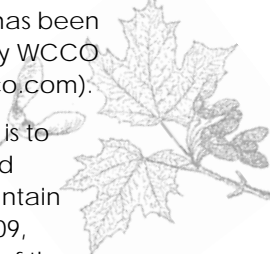
- *Kelso Mountain Trail (1.25 miles)*

Vision — 2009 and Beyond

The dramatic helicopter rescue in October of two hikers lost on Kekekabic Trail in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area (BWCA) has rallied interest in the work of the Boundary Waters Advisory Committee (BWAC). Martin Kubik, president and founder, has been interviewed twice since then by WCCO TV (search “kekekabic” at wcco.com).

The primary goal for the BWAC is to engage more crew leaders and volunteers to preserve and maintain more miles of hiking trails. In 2009, BWAC plans to adopt portions of the

41-mile Kekekabic trail. Major weather and fire events have caused the trail to fall into serious disrepair. BWAC will work with the USDA Forest Service and other volunteer organizations to restore this classic BWCA trail.



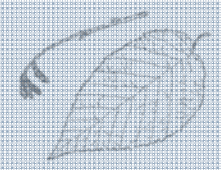
About BWAC

BWAC was formed in 2002 by a core of individuals with a love for the wilderness of northern Minnesota and a vision for preserving access to this remarkable area for hikers and backpackers.

BWAC is a non-profit, grass-roots volunteer organization dedicated to the preservation of the historic trails in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness.

Many of the trails are protected through their inclusion in the U.S. Forest Service trail inventory. BWAC is working with the Forest Service and the legislature to return the few remaining, unprotected trails back into the inventory for public use.

Additionally, BWAC promotes protected heritage hiking trails in the Boundary Waters and contributes to ongoing trail maintenance.

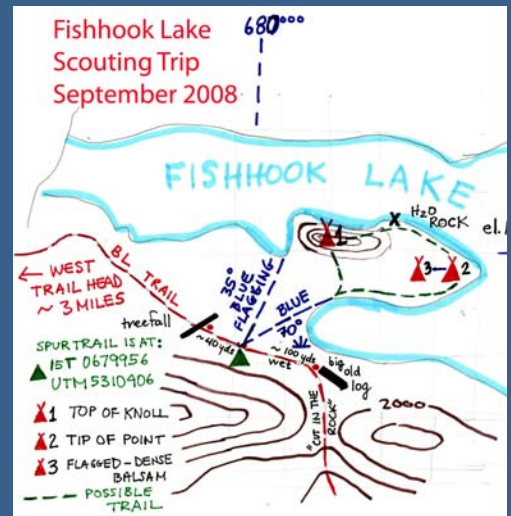


BWAC is a member of the Alliance of Hiking Organizations of the American Hiking Society



Volunteers at Eagle Mountain overlook, October 2008

Photo by Rebecca Capra



Brule Lake Trail Campsite: Two survey trips have identified an ideal location for a new campsite that will allow future trail crews to overnight in the area, saving four hours of hike-in time to access the trail. The site offers an isolated camp setting with pleasing views of Fishhook Lake.

Map by Martin Kubik

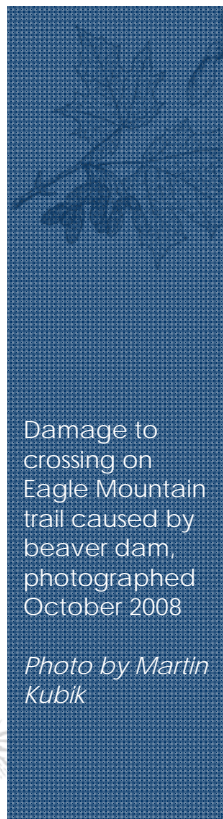
Trail Advocacy Activities

BWAC is passionate about preserving historic trails and restoring decommissioned trails to the Forest Service inventory. Trails were America's original surface transportation system. The historic route of Lewis and Clark, the Native American paths that crossed the landscape and the great trails of the western pioneers all defined our nation.¹ BWAC conducted a total of 10 service trips in 2008, including three survey trips.

Kekekabic Trail: A survey hike was conducted in November to assess trail conditions. The Kek, a 42-mile path between the Gunflint Trail and Ely, has been affected by a blowdown (1999), prescribed burn (2003), the Cavity Lake Fire (2006), and the Ham Lake Fire (2007). Conditions in the fire-affected third of the trail are critical, as the foot path no longer exists. With the ultimate goal of preserving the wilderness nature of the trail, BWAC is recommending temporary trail markings in the burn area to support the goal of reestablishing the tread.

USDA Forest Service Partnership: BWAC celebrates another successful year of partnership, not only in maintaining safe and enjoyable trail conditions for hikers, but also in ensuring safe conditions for trail maintenance volunteers. Sections of the trails to be targeted for maintenance are determined collaboratively, often with the input of committee members who have hiked the trail. The Forest Service has provided tools, safety glasses and water filters to volunteer crews, as well as occasional transport or overnight accommodations.

Kelso Mountain Initiative: BWAC continues to advocate for the return of the 1.25-mile Kelso Mountain Trail to the Forest Service inventory. Designated a Community Millennium Trail by Hillary Rodham Clinton in 2000, Kelso has both unique recreational value and historic value as a fire lookout tower trail.



Damage to crossing on Eagle Mountain trail caused by beaver dam, photographed October 2008

Photo by Martin Kubik



¹ Olson, Jeff. "Millennium Trails: Honor the Past, Imagine the Future." Institute of Transportation Engineers, ITE Journal, Nov 2000. http://findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_qa3734/is_ai_n8924107

BWAC Leaders and Volunteers

BWAC is an all-volunteer organization. Ranging in age from 13 to 73 years old, volunteers come from a variety of backgrounds but all have this in common: They love to hike and they love the outdoors.

BWAC is led by a Board of Directors consisting of three volunteers. The Board is responsible for establishing the mission for the organization and ensuring the mission is accomplished. The activities arm of BWAC is the Trail Committee. This group of volunteers plans and leads all trail clearing activities.

Board of Directors:
 Martin Kubik, President
 Nirmal Jain, Secretary
 Rebecca Powell, Treasurer

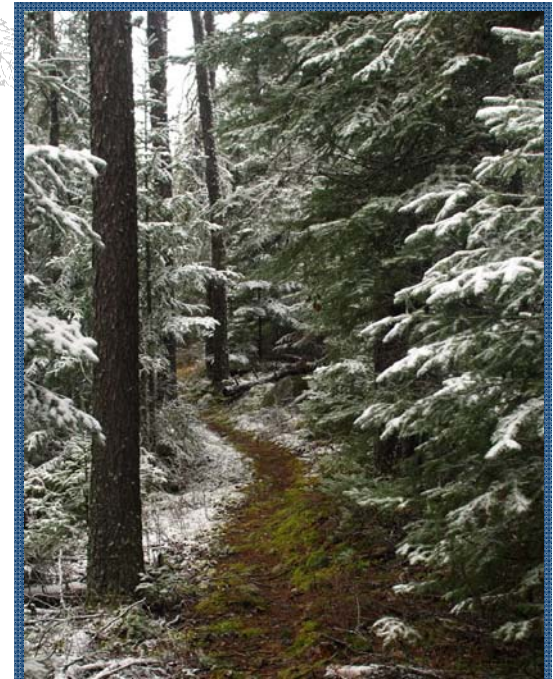
Trail Committee:
 Dave Baar, Vice Chair
 Joel Gardner
 Sherry Holtmeyer
 Joey Jeffers
 Martin Jeffers
 Ken Johnson
 J. Eva Kovacs
 Martin Kubik, Chair
 Roger Lee
 Eric Lieder
 Jen Leazer
 Dave Naumann
 Paul Stelter
 Ken Yarina

Volunteer Feedback

"[The] crew leader did a great job. I learned about dressing appropriately, bringing the right gear, checking for safe ice, navigation with a map and compass, and pine tree identification. I learned crucial outdoor skills. The trip was well put together." — Luke Young

"A great way to learn, experience, and give back!" — Shawn Kardell

"I was a recent empty nester and was looking for some new experiences. The people have been just great. I learned how to canoe (in the dark, too!) and how to camp and clear trails. I liked being able to do some volunteer work and have fun at the same time." — Sherry Holtmeyer

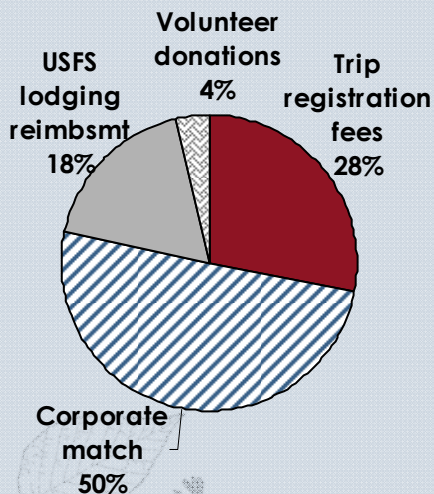


Kekekabic Trail, November 2008

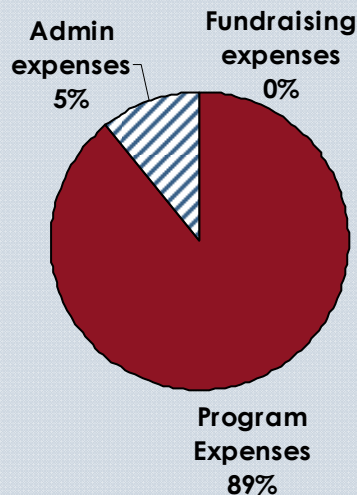
Photo by Martin Kubik

Financial Summary

Income



Expenses



2008 BUDGET

Primary revenue		% of total
Trip registration fees	\$1,000	28%
Corporate match	\$1,800	50%
USFS lodging reimbmt	\$650	18%
Volunteer donations	\$125	4%
TOTAL INCOME	\$3,575	100%
Program expenses		% of total
Volunteer lodging	\$1,212	38%
Volunteer recognition	\$629	19%
Recruitment expenses	\$591	18%
Education activities	\$275	9%
Leadership training	\$173	5%
Administrative expenses		
Website expenses	\$140	4%
Memberships	\$50	2%
Miscellaneous expenses	\$161	5%
Fundraising expenses	\$0	0%
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$3,230	100%
Beginning net assets	\$2,599	
Change in assets	\$345	
Ending net assets	\$2,944	

Boundary Waters Advisory Committee

Address:
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Minneapolis, MN 55454

Email address:
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Phone: 651-214-5849

Web Site:
bwac.homestead.com

Photo Web Site:
bwac.smugmug.com

501(c)3 Tax ID Number:
01-0645356

Board of Directors

Martin Kubik, President
Nirmal Jain, Secretary
Rebecca Powell, Treasurer

Join Us!

Contributions of financial support or volunteer time directly benefit preservation of historic wilderness trails in northern Minnesota.

Financial contributions may be mailed to the BWAC address on Cedar Avenue.

For information about upcoming volunteer opportunities, visit our website at bwac.homestead.com. A variety of trips are planned throughout the year, some of which are also suitable for those with limited outdoor / trail-maintenance experience.

Acknowledgement of Support

BWAC leaders and volunteers alike wish to gratefully acknowledge support received in 2008 from the following organizations:

In-Kind Donations:
Bear Track Outfitting Co.
Cooke Custom Sewing
McKenzie Map Company
Midwest Mountaineering
Northern Wilds
Riverland Laser
Smitty's on Snowbank

Corporate Match of
Volunteer Hours:
3M Foundation
Medtronic Foundation

Financial Donation:
U.S. Forest Service

*Contributions to the Boundary
Waters Advisory Committee, a
tax-exempt organization
under Section 501(c)(3) of the
Internal Revenue Code, are
tax-deductible.*



*"Wilderness is not a luxury
but a necessity of the
human spirit."*

*— Edward Abbey,
American Writer (1927-1989)*



On the
return
trail,
May
2008

*Photo
by Barb
Altringer*



*Boundary Waters Advisory Committee
309 Cedar Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55454*

