

## Paul Bunyan Scenic Byway Association

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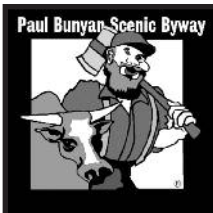
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[www.PaulBunyanScenicByway.org](http://www.PaulBunyanScenicByway.org)

## “Charm-ing” Partnership Supports Paul & Babe

2010 brought about yet another new partnership for the Byway Association. A new charm, cast and created by Merritt Jewelers, was developed as a fundraising tool for the non-profit Byway Association. The original charm features a boxed in version of Paul & Babe similar to that of the logo of the Paul Bunyan Scenic Byway and retails for \$29. The Byway Association receive \$5 for every charm sold.

Lynn Scharenbroich, chairperson of the Byway Association, said that partnerships like this with Merritt Jewelers are what makes the Byway's organization unique. “Literally dozens of partnerships have helped projects along the Paul Bunyan Scenic Byway driving route happen, said Scharenbroich. “We're thrilled to broaden our fundraising scope into merchandise. It's such a natural fit. We hope more local retailers will want to partner with us on Paul Bunyan-related merchandise ideas.”

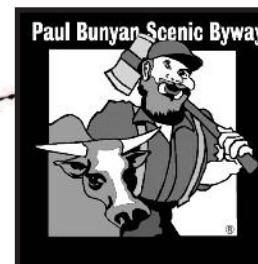
Merritt Jewelers also casts rings and pendants at their Pequot Lakes store. Barb Merritt said another charm, a snow angel, is raising funds to support the Wadena Tornado Relief Fund. To date, more than \$1,000 has been generated for families in need. Merritt said, “We're proud to be able to use our creative talent in such a rewarding way.”

Merritt Jewelers store also features the engagement ring Paul Bunyan had made for his sweetheart, Lucette. Read this tall tale online at [PaulBunyanScenicByway.org](http://PaulBunyanScenicByway.org) or at [merrittjewelers.com](http://merrittjewelers.com)



To purchase the Paul & Babe Charm, shop in person at Merritt Jewelers (31067 Front Street, downtown Pequot Lakes) or on-line at [www.PaulBunyanScenicByway.org](http://www.PaulBunyanScenicByway.org) (click on Paul Bunyan's Shoppe).

# Inkslinger



The official newsletter of the Paul Bunyan Scenic Byway Association • Fall/Winter 2010

## Spot of Interest

There are nearly 100 points of interest along the Paul Bunyan Scenic Byway. Each issue of the *Inkslinger* will highlight one of these lesser known Byway points of interest.

### Meyer Creek/Trout Lake

Influence from logging operations continues to show itself around the Byway area even today. One place where that influence is as clear as Johnny Inkslinger's glasses is on the south side of the Trout Lake public access where Meyer Creek enters Trout Lake.

The shore there is not a sandy beach, nor is it forested or covered with typical woody ground cover. It is, instead, almost a micro-environment, appearing more like a small backwater area, sporting things like cattails, pondweed and wildbird nests.

There are many who speculate as to how this unusual spot came to be. One theory put forth by several folks is the 'explosion connection'. Apparently it was common during the heyday of logging in the late 1800's and early 1900's, to dam up small creeks for the purpose of creating a deeper and wider water body to hold the harvested logs from the forest near that water body. Then, when a certain number of logs were in the water body, the logging company would dynamite the dam and the logs would float to the main lake on the rush of water created by the opening of the dam.

The Meyer Creek area, it is said, was the site of such an attempt, but the effort was complicated by uncooperative logs that refused to

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## Paul Bunyan to Promote Safe Boating

The U. S. Army Corps of Engineers is the leading provider of water-based recreation nationwide. With such popularity, the St. Paul District Corps of Engineers makes huge efforts to educate visitors on responsible ways to be safe when recreating on the many lakes within the district.

In conjunction with the Paul Bunyan Scenic Byway Association, the local cooperative partner with the Crosslake Recreation Area, the idea was proposed to utilize the popularity and visibility of Paul Bunyan to promote wearing a life jacket when boating.

A-Pine Restaurant owner and Byway Board member Rick Beyer was approached about outfitting his 13-foot statue of Paul with a life jacket. This icon statue is strategically located along traffic flow head-

The Byway Association also possess the largest rag doll in the world (of Paul Bunyan, of course!). Paul the doll sits prominently in the leased display space provided by the Corps in the office Conference room in Crosslake.

Outfitting the two Paul's with easily identifiable, appropriately-sized life jackets has become the goal of Corps Park Ranger Renee Hanson and the Byway Association. Renee has been in contact with a major life jacket manufacturer in an attempt to have two custom jackets completed (and worn) by the 2011 Minnesota Fishing opener.

Measurements perhaps may lead to a new world record on the Byway...look for Paul modeling the possible Guinness record life jacket along the Byway beginning in spring 2011.

— Ray Nelson

*US Army Corp. of Engineers, Crosslake/Byway Association Liaison*

The Paul Bunyan Scenic Byway is a 54 mile driving route with hiking/walking trails, recreational parks, wildlife management areas and historical artifacts. Your Byway has been designated as both a state and national scenic byway.



Our favorite Paul Bunyans will be suited with life jackets by spring 2011.

## Largest Turnout Ever at Byway Association's Annual Meeting & Fundraising Dinner

Paul Bunyan fans seemed to multiply for the 12th annual Paul Bunyan Scenic Byway Association Annual Meeting and fundraising event. In addition to several speakers, raffles for fun Byway baskets were drawn and attendees continued the tradition of Table Tales — a chance for clever tale creation as table groups finish a tall tale starter. And, the event resulted in more than \$450 in proceeds for the non-profit.

The Byway Association has an active membership, accepts cash and in-kind donations, and has been very successful in securing both state and federal grants for projects that support the economic vitality of the region.

But fundraising to ensure the organization's financial sustainability is always needed. Business leaders and community residents are urged to continue to "Support What You Enjoy" to keep the Byway Association viable in the future.

The Paul Bunyan Scenic Byway Association focuses on promoting, protecting and enhancing the recreational, historic, cultural, scenic, natural and archeological resources along the Byway driving route.

To learn more about the Byway Association, visit [PaulBunyanScenicByway.org](http://PaulBunyanScenicByway.org).

## Byway Receives Grants through Explore Minnesota Tourism

Explore Minnesota Tourism provides the opportunity to support Minnesota's State Scenic Byways through a marketing grant program. Grant dollars may be used to support local efforts to market and promote a byway. The grant provides up to \$2,500 for qualified byways with the State paying for up to 40% of the project.

Over the years of the program, the Paul Bunyan Scenic Byway Association has accessed these funds to distribute brochures, update the website, and to create awareness in the local community and beyond. The Paul Bunyan Scenic Byway Association has been awarded \$1,840 for 2011 to continue these efforts.

A special research project to evaluate the economic and social impacts of the Paul Bunyan and Lake Country Scenic Byways is coming to a final report in the near future. Explore Minnesota Tourism provided a \$10,000 grant through the Pine River Chamber for this project. In addition to the grant program, Explore Minnesota Tourism promotes the State's byways through special promotions, its website — [exploreminnesota.com](http://exploreminnesota.com); in the state travel guide, and through public relations campaigns.

— Carol Altepeter  
Explore Minnesota Tourism/  
Byway Association Advisor

## Economic Impact Report Available January 2011

The Byway Association, in conjunction with the Lake Country Scenic Byway, has been working with the University of Minnesota and Explore Minnesota Tourism to develop assessment tools to gauge the economic and social impact and significance of these designated scenic byways.

Information has been gathered related to projects along both the Paul Bunyan and Lake Country Scenic Byways. Intercept surveys were conducted during the summer and fall seasons of 2010 to obtain information on visitor and resident awareness of byways and their contribution to the communities.

A final report sharing all of these findings is expected in January 2011.

Support  
what you  
enjoy!

Paul Bunyan Scenic Byway



## Paul & Babe's GeoHunt

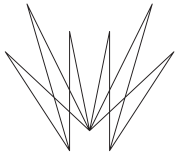


The 2010 GeoHunt was financed in part with funds provided by the State of Minnesota through the Minnesota Historical Society from the Arts & Cultural Heritage Fund. This year's cache collector cards were all focused on our region's history. Dozens of interesting and unique historical facts were discovered by participating in this fun outdoor activity.

Nearly \$2,250 was generated by this event to support the Paul Bunyan Scenic Byway Association and the Parks & Library Foundation of Crosslake. See a complete list of contributors in the Inkslinger's insert or online at [PaulBunyanScenicByway.org/Geo10](http://PaulBunyanScenicByway.org/Geo10).

## Second Area Geocaching Event Successful and Profitable

Paul & Babe's 2010 GeoHunt was held from May through July along the Paul Bunyan Scenic Byway. The GeoHunt is a family-friendly geocaching activity that involved seeking out 30 unique sites along the Byway's driving route. The activity was free and a great way to explore nature, get exercise and learn more about the region.



MINNESOTA HISTORICAL  
& CULTURAL GRANTS



## "Our Paul" Recognized



Wayne Chamberlain was recognized with a special award at the Byway Association's 2010 Annual Meeting. Chamberlain was the Association's first Paul Bunyan performer, logging in hundreds of hours wearing plaid and standing tall.

In the last 10 years, Wayne has built 22 floats, participated in 29 parades, organized a Paul Bunyan-sized cribbage tournament, acted as a contest judge and guest celebrity at Byway area centennial celebrations, performed intermission announcer duties, hosted a community Paul Bunyan Day and, of course, appeared as Paul Bunyan to a growing number of "Bunyan groupies" at countless other community and Byway events.

Wayne,  
your  
Paul  
Bunyan  
family  
thanks  
you!



## Jenkins History Told

The City of Jenkins hosted an ice cream social at Veteran's Park in Jenkins in June. This was a community gathering established to help collect and preserve the rich history of the town. An Information panel about the town's history will be displayed at the Paul Bunyan Scenic Byway gazebo near the AmericInn in Jenkins.

Glen and Rena Leverington, Greg and Dana, their son and his wife, with their two daughters, Jenny and Kristy were there representing three of the four generations of Leveringtons that have farmed west of Jenkins since 1903. Glen had prepared a story of recollections of his father "driving" his cattle into Jenkins to the railroad for shipment and the way this was done. Read this story at [PaulBunyanScenicByway.org](http://PaulBunyanScenicByway.org).



Life-long Jenkins resident  
Glen Leverington

— Donna Stricker  
Stricker Arts/Byway Association Board Member

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smoothly slide downstream to Trout Lake. Instead, they snarled themselves up into a log jam so big and gnarly, it could have made Paul Bunyan cry. To straighten out the mess required quite a bit more dynamite than was commonly used...and the blasts had to be done repeatedly. Finally, the logs relented and moved down the waterway to Trout Lake, eventually bound for the Mississippi.

But, the blasting left behind a changed landscape. Significant sediment was deposited at the mouth of Meyer Creek and out into Trout Lake, forming a new environment for quite a stretch of shoreline. Over time, the sediment attracted plant growth and nesting birds typically seen in wetlands and marshy areas. The change is still evident today, and indeed, so strikingly beautiful, framed by the blue-green waters of Trout Lake, that it inspired area artist, Tom Ottoson, to create an original oil of the site. Prints of that stunning work are still available through the Byway Association website at the Paul's Bunyan's Shoppe section.

## Passing of the Treasurer Torch

Since December 2006, Steve Brann has been the Byway Association's treasurer. Brann standardized the bookkeeping and reporting systems for the Association. Beginning in 2011, these activities will be transitioned to Larson Allen, LLP, in conjunction with a new Treasurer.

Bill Potvin of Larson Allen commented, "LarsonAllen looks forward to the increased role with the Byway Association. We are always looking for opportunities to give back to our communities, and by assisting non-profit organizations at a discounted rate we feel that it gets us a part of the way there."

The Byway Association board thanks Steve and wishes him the very best as he devotes more time to his growing business, Countrywide Tax Services in Pine River.

## A Halloween Tradition Continues

Paul Bunyan Scenic Byway Association was again one of the sponsors at the 5th Annual Haunted Hallway at the AmericInn Lodge & Suites in Pequot Lakes/Jenkins. More than 800 children trick-or-treated down the hallway. Thanks to Board member Rod Nelson for being Paul for the night!