



## The Dwarves at the Knife River Wedding Feast



A long time ago, there was to be a big wedding at the church in Knife River and afterwards a feast was to be held by the river in a beautiful spot where large white pines grew.

On the day of the wedding a young boy named Knut was out collecting firewood for his family. When he had gathered a nice bag full he sat down and rested against some rocks. All at once he heard a great commotion from underneath the rocks and shouts of "Give me my hat! Give me my hat!"

He was a bold little fellow this Knut so he also shouted,  
"Give me one too!"  
"There's none left but father's old one," came the answer.  
"Give me that, then," he said.

No sooner had he uttered the words than the rocks lifted up on four red pillars and a hat flew out from below the rocks and through the air. Knut grabbed it and immediately put it on his head. Then he looked into the opening under the rocks and he could see a large room with many dwarves gathered. One by one they climbed out of the ground and hurried along the trail. Knut followed behind. They walked towards the river and soon they arrived at the spot where the wedding feast was to take place.

Many fine tables were set up, decorated with lovely flowers and filled with heaps of food and good things to drink. The young wedding couple sat down first and then the rest of the guests followed. As people seated themselves, the dwarves quickly stuck themselves between the guests wherever they saw fit. Nobody took any notice of this and Knut realized that the dwarves were invisible to the people. He seated himself at the end of a bench and nobody noticed him either!

As soon as the guests began to eat, so did the dwarves and Knut. They ate most heartily and the food disappeared in record time. The cook scratched her head in consternation. She had prepared as much as for other weddings and there had always been plenty, but this time they ran out of food.

The same happened with the dessert. Since the food was gone, it was time for dancing. The fiddler struck a tune and everyone jumped up to dance. The little dwarves got up also with their own women for they, too, are fond of dancing. They danced and danced as the music spun and soared among the pines. At one point one young woman twirled around and dipped her hand in a graceful curve. But as her hand swooped down, it knocked the hat off one of the dwarves who was dancing invisibly beside her. All at once everyone could see him. The guests stopped and stared at the little dwarf and clamored to find out how he came to be there.

The little dwarf didn't say a word. He just grabbed his hat and ran away. A great whooshing sound followed as all the other dwarves rushed after him. Then Knut took off his hat so they could see him and told them what had happened.

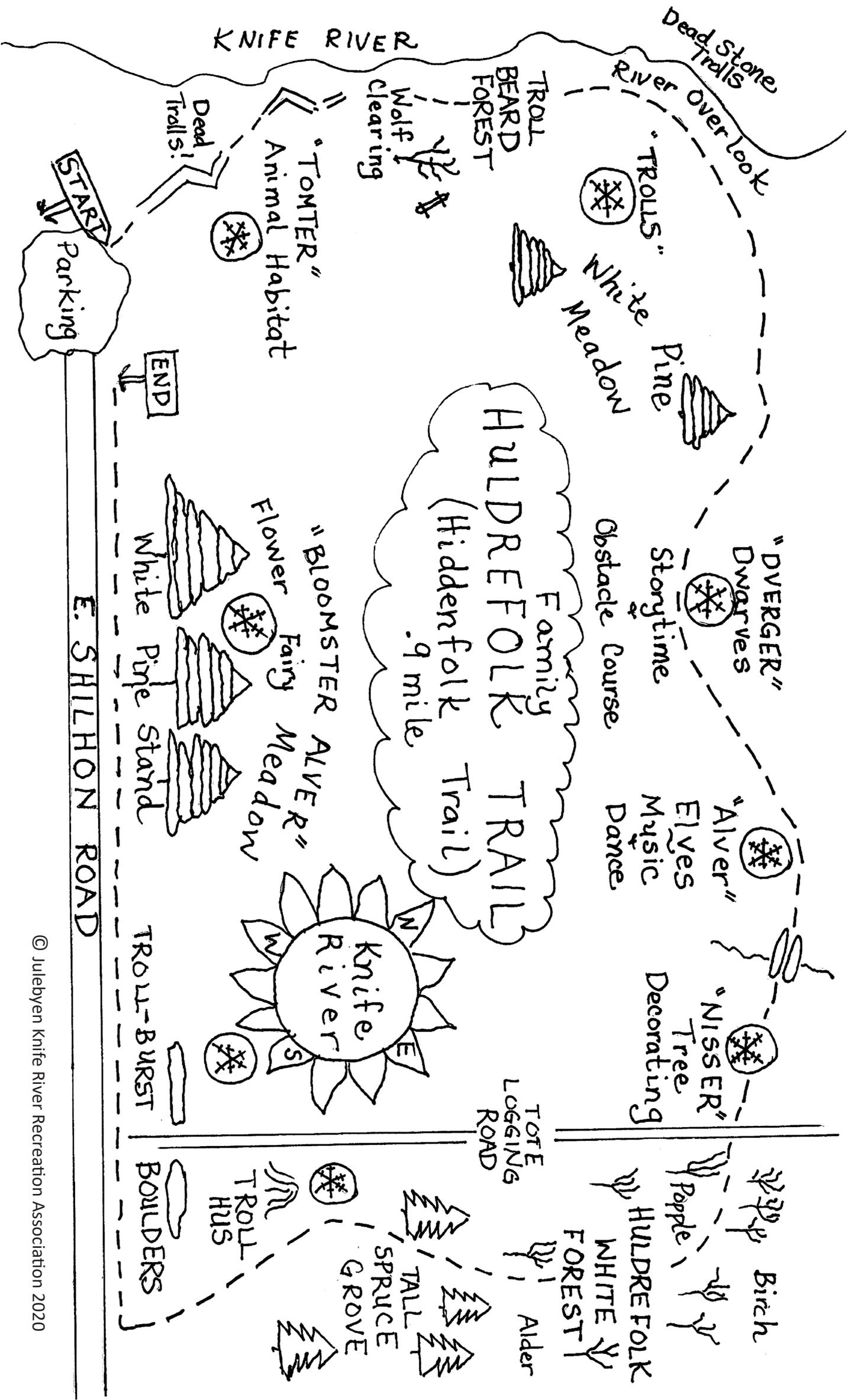
There was much laughter and merriment about how the dwarves had come and participated in the wedding feast. And the cook was relieved for now she knew she had made enough food, just not enough to satisfy a large party of hungry dwarves.



Snipp snapp snute,  
Her er eventyret ute!



Story written by Lise Lunge-Larsen. Lise is a special friend of Knife River telling troll stories on the Julebyen Troll Train and now helping us find traces of hidden folk along the Huldrefolk Trail. Born and raised in Norway, Lise is a professional storyteller and has written many award winning books including *The Race of the Birkebeiners*, *The Hidden Folk*, *The Troll with No Heart in His Body* and *Seven Ways to Trick a Troll*.



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