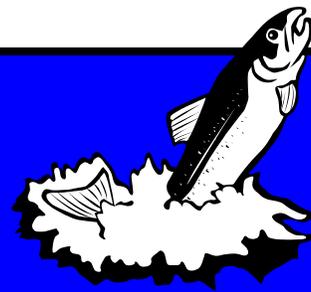


Brule River

Sportsmen's Club, Inc.

OVER 500 MEMBERS DEDICATED TO THE IMPROVEMENT AND PRESERVATION OF THE BRULE



APRIL 2017

Brule River Steelhead Opener 2017: A Family Tradition

by Ken Lundberg

The mild weather in February and March created lots of interest in the early season fishing. It started early for me by making two steelhead fly rods for grandsons who caught their first steelhead last year. My interest increased after talking with fishermen about the river and the opener at the Great Waters Fly Expo Brule River Sportsmen's Club booth.

Opening day my sons, Tom and Mike, and grandson Ethan headed to the river well before legal fishing time. The snow-free walk to the river was easy, and we found a semi comfortable spot to rest near a favorite run. This is a relaxing time to sit enjoying the solitude, listen to the gurgle of the water, and anticipate what is in store for the day. The mild weather certainly made the experience more enjoyable. In a short time, flashlights began to appear and fishermen were on the move.

The first person to appear asked, "Where am I?" followed by, "Things sure look different in the dark." We chatted and agreed on spots to fish. It's an interesting time when total strangers talk in the dark about fishing experiences and speculate on how to approach opening day. Because all know that the river will be crowded, these conversations allow us to make allowances for all.

Soon features such as birch trees and snow patches emerged from darkness on the opposite river bank, marking the approach of sunrise. This was followed by more frequent checking of the time until the season officially opened. Using spawn for the first cast, great expectations ended as years before had, with no results. Did I really expect to catch one on the first cast?

Finally a fish was on, but after a few hard runs, we parted ways. A short time later a nice spawned out steelhead was at my feet, received a "thank you" plus a pat on the back as she swam away.

What a special time to be on such a wonderful river. After several hours, the winter's unused muscles began complaining and the feet were feeling cold. It was time to join my crew up stream and begin telling stories.

Grandson Ethan was all smiles. He had landed three steelhead and lost several others. Being in the right spot sure helps, and his dad had made sure he got the prime location. As the day wore on, we landed more fish and they seemed to prefer brown nymph patterns.

Most of the larger fish had already spawned, which was sort of a surprise. The other surprise was the number of native browns and smolts that were active. The early ice out and warm weather probably led to their increased appetite. What a day; everybody caught fish and the temperatures stayed above freezing. As we left the river late

afternoon, Ethan was asking what time we could be back tomorrow.

The opener was one of the best in many years. The river was a bit low for this time of year but cloudy enough so the fish were not easily spooked. Most groups had caught fish or had the stories of "long range releases," a phrase commonly used to say the fish got away.

Sunday morning Ethan was after me to get his new fly rod ready. They had arrived at the house late Friday evening and we had opted for sleep in rather than preparing the rod. Soon grandpa was short a fly reel plus line. While traveling to the river after lunch, we discussed which runs would suit his skill level.

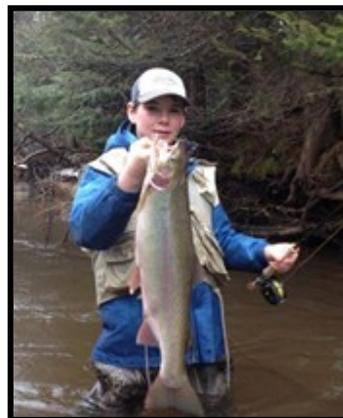
Tom, his dad, took him to a shallow fast run for starters. In a short time, he hooked a nice native brown but forgot to hang onto the line while setting the hook. A beautiful backlash appeared; they landed the fish, but dad had to take the reel apart to clear the mess, another lesson learned in the evolution of a fisherman along with grandpa's usual sarcastic remarks.

About an hour later I saw a blue jacket and khaki vest coming at a fast pace through the woods. From the look on his face there was no question, good things had happened.

Ethan's first words were, "Grandpa, I got a big one on the fly rod with your fly." There was the appropriate number of pictures taken and compliments given before he released the 28 incher. What a perfect opener. How could it get any better?



Ken's grandson Ethan and son Tom. Ethan landed a 28" catch.



"Ethan's first words were, 'Grandpa, I got a big one on the fly rod with your fly.' What a perfect opener."



BRSC Calendar:

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be Monday, April 24, 2017, at 6:00 p.m. at Round Up North Restaurant in Brule.

Brule River Clean-up Day Saturday, April 22

(Rain date: April 29)

Volunteers are to meet at the Brule Pavilion prior to 9:00 a.m. for coffee and rolls.





Brule River Sportsmen's Club Regular Meeting Minutes March 27, 2017



President Dennis Pratt called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. at Round-Up North in Brule.

Officers and Directors: Present - Dennis Pratt, Ken Lundberg, Bill Gobin, Walt Swanson, Jeff Stollenwerk, Courtney Johnson, Mick Killoren, Mike Zicus, Dennis Smet, Jim Waletzko, Dean Wellman, Ron Pearson and Ron Gaare.

Minutes of the February 27 Meeting: The minutes as written in the March newsletter was approved following a motion by Ken Lundberg and a second by Bill Gobin and unanimous approval by voice vote.

Financial Secretary's and Treasurer's Reports: Financial Secretary Bill Gobin reported that there were deposits of \$1,974.00 in March into general fund. Of that, \$1,350.00 were funds brought in from the Fly Expo, and \$390.00 of that was in membership. This was approved following a motion by Dennis Smet and a second by Mike Zicus.

Treasurer Jeff Stollenwerk reported that March's beginning balance was \$7,941.13, and the ending balance was \$8,675.78 with the following expenses: Joe Scaccia (February meeting) for \$50.00; Charlie Bergsten (large map framing) for \$24.24; Arrowhead Printing (February newsletter) for \$259.99; The First Impression (large maps) for \$379.00; Bill Gobin (postage and shipping) for \$15.96; Arrowhead Printing (March newsletter) for \$260.16; Katie Thompson (March newsletter) for \$200.00; Joe Scaccia (March meeting) for \$50.00. This was approved following a motion by Bill Gobin and a second by Ron Gaare.

Committee Reports

Habitat: Dennis Pratt - Appreciation event will take place at the April meeting for the volunteers on habitat projects, 19 individuals helped in 2016. This was approved following a motion by Ron Pearson and a second by Mike Zicus.

Legislative: Ken Lundberg –Wisconsin Conservation Congress Spring Hearing on April 10. South-Shore Grade Culvert removal, we need to get the word out to as many organizations as we can to get support.

Scholarship: Paul Helbach – no report. Application deadline is April 30.

Education: Dennis Smet – Dennis Pratt and Dennis Smet visit to aquarium classrooms went very well, first time for both teachers. Ron Gaare, who attended one of the events, said they did a wonderful job. The talk was better received at the middle school level, than at the high school level. Ashland aquarium went to South Shore this year, and next year it will go to Hayward.

Membership: Jim Waletzko reported that he went down to the lower river on opening weekend to visit fishermen, and took time to spread the word about the club. Bill Gobin said we are just over 500 members.

Budget: Ron Pearson – Ron expressed thanks to Jeff Stollenwerk and Bill Gobin for all the work they do. Scholarship Fund is declining, and in the future, the Club may be forced to pull from CD. Jeff Stollenwerk mentioned the Scholarship Fund has been able to award scholarships for five or six years, using our match to the anonymous donation we received in 2010. Ron also expressed thanks to Ken Lundberg and Mike Zicus for the work on the newsletter. Ron also expressed that the Recording Secretary should get more than \$75, and Dennis Pratt agreed that the amount should be higher. The suggestion was to increase this to \$250. This was approved following a motion by Bill Gobin and a second by Ron Gaare.

Web Page: Mike Zicus – The idea of a Brule River Sportsmen's Club Facebook page was introduced and all favored this. Dennis Pratt will get one started as soon as possible.

Other Business

Spring Clean-up – Dennis Smet – The date is set for April 22nd, April 29th is the backup date. Ken Lundberg will talk to Boy Scouts. Club Scouts have been contacted and are coming. Courtney Johnson will be bringing donuts for the event.

South-Shore Grade on Nebagamon Creek Issue – Ken Lundberg will continue to reach out to

"March Minutes" continued on pg. 3



BRULE RIVER SPORTSMEN'S CLUB, APRIL 2017

"March Minutes" from pg. 2

Wisconsin Wildlife Federation, Brule River Preservation, and the Douglas County Fish and Game League for support.

Email of newsletter to Members: Ken Lundberg - we have a contract with Constant Contact; May is the target date to go live. May and June will also have a hard copy. The electronic newsletter will have easy links to the website. Paper copies could be provided to members who wish them at an additional cost. A hard copy summary could be available at the end of the year. Some folks haven't renewed since 2012 and 2013 will be cut off. Think about articles to be in the Newsletters.

2017 Expo Recap: Ken Lundberg said the large frame map and the loop of videos going were the big draws for the crowd. Dean Wellman, Courtney Johnson and Ken Lundberg manned the booth. Dennis Pratt thanked the guys.

Brule Coalition meeting planning is on-going (Tentative date – June 29, Nebagamon Town Hall)

Brule Forest Master Plan - The land management reclassification has been finalized.

Old US Highway 2 Bridge Erosion Plans – Myron Olson to discuss at next month's meeting.

Newsletter Items – Dennis Pratt ideas for articles: 'Restoration of Joe Lucius Canoe'; 'History of the Brule'; 'Old-Time Families on the Brule'.

Upcoming Events

Brule Hatchery Family Fun Day – June 3rd (10 a.m. to 3 p.m.)

The business meeting adjourned at 7:04 p.m.

Speakers – Paul Piszczek - WDNR Senior Fisheries Biologist, Aaron Nelson – Fisheries Technician, and Terry Margenau – Lake Superior Basin Supervisor gave an excellent presentation, updating the meeting attendees.

Recorded by Walt Swanson

Great Waters Fly-fishing Expo

by Ken Lundberg

The Brule River Sportsmen's Club had a booth at the Great Waters Fly-fishing Expo in St. Paul, March 17-19. This year Dennis Pratt's videos of trout spawning on past habitat improvement sites were shown. There were many compliments on the quality of the film. We talked about the club and the work that continues to be done to improve the Brule River. The large 36" x 24" lower Brule River map was added to the booth and used as an aid to answer questions.

Scott Thorpe and Vic Stark did a wonderful job setting up our booth as well as the Steelheader's booth and working the show. Dean Wellman, Courtney Johnson and Ken Lundberg staffed the club's booth most of the time. Mark Haas was again very helpful covering when needed. Also helping, mostly in the Steelheader's Booth, were Joel Piper, Jeff Donegan, Jeff Hinz, Greg Lonke, David Thorpe, Tom Cawcutt and Jason Kopp.

The club took in a little over \$1,300 in sales. The most popular sale item was the lower river map followed by the upper river map. Over 20 new members signed up or renewed memberships. Only a few Doc Bauer's books and hats sold.

There were a number of people interested in purchasing the large lower river map (36" x 24") with the idea of framing it for homes or cabins. They were not on sale at the expo, but hopefully future sales will result from the interest. Dean, Courtney and Ken will report on the expo at a future club meeting and offer ideas of improvement for next year's expo.

We're Going Digital!

You'll be receiving your newsletters electronically beginning with the May issue if we have your email address. The board of directors decided last year to transition to a digital newsletter primarily because of the rising cost of printing and mailing the newsletter.

You will also receive your old paper copy for a while until we've made the transition.

A successful transition depends on you providing us accurate and up-to-date email addresses.

You can furnish these by using the "Contact Us" form on our website (*click on* <http://bruleriversportsmensclub.com/contact-us/contact/>), the form we send when it's time to renew your membership, or the membership form used when you join the Club.

For more information, go to the Club's website.

BRSC Membership Form

Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____
e-mail _____

_____ Individual \$20.00 _____ Renewal (due by Jan. 1 ea. yr.)
_____ Household \$25.00 _____ New Member
_____ This is a gift membership. Please send membership card(s) to:

Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____
e-mail _____

Donations

Education Fund \$ _____ Habitat Fund \$ _____
General Fund \$ _____ Scholarship Fund \$ _____

Visit us online at www.brulerriversportsmensclub.com

All information contained herein is confidential.
All but \$1.00 of your membership dues is tax deductible.
Donations are 100 percent tax deductible.

Thank you for your support!

BRSC Gift Store Order Form

_____ Brule River Map (Upper) (*same prices as for lower map*)
_____ Brule River Map (Lower)
 \$8.00 each (members) - no shipping charge
 \$10.00 each (non-members) - plus \$1.00 S&H
_____ Large Map of Lower Brule (36"x24") - suitable for framing
 \$25.00 (members) - plus \$5.00 S&H
 \$30.00 (non-members) - plus \$5.00 S&H
_____ BRSC Baseball Hat
 \$20.00 each (members) - plus \$4.00 S&H
 \$25.00 each (non-members) - plus \$4.00 S&H
_____ Newsletter DVD
 \$5.00 each (members) - no shipping charge
 \$6.00 each (non-members) - plus \$1.00 S&H

The Brule River Sportsmen's Club, Inc. is a tax-exempt organization defined by Chapter 501 (C) (3) of the IRS Tax Code.

Brule River Sportsmen's Club, Inc.
P.O. Box 100
Brule, WI 54820



What We Do:

Fisheries Habitat Projects — Club members and others volunteer during the summer months to restore features necessary for fish spawning, growing and feeding.

Clean-ups — Keep the Brule clean and beautiful.

Monthly Membership Meetings — Frequently include guest speakers.

Monthly Newsletter — Helps generate understanding of fisheries and water quality, and keeps members and others informed about Club activities.

Scholarship Program — Provides educational support to students.

Officers

President — Dennis Pratt
Vice President — Ken Lundberg
Financial Secretary — Bill Gobin
Recording Secretary — Walt Swanson
Treasurer — Jeff Stollenwerk

Board of Directors

Tom Bydalek	Dennis Smet
Paul Helbach	Jim Waletzko
Courtney Johnson	Dean Wellman
Mick Killoren	Ron Pearson
Mike Zicus	Ron Gaare

Newsletter Editor

Katie Thompson -- goirish@cheqnet.net