

## 2019 Candidate Biographies

**Dennis Pratt – Candidate for President.** I am a retired Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources fisheries biologist. My career lasted 37 years with the last 27 years managing the Bois Brule fisheries along with the other Wisconsin tributaries to Lake Superior. My first introduction to the Brule was during a Washburn High School canoe trip in the late 1960s. I initially became a member of the club the month after retirement from DNR in 2011 and have since served on the habitat committee, as Vice President and for the last 4 years as President. My goal is to continue protecting and enhancing the Brule fisheries and its environs as long as I'm able. Beside fishing the Brule, my most recent passions include investigating the river's fishery history, videoing spawning trout and salmon underwater, and passing along some of what I've learned about the river in the past quarter century

**Ken Lundberg – Candidate for Vice President.** My career was spent in higher education teaching Chemistry and as an administrator. After retirement, my wife and I moved back to Wisconsin and replaced our seasonal lake cabin with a year-round home. The Brule River has always been an important part of our family activities. My first memories of the Brule were fishing with my dad for brook trout, attempting to catch steelhead, and learning to canoe in our Lucius Canoe. I joined the BRSC because it was important to help protect and improve the river that has been such a wonderful part of my life. I have been a member for more than 30 years, serving as a board member, president and vice president. My priorities are habitat improvement and teaching friends and youth to fish and enjoy the river. Some of my best memories come from being on the river with my children and now my grandchildren.

**Dean Wellman – Candidate for Financial Secretary.** I retired from the UPS after 33 years, with 28 years in management. I am a Superior WI native and was fortunate to have had legendary fishermen such as Ron Pearson and Rob Miller as teachers. My father bought property along the Brule in what we call the "woods" in 1960 when I was 8 years old. I started tying flies a few years later, which is my passion. I joined the Brule River Sportsmen's Club sometime in the mid-1970s. Habitat has always been my focus. It is critical to all fisheries. Sustaining a wild trout fishery is the most important belief I have. Second most important is to share this river with others.

**Jeff Stollenwerk – Candidate for Treasurer.** I am the Director of Government and Environmental Affairs at the Duluth Seaway Port Authority where I am responsible for environmentally sustainable economic growth in the region served by the Port of Duluth-Superior. I have 30 years of professional experience implementing the federal Clean Water Act with a focus on the Great Lakes. I was first introduced to the Brule River during a fishing seminar conducted by Dr. Ken Lundberg at Bemidji State University in the late-1980s. A college friend from Duluth invited me on a Brule fishing trip to show me the ropes. Like many steelheaders, my early successes were limited but I was quickly obsessed with the amazing river and the unique cast of characters that inhabit its banks. I have served the Brule River Sportsmen's Club on its Board of Directors as Recording Secretary for a few years and currently as the Treasurer for the past 2 years. I look forward to continuing support of the Club's work to preserve and improve the Brule!

**Walt Swanson – Candidate for Recording Secretary.** I'm an information security professional who has held positions from entry-level technology to executive leadership. I grew up in Brule, and spent most of my childhood working on river cabins, most notably at the Cedar Island Estate. In adulthood, I returned every few weekends to help relatives as needed with tasks at these locations, which included working at the private Fish Hatchery. Throughout my life I have spent countless hours fishing and canoeing the

Brule. I joined the Brule River Sportsmen's Club on its Board of Directors as the Recording Secretary in 2016 and I bring the knowledge of what technology can do to help communicate to members. I believe the habitat work the club does is very important to the river and needs to continue.