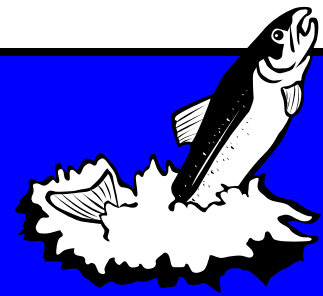


# Brule River

## Sportsmen's Club, Inc.

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



April 2023

## Brule River Opener - 2023

By Ken Lundberg

This year I was almost wishing my sons would call and say they could not make it for the opener. My grandson, who is a regular, decided to stay home and curl. The memories of last year's opener's cold temps plus this year's deep snow were too much. Each opener seems to have new challenges which makes for good conversation with coffee and friends. This year, the temperature was warmer, but the snow was deeper.

I started for the river with my two sons, Mike and Tom, well before legal fishing hours. About 50 feet out of the parking lot, it was clear that snowshoes were needed. The original plan was to walk in on the early morning crust, but sinking almost to the waist convinced us to snowshoe. The walk in was slow and uneventful. The goal was not to tire or sweat. Later in the day there were tracks of several fishermen coming in without snowshoes. They had to be in far better shape than our crew.

Arriving at the river, I found someone already sitting by the planned start point. They had a nice fire and were relaxing in camp chairs. After a brief conversation, they said it would alright for me to fish the lower part of the long slow run. They were planning to only fish the upper half. Once I found a good spot on the snow bank about four feet above the water, it was time to sit back and just

listen to the sounds of the river and dream of the day ahead.

As it began to get light, I readied my rod but did not cast until well after the legal start time. The early morning temps were still in the low 20's, so rod eye icing would be a problem. On the first cast, the line stopped near the end of the drift, so I half raised my rod, expecting a snag. Much to my surprise, a lake run brown was rolling on the surface.

One should plan ahead. There was no way to safely slide down the high snowbank to reach the water and land the fish. I

ended up dragging the brown up the bank; luckily, the hook held and line did not break. The brown was quickly released. It was time to find a way to get in the water.

A flexible alder provided a way to safely slide down to the water. I did check for water depth and a way to get back out of there. The next two hours were spent clearing ice from rod eyes every three or four casts. Fish-wise, the morning was going good, landing another brown and steelhead. My hands were far too cold to dare take the cell phone out for pictures while standing in the water. By 10 a.m. my body was telling me to get out of the river and move.

I put my snowshoes on and headed up the river to find Mike and Tom. The smell of a campfire told me it was time to warm up and enjoy a cup of coffee. We sat around the fire for over an hour just talking about past openers and planning the afternoon. They had caught several steelhead and taken the appropriate pictures. The pressure was off with everybody getting fish so the rest of day became more low key.

About 2 p.m., we moved downstream to a long slow run that had been productive in past years. No one was there and it was time to switch to nymph patterns. Once the water warms a bit, flies always seem to be more productive. Twenty five years ago, if someone had told me that I would have more confidence in flies, I would have laughed them out of the room. It goes to show that one is never too old to learn.

The afternoon proved to be much more enjoyable. The sun was shining, the temps warmer and no ice in the rods eyes. Mike and Tom gave me a fishing lesson, hooking a number of nice steelhead while I watched and took pictures. About 4 p.m., I packed my gear and slowly snowshoed back to the truck. At 83, my pace is much slower than the younger generation. They landed two more steelhead before following me up the steep hill.

It was a good day to be on the river, and God willing, we will all be back next year. Openers are too special to miss.



Tom holds a bright silver steelhead



Mike traverses in snowshoes.



**BRSC Calendar:** The next board meeting will be held on Monday, April 24, at the KroBar at 6:00 p.m.





## Brule River Sportsmen's Club Electronic Meeting Minutes March 27, 2023



President Dennis Pratt called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. at Kro Bar.

Officers and Directors: Present - Ed Chaplinski, Glen Hill, Ken Lundberg, Dennis Pratt, Mike Sierszen, Dennis Smet, Jeff Stollenwerk, Walt Swanson, Jim Waletzko, and Mike Zicus.

Treasurer's and Financial Secretary's Reports: The Financial Secretary's report and Treasurer's report are postponed until the April meeting. We are transitioning our financial recordkeeping to a calendar month period and will begin providing calendar month financial reports at the April 24 meeting.

### Committee Reports

Legislative: Ken Lundberg – The Club supports a \$5 increase in the Wisconsin inland waters trout stamp.

Habitat: Dennis Pratt – Tree Planting Project scheduled for May 20, DNR to supply tools. Waiting on DNR to approve Angel Creek work.

Audit: Jeff Stollenwerk – Audit Committee Report: Dean Wellman, Bill Gobin, Ron Gaare, and Ken Zivic and Jeff Stollenwerk met on March 23, 2023. The Brule River Sportsmen's Club continues to be in good financial condition with increasing growth in total funds over the past five years. Total CY2022 revenue was \$27,749 and CY2022 expenditures were -\$15,542. Approximately 19.8% (\$5,497) of revenue came through the online Store, which is an increase over CY2021 (15.5%). Most expenditures are in the scholarships, business expenses/supplies, newsletter development, and merchandise stock categories. Itemized bank deposits and expenditures are reconciled in the monthly reports from the treasurer. The CY2022 bank transactions and online store transactions via PayPal were reviewed by the Audit Committee. Federal Form 990-N for tax-exempt organizations and Wisconsin Form 5 – Domestic Non-Stock Corporation Annual Report were filed prior to their respective due dates. Federal 1099-Misc and 1096 forms were completed and filed in January 2023. The Committee reviewed the CY2022 transactions that were fully reconciled with no significant discrepancies. The committee brought the following reports/recommendations for Board approval/discussion:

CY2022 Accounting and March 1 Balances reports were approved following a motion by Ken Lundberg, second by Jim Waletzko and unanimous approval by voice vote.

The General CD and Scholarship CD recently matured. The combined total is just over \$50,000. The best reinvestment options through Security State Bank are CDs of 7 months @ 3.7%, and 25 months @ 4.3%. The Audit committee recommended reinvesting \$10,000 in a 7-month CD and \$40,000 in a 25-month CD. This was approved following a motion by Walt Swanson, second by Mike Zicus, and unanimous approval by voice vote.

The Audit Committee recommended removing the "Scholarship CD" designation because the Club's obligations for the original scholarship donation have been fulfilled, and use of the funds in the CD are not limited to just scholarships. The new CDs are proposed to be simply "Short-term and Long-term CD." After discussion, it was decided that the Club would make no change to the Scholarship CD designation.

Given the consistent growth of Club funds, the Audit Committee recommends the Club consider developing a spending plan that reflects the interests of our membership. One possibility is increasing the number of scholarships if multiple highly qualified applicants are identified. Habitat and education investments are also a possibility. This was tabled for future discussion.

Education: Dennis Smet – Status of the 'Aquarium in the Classroom' project. Dennis Smet and Dennis Pratt gave presentations to a total of 243 students in four classes of 6th graders at Northwestern Middle School and seven classes of 11th and 12th graders at Superior Senior High School during this past week. The 500 fry in each aquarium are doing well.

Scholarship: Mike Sierszen/Paul Helbach – No applications yet, one inquiry.

Membership: Jim Waletzko/Ed Chaplinski – 169 members have renewed so far (44 paper and 125 e-news) out of 385 listed members. This does not include any memberships from the Expo.

Social Media: Mike Zicus/Dennis Pratt – Mike Zicus shared his thoughts on how the Club should change our email processes to be in line with our revised bylaws. Any Club correspondence would be archived to an email account

See "Minutes" on pg. 3



# BRULE RIVER SPORTSMEN'S CLUB, APRIL 2023

"Minutes" from pg. 2

by using a BCC on the correspondence as an archival address (to be managed by the Recording Secretary).

## Other Business

Spring Clean-up – Dennis Smet reported we're scheduled for April 29, 9 a.m. at the Brule Pavilion (inclement weather date May 13). Afterwards, lunch to be provided at Twin Gables. This was approved following a motion by Ken Lundberg, second by Ed Chaplinski, and unanimous approval by voice vote.

Fly of the Month – Dean Wellman has chosen the 'Edge Bright Stonefly' for April.

Meeting with State Senator Quinn – Ken Lundberg and Dennis Pratt met with State Senator Quinn to describe our Club's history, activities, and our concerns.

Wisconsin Conservation Congress Spring Hearing – This year's hearing will be held online from noon April 10 to noon April 13. <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/about/wcc/springhearing>

Wisconsin Wildlife Federation – Tom Sklebar and Dennis Pratt met with other local WWF Clubs on March 25 on sharing information and planning events. The upcoming Wisconsin Wild-

life Federation banquet was discussed. The topic of Club liability was brought up followed by a short discussion. Tom will research and get back to us.

Great Waters Expo Booth Discussion – Ken Lundberg – Map sales down; however, we sold a framed poster and had 14 new and renewed memberships. Mike Sierszen was recognized for his outstanding help.

Nebagamon Creek Culvert Removal Progress – Last update was published in January newsletter.

Family Fun Day – Angelica Komarek described the need for volunteers for the event and the fact that another group needs to handle the funding for the event. Ken Lundberg made a motion to handle the funding for this event, seconded by Dennis Smet, and unanimous approval by voice vote. The date planned is August 19. Walt Swanson made a motion to donate \$500 for this event, seconded by Jeff Stollenwerk, and unanimous approval by voice vote.

The business meeting adjourned at 7:11 p.m.  
Recorded by Walt Swanson

## Edge Brite Stonefly

Dean Wellman, BRSC Financial Secretary – Brule, WI

My dad found this fly tangled in a snag on the Brule. I don't know anything about its origin. If someone knows anything about it, please let me know!

I had seen Edge Brite material tied over silver tinsel to make the body glow in Trey Combs' book "STEELHEAD Fly Fishing." Trey has a "lantern series" using this method. I have yet to find or see another pattern like it.

After Dad found this fly, we made copies so we could try it out without losing the original. I remember getting an excited call from him, describing the nice steelhead he caught on the fly. It seems to work best in off color water.

The original fly had a white wing on top that was obviously cut off by the user, so we didn't add it. The fly is very simple. The body is fluorescent pink Edge Brite over silver tinsel. The thorax is shrimp pink estaz or krystal chenille, and the large black head has an orange collar. No legs or tails are needed as it is fished in off color water. The profile matches our larger stonefly nymphs.



A recipe for the fly can be found at <https://bruleriversportsmensclub.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/2023-April-fly.pdf>.

## Updates & Opportunities

College scholarship applications  
*due by April 30*  
<https://bruleriversportsmensclub.com/the-scholarships/>

Spring Clean-up  
*Saturday, April 29*  
Meet at the Brule pavilion  
at 9:00 a.m.  
Inclement weather date: May 13.

Renew your membership  
(contact Dennis Pratt,  
[pratt@charter.net](mailto:pratt@charter.net) with questions).

Club's event calendar:  
<https://bruleriversportsmensclub.com/category/club-calendar/>

<b>BRSC Gift Store Order Form</b> (prices include shipping & handling)			
#	Item	Cost	Total
	Lower river map poster of Brule (36"x24")	\$35	
	BRSC baseball hat	\$25	
	Lower Brule River map	\$10	
	Upper Brule River map	\$10	
	Men's or women's baseball cap (mesh back)	\$25	
	Framed Lower River Map (cannot be Shipped)	\$125	
The Brule River Sportsmen's Club, Inc. is a tax-exempt organization			
<a href="https://brulerriversportsmensclub.com/contact-us/join-the-club/">https://brulerriversportsmensclub.com/contact-us/join-the-club/</a>			



**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 financial support to students.

Newsletter editor: Katie Thompson (goirish@cheqnet.net)

**BRSC Membership Form**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_  
 State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership Type:**     Renewal (due January 1st)     New Membership

*Email newsletter only:*     \$20 – Individual     \$25 – Household

*Paper newsletter only:*     \$30 – Individual     \$35 – Household

**Donations**

College Scholarship \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Education \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 High School Scholarship \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Habitat \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 General \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Multiple \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Visit us online at [www.brulerriversportsmensclub.com](http://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.

<b>Officers</b>	<b>Board of Directors</b>
President — Dennis Pratt — <a href="mailto:prattd@charter.net">prattd@charter.net</a>	Ed Chaplinski
Vice President — Ken Lundberg	Paul Helbach
Financial Secretary — Dean Wellman	Courtney Johnson
Recording Secretary — Walt Swanson	Mick Killoren
Treasurer — Jeff Stollenwerk	Glen Hill
	Dennis Smet
	Jim Waletzko
	Mike Sierszen
	Mike Zicus
	Ken Zivic