

# Brule River

Sportsmen's Club, Inc.



August 2023

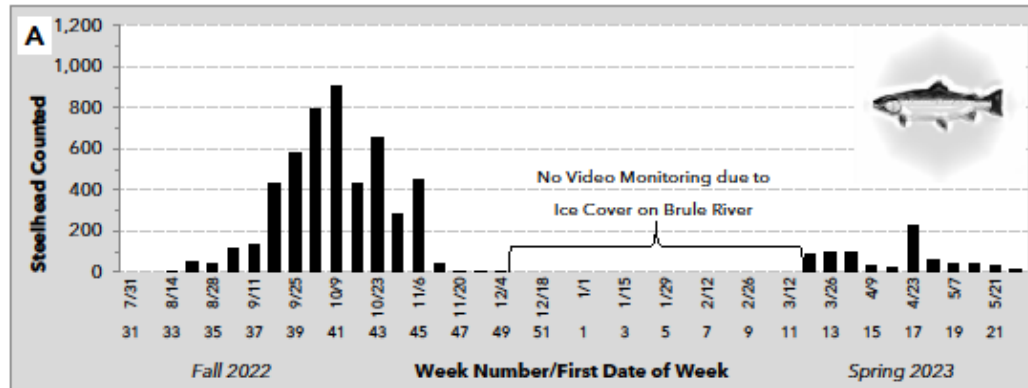
OVER 500 MEMBERS DEDICATED TO THE IMPROVEMENT AND PRESERVATION OF THE BRULE

**UPDATE:** "They have begun the project to remove the abandoned Rail grade/culvert on Nebagamon Creek. This project when complete will eliminate one of the biggest threats to the Brule River."

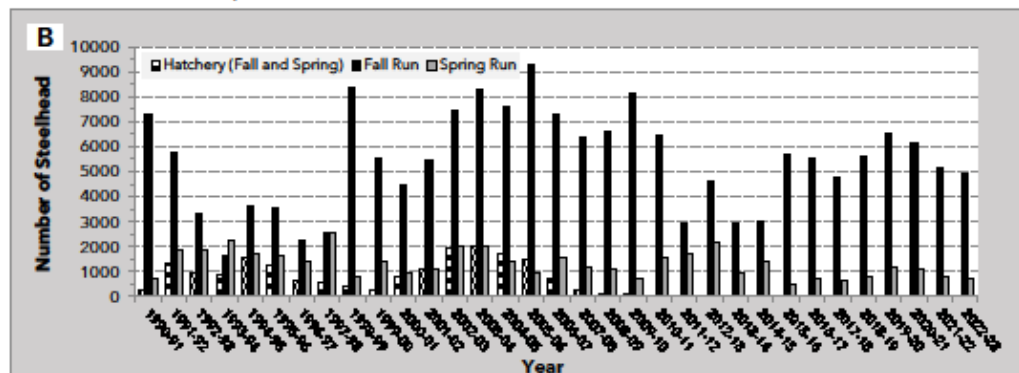
## 2022 - 2023 BOIS BRULE RIVER STEELHEAD RUN

Fall 2022 Count	Spring 2023 Count	Total Wild Steelhead Run Count
4,941	746	5,687

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) monitored the steelhead run with digital video equipment at the fishway window during fall 2022 and spring 2023. [Chart A](#) shows steelhead phenology (i.e., upstream migration timing). As typical, most steelhead arrived in the fall and overwintered in the river. The fall migration peaked in early October. Fluctuating environmental conditions, such as temperature and rainfall, influenced the weekly steelhead numbers in the five weeks following the peak during week 41. A typical number of steelhead moved during the river's initial warm-up in weeks 13 and 14 after the early season fishing opener on March 26. The spring peak occurred during late April, a few weeks later than typical peaks in late March and early April. Higher-than-normal, turbid stream flows were the predominant environmental conditions as snow melted relatively rapidly following record winter snowfall.



This year's 5,687 steelhead are displayed in [Chart B](#), relative to counts since video monitoring began in 1990. The 32-year average is 6,190. The population continues to be balanced, self-sustaining and supportive of an action-oriented fishery with harvest opportunities. Approximately 56% of all steelhead in the 2022-2023 run ranged from 20 to 25 inches long, weighed three to five pounds and were four to five years old. The early-maturing, three-year-old "jacks," approximately nine percent of the run, were 12 to 17 inches long and weighed from one to two pounds. Thirty percent of the run was comprised of fish over the minimum legal length limit of 26 inches, with weights from six to nine pounds. This naturally reproducing, spring-spawning population typically fluctuates between 3,500 and 8,500 fish in response to variable environments in the Bois Brule River and Lake Superior.



**BRSC Calendar:** The next board meeting will be held on Monday, August 28, at the KroBar at 6:00 p.m.





## Brule River Sportsmen's Club Electronic Meeting Minutes July 24, 2023



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

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

Minutes of the June Meeting: The minutes as written in the July newsletter were approved following a motion by Mike Zicus, second by Dennis Smet and unanimous approval by voice vote.

Treasurer's and Financial Secretary's Reports: Treasurer Jeff Stollenwerk reported that June's beginning balance was \$24,165.85, and the ending balance was \$24,260.70 with the following expenses: Boy Scout Troop 212 (river clean-up - \$125); Katie Thompson (June newsletter - \$200); Transfer to Savings (May donations - \$50). The Treasurer's report was approved following a motion by Mike Sierszen, second by Ken Lundberg, and unanimous approval by voice vote. Financial Secretary Dean Wellman reported that there were \$469.85 in total deposits into the general fund in June and that the Club had one new member. The Financial Secretary's report was approved following a motion by Jim Waletzko and a second by Ken Lundberg, with unanimous approval by voice vote.

### Committee Reports

Legislative: Ken Lundberg – Ken informed the Board that some projects we were watching were vetoed. Here is the link:

[https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/misc/lfb/budget/2023\\_25\\_biennial\\_budget/295\\_summary\\_of\\_partial\\_vetoes\\_of\\_2023\\_wisconsin\\_act\\_19\\_7\\_7\\_23.pdf](https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/misc/lfb/budget/2023_25_biennial_budget/295_summary_of_partial_vetoes_of_2023_wisconsin_act_19_7_7_23.pdf).

Habitat: Dennis Pratt – Dennis reported that there were 13 volunteers at last Saturday's event. The event almost completed the work planned, and there is very little left. The number of chainsaws helped immensely. Dennis suggested that we finish this project before moving somewhere else for the remaining scheduled event this year. He praised the volunteers and commented on a very successful day. Dennis also suggested doing one event during the week instead of just weekends next year.

Audit: Jeff Stollenwerk – Nothing at this time.

Education: Dennis Smet – Nothing to report.

Scholarship: Ken Lundberg reported that Brule River Preservation Inc, has committed to continued support for this program.

Membership: Jim Waletzko/Ed Chaplinski – Ed will take the extra paper newsletters for the Family Fun Day.

Social Media: Mike Zicus/Dennis Pratt – Ideas about future newsletter articles were discussed.

### Other Business

August Fly of the Month: PL Copper John

Club Store: Ed Chaplinski brought in a hand drawn sample of a sticker to pass around after last month's discussion. The final version would be created on computer. These will be handed out during educational events and possibly offered on the store. The feature image is the Brook Trout used on

See "Minutes" on pg. 3



# BRULE RIVER SPORTSMEN'S CLUB, AUGUST 2023

"Minutes" from pg. 2

the summer hats. The cost of \$295 for 300 stickers was approved following a motion by Ken Lundberg, second by Mick Killoren and unanimous approval by voice vote.

Club Email: Zicus/Swanson – several issues were discussed. A few tests will be done to understand where the issues start in the process. Our website provider can help us with the email traffic issue only when the action is started from the website. PayPal and Constant Contact have their own interfaces and will need to be addressed there. Walt Swanson will be working with our website provider to help get this resolved.

Nebagamon Creek Culvert Removal Progress: Ken Lundberg will get an update from Paul with the DNR.

Family Fun Day: To be held August 19 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Ken Lundberg is chasing down some last-minute help for the fishpond. Fly tyers are still needed.

**Upcoming Events** – Please check our calendar <https://bruleriversportsmensclub.com/category/club-calendar/> for latest events.

The business meeting adjourned at 7:04 p.m.  
Recorded by Walt Swanson

Photo at right is of a tamarack tree planted during our spring tree plant project showing growth by mid-June.

Trees are doing extremely well.



## 9th Annual Brule Spey Day

Saturday, September 9, 2023

McNeil's on the Brule @ 11:00 a.m.



Spey Casting Demonstrations, Vendors, Instruction, Tackle Tryouts, and Lunch

The Lake Superior Steelhead Association  
[www.steelheaders.org/news](http://www.steelheaders.org/news)

## PL (Purple Legs) Copper John

Dean Wellman, BRSC Financial Secretary – Brule, WI

The Copper John nymph was created by John Barr of Boulder, CO, in the 1990s. It's an excellent fly that gets down quickly and is very effective fished below an indicator, often as the lead fly when using a two fly set up. As with other fly patterns, many variations of John Barr's original are used today. Hence the PL for purple legs.

The Copper John is a relatively easy fly to tie and many different hook styles can be used. The most popular sizes are 10 – 16. I like a size 10 or 12 "scud" hook, especially the barbless Tiemco 2499SP. This hook is a 2X heavy wire and has a 3X wide gap which really helps on big fish. I also tie these on a size 6 yarn hook.

This fly uses clear epoxy or UV activated glue on top of the wing case, which helps with durability and it also forms an impressionistic "hump" to the wing case. This fly is durable and quick sinking and has X-legs. Tie it in different colors and sizes. It's a must have in the fly box!



A recipe for the fly can be found at <https://bruleriversportsmensclub.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/2023-August-fly.pdf>.

<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                      Dennis Smet
Vice President — Ken Lundberg	Paul Helbach                      Jim Waletzko
Financial Secretary — Dean Wellman	Courtney Johnson                Mike Sierszen
Recording Secretary — Walt Swanson	Mick Killoren                      Mike Zicus
Treasurer — Jeff Stollenwerk	Glen Hill                              Ken Zivic