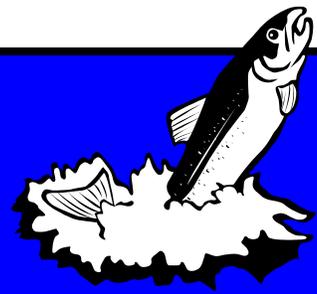


Brule River

Sportsmen's Club, Inc.



January 2021

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

2020 Brule River Memories

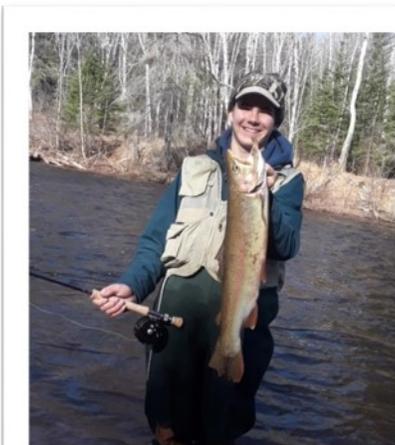
by Ken Lundberg

2020 got off to a rocky start for our family with concerns relating to the Covid virus. Our group opted not to fish the early spring opener for steelhead, breaking a long standing family tradition. On the flip side, my grandsons' schools had gone to distance learning and spring sports were canceled. They were able to visit, bringing their laptops to do school work, and to find time to fish the Brule.



I only spent one morning on the Brule with grandson Russell, who is 12 years old. When he was four years old, he was letting his mother and me know it was time for him to fish the Brule like his older brother. To keep peace, the three of us left for the river in the middle of a warm sunny spring day. The river ran clear and we felt he would just enjoy a nice afternoon poking along the banks of the river. He stood along side of me on a sand bar while wearing a life jacket and his little blue rubber boots rather than explore.

My expectations were low due to the conditions, but never underestimate the luck of a kid. Within seconds, I hooked a steelhead and



handed him the rod. There are several comical photos of me with hands out in front of Russell ready to catch the rod. A four-year-old holding a nine foot rod and a wild steelhead on the other end is not a good combination. There were times we were not sure who was winning the fight. He never dropped the rod and landed several fish that afternoon. The day produced a lifetime of memories as well as being documented

with photos; one sits on my fireplace mantle as a reminder of a very special day.

He still uses a spinning rod and bobber for his presentations. That means we concentrate on the bigger deep slower runs and pockets. The early morning of this year's trip was cold and nothing was happening. Ice formed in the rod guides, but we knew the day would warm, removing the problem. Once the sun reached the river to slightly warm the water, the fun started. Russell was into a nice steelhead. He needed no help so I just stood back marveling how his fishing skills had progressed. My only role now is to have the camera ready for pictures and occasionally help remove a hook. We had a good morning, each landing several fish. The long walk back to the truck was filled with reliving the morning and planning future trips.

Grandson Ethan was able to spend three days with me on the river in late April. We started him with a spinning rod and bobber when he was about eight years old. It's the easiest way to get a newcomer started with success. Now, at 16, he wants to use a fly rod as much as possible. On day one, we concentrated on faster water and shallower runs. Ethan is learning the ropes of drift fishing with his fly rod and these runs require less challenging presentations. Part of the fun is talking with him about the run, where the fish will most likely locate, where to stand, and how to make the most effective drift. He has turned into a hard core fisherman and is eager to learn.



It did not take long to have the river valley echoing with, "I got one." The brown nymph did its job, and in a short time, there was a smiling kid holding a nice steelhead for the appropriate pictures. There is a short conversation of the hooking and landing of the trout while the fish is regaining strength before swimming off. We were the only fishermen in the area and could concentrate on just fishing while enjoying sights and sounds of the river. We marvel at how clean the river is and the total lack of garbage along its

See "Memories" on pg.2



BRSC Calendar: All future in-person board meetings are cancelled until further notice. Meetings will be held via email.





Brule River Sportsmen's Club Electronic Meeting Minutes November 30, 2020



President Dennis Pratt emailed the draft meeting notes to board members on November 23.

Minutes of the October Meeting: October meeting minutes received majority board approval in early November after a motion by Paul Helbach and a second by Dean Wellman.

Treasurer's and Financial Secretary's Reports: Both the Dean Wellman's Financial report and Jeff Stollenwerk's Treasurer reports were emailed to the board on November 23rd. Dean reported that deposits in the general fund totaled \$220.00 since the last meeting, and the Club had two new members. The club sold 19 lower river maps, two posters and two hats. The Financial Secretary's Report was unanimously approved without changes by the board following a motion from Jeff Stollenwerk and a second by Jim Waletzko. Treasurer Jeff Stollenwerk reported that October's beginning balance was \$16,898.99 and the ending balance is \$17,164.64 with the following expenses: Security Bank ACH fee (\$4.95), ProPrint - October newsletter (\$25.13) and Katie Thompson - October newsletter (\$200). Additionally, \$275.73 was deposited from PayPal account. The Treasurer's Report was unanimously approved without changes by the board following a motion by Ken Lundberg and a second by Paul Helbach.

Committee Reports

Habitat, Legislative, Membership, Scholarship, Education and Budget Committees:

Nothing new to report for any of these.

Social Media:

Website: Mike Zicus reports that we responded to one inquiry to the website regarding a suggestion that we post webcams on the river and all web pages were updated as needed.

Facebook: Pratt reports that we put two brook trout videos on the Facebook page this past month. One had been viewed over 5,000 times and the other nearly 1,000 times.

Newsletter: The next newsletter is slated for January.

Other Business

South Shore Grade Update – Nothing new to report.

Fly of the Month – 'Fly of the Month' resumes in the March.

Wisconsin Wildlife Federation Fees – Ken Lundberg made a motion and Pratt seconded the motion to pay our Club's annual membership fee of \$110. The motion received a unanimous board approval.

2020 Ballot – Pratt nominated Ken Zivic to be placed on the December ballot along with present board members Mick Killoren, Mike Sierszen, Jim Waletzko and Glen Hill for the term of 2021 through 2014. All the candidate nominations received unanimous board approval.

Renew your Dues for 2021

Help our Club fund the upcoming year's projects. Your annual dues make up a large share of the monetary resources needed to allow us to continue our very important work of protecting, enhancing and maintaining the Bois Brule River fishery.

Please send in your dues soon. You can send them in by mail with the form in this newsletter or pay for them online in our Club's web page at: <https://brulerriversportsmensclub.com/contact-us/join-the-club/>



1947-2020

We are sad to report that Brule River Sportsman Club member **John David Dolan** died on August 22, 2020, in Casper, WY.

He and his family have fished the Bois Brule since 1960. John was a conservationist for decades. Bois Brule was always his home away from home.

John David Dolan joined some of his family on August 22, 2020, to go fishing together on the Bois Brule River. Mother Brule has welcomed many of the Dolan clan.



John was born in Joliet, Illinois, on November 9, 1947. In Duluth, he met his spouse, Kathleen, in the eighth grade at Holy Rosary School. Ten years later they began their short dating time and John David proposed over the phone during basic training at Ft. Leonard Wood, MO. This union lasted 49 years. His heart for trout fishing and his remarkably wonderful spouse had found their home of enjoyment and hope. John David had become a LIFE member of Trout Unlimited, the Fly Fishing Federation (now Fly Fishing International), and The Wyoming Fly Casters. He received the William A. MacTavish Award in 1999. He served on the boards of the WFC, FFI, and TU. He also served on many other service Boards while he was employed. He was the State Chairman for TU over several years. It's not that fishing was more important than other matters in the world; it is equally unimportant and much more fun! He volunteered at Holy Cross Food pantry which was his most enjoyable community service. His fishing escapades took him from the wonderful United States to Tierra del Fuego, to Chile's Patagonia several times, to the Bahamas, to Louisiana and Texas for redfish, to British Columbia, and to Alaska.

In their free time, Kathleen cruised with him to Europe, Australia, South America and the Inland Passage to Alaska. His annual pilgrimage to the Bois Brule kept him grounded, connected, and ever hopeful for his fellows on this earth.

He was preceded in death by his parents, sister Grace Diane (Douglas) Beekmann, and his brothers, Richard, Robert, William Joseph (Carolyn Rose), Dr. Paul G. Dolan, Jr. DDS (Joan Ellen) and Walter Thomas (Linda Pierce). He is survived by Kathleen his spouse, his sister Mary Anne Dolan-Linne (Steve) & their son and the nine Dolan nephews in Chicago, Missouri and Pennsylvania, two Dolan nieces in Delaware and Duluth, and his Beekmann nieces and nephew in Duluth.

Many of us have fished Mother Brule to the end and she sings our litany for the ages. He trusts the "Greatest Fisher of Men" will judge him good enough to keep.

obituary from newcomercasper.com

"Memories" from pg.1

banks. A true tribute to hard work of the Brule River Sportsmen's Club, dedicated fishermen as well as others just enjoying being on the river.

The three days passed quickly, and we were fortunate to land fish each day. It is a joy to watch his skills continue to grow and share time together. There is nothing like the positive feedback by hooking an energetic steelhead.

Later that summer, Ethan and I got to night fish the lake-run browns for the first time. I no longer wade fish as my reflexes have slowed a bit, causing an occasional fall and unpleasant memories of long cold walks back to the car in wet waders. We launched our canoe about 8:00 on a night that looked perfect. It was the dark of the moon and no wind. There would be lots of time for star gazing and listening for the sounds of jumping fish.

The area we planned to fish held a number of other fishermen. The early evening was spent avoiding the fishermen who over-use their bright LED lights. To me, night vision is an important part of being an effective night fisherman. After night fishing over 60 years, my dim light is only used to land a fish and safely remove the hooks.

The first two hours were spent moving up and down the river, trying to locate active fish.

About midnight, Ethan hooked a nice lake run brown. The night adds to the excitement with only being able to hear the wallowing and not knowing where the fish is going; the light comes on once the fish is calmed down and close to the canoe. Once the brown is in the net, it is time to reflect and refocus on the getting another to bite.

A short time later, a big fish hit close to the canoe and his adrenaline rush resulted in a loud snap as the line broke. The brief encounter produced lots of splashing followed by the silence of the night. Ethan's only comment was, "I got excited and pulled too hard." It is easy to over-react when there is a slurp followed by a hard tug with only a few feet of line out. Later he was able to land second nice lake run brown. We spent another hour or so poking around before heading to the car about 4:00 in the morning. A great night to be on the river, but every night on the river is a great night.

There is something magical about sharing the river with my grand kids.

BRSC Gift Store Order Form (prices include shipping & handling)			
#	Item	Cost	Total
	Lower river map poster of Brule (36"x24")	\$30	
	BRSC baseball hat	\$25	
	Lower Brule River map	\$10	
	Upper Brule River map	\$10	
	Historical newsletter DVD	\$5	
	Framed Lower River Map (cannot be Shipped)	\$125	
<p><i>The Brule River Sportsmen's Club, Inc. is a tax-exempt organization defined by Chapter 501 (C) (3) of the IRS Tax Code.</i></p>			



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 _____

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

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

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

e-mail _____

Donations

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

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!

Officers	Board of Directors
President — Dennis Pratt — prattd@charter.net Vice President — Ken Lundberg Financial Secretary — Dean Wellman Recording Secretary — Walt Swanson Treasurer — Jeff Stollenwerk	Ed Chaplinski Dennis Smet Paul Helbach Jim Waletzko Courtney Johnson Mike Sierszen Mick Killoren Mike Zicus Glen Hill