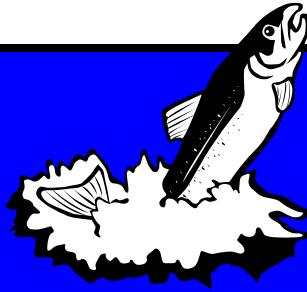


Brule River

Sportsmen's Club, Inc.

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



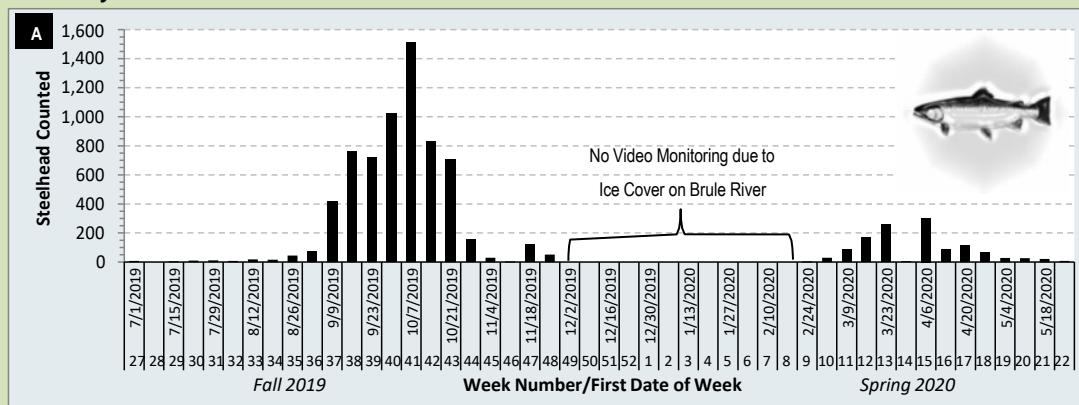
July 2020

2019 – 2020 BOIS BRULE RIVER STEELHEAD RUN

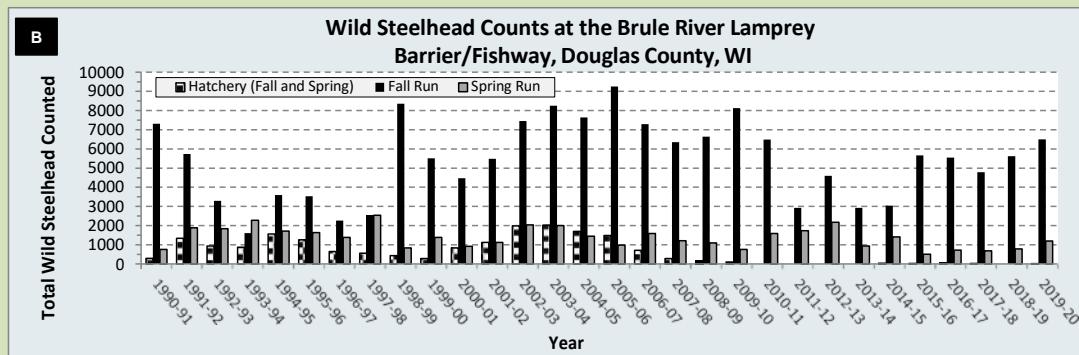
Fall 2019 Count	Spring 2020 Count*	Total Wild Steelhead Run Count
6,497	1,194	7,691

* Excludes 7 fin-clipped rainbow trout, likely from Minnesota DNR north shore streams stocking program

The Steelhead run was monitored with digital video equipment at the fishway window during fall 2019 and spring 2020. Chart A shows Steelhead phenology (i.e., upstream migration timing). As typical, most steelhead arrived in the fall and overwintered in the river; low water temperatures and ice cover slowed the migration until spring. The fall migration peaked during the second week of October. The spring peak in early April occurred slightly after the season opener and nearly a month after an early ice-out on February 28. The data gap in Week 14 was mainly attributable to fish not being observed by the video equipment during heavy debris accumulation at the window. The fishway maintenance schedule was altered by State-mandated work restrictions relative to the onset of COVID-19 in late-March.



This year's 7,691 Steelhead are shown in Chart B relative to counts since video monitoring began in 1990. The 30-year average is 6,178. The population continues to be balanced, self-sustaining, and supportive of an action-oriented fishery with harvest opportunities. 77% of all Steelhead in the 2019-2020 run ranged from 20 to 25 inches long, weighed from three to five pounds, and were four to five years old. The early-maturing, three-year-old "jacks" comprised 8% of the run, were 12 to 17 inches long, and weighed from one to two pounds. Six percent of the run was of 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 diverse riverine and lake environments.



WDNR Superior Office

June 24, 2020



BRSC Calendar: The in-person July & August meetings have been cancelled due to concerns over COVID-19. Meeting will be by email.



BRULE RIVER SPORTSMEN'S CLUB, JULY 2020



Brule River Sportsmen's Club Regular Meeting Minutes June 30, 2020



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

Minutes of the May Meeting: Motion to approve by Jeff Stollenwerk, seconded by Mike Sierszen and approved by the board.

Treasurer's and Financial Secretary's Reports: Dean Wellman submitted the report to the board by email on June 23. Deposits in the general fund totaled \$585 since the last meeting, and the Club had two new members. The Financial Secretary's Report was approved following a motion by Jeff Stollenwerk, with a second by Mike Sierszen, and majority approval by the board. Treasurer Jeff Stollenwerk reported to the board by email on June 23 that June's beginning balance was \$15,516.45 and the ending balance was \$15,997.67 with the following expenses: Pro Print (May newsletter – \$25.13) and Katie Thompson (June newsletter – \$200). The Treasurer's Report was approved following a motion by Mike Zicus, with a second by Ken Lundberg, and majority approval by the board.

Committee Report

Habitat: This year's volunteer habitat improvement workdays have been cancelled due to the recent worsening of the Covid-19 outbreak in the northern three WI counties. Beavers returned to the Beaupre Spring pond in early June. Three were removed by our Federal APHIS trapper, Jerry Johnson, and the dam was removed in early July. We continue monitoring Beaupre monthly for any further beaver activity.

Legislative: Nothing to report.

Scholarship: College Scholarship – Chairman Mike Sierszen reported that the scholarship committee met on June 22 to review this year's 27 applications. After deliberation, the committee nominated Dakota Stankowski. Dakota will be a senior at Northland College in Ashland and is pursuing a double major in biology and natural resources with a fisheries and ecology emphasis. Dakota's nomination was forwarded to the board for a vote and, after a motion by Jeff Stollenwerk with a second by Ron Gaare, she received majority board approval. Thanks to all the scholarship committee members (Mike Sierszen, Paul Helbach, Dennis Smet, Mick Killoren, Adam Helbach, and Bill Gobin).

High School Scholarship - Ron Gaare reports that this year's Northwestern High School scholarship recipient, selected by Northwestern High School faculty, is Andrew Nelson. Andrew will be attending the University of Minnesota —Duluth this fall pursuing a degree in civil engineering. Andrew hopes to focus on environmental issues once he graduates. Andrew was highly active in FFA where he participated in national competitions. He is an active member of the trap club and a passionate outdoorsman. It was his passion for environmental stewardship that seems to have been the deciding factor for the committee's selection decision.

We will have more about each recipient in the August newsletter and have requested that each attend a future meeting.

Education: Nothing to report.

Membership: Jim Waletzko requested a detailed membership report. Jim's concern regards both the Club's declining membership and the high percentage with unpaid dues. The membership committee will investigate this issue and report to the board before our November membership drive.

Budget: Nothing to report.

Social Media: Website – Mike Zicus has been responding to several website inquiries, including a request to post a gun safety link.

Facebook – Pratt reported that we have put a few items on the Club's Facebook site this month

See "June Minutes" on pg. 3



BRULE RIVER SPORTSMEN'S CLUB, JULY 2020

CANCELLED: 2020 Trout Habitat Work Days

-- due to COVID-19 local outbreak.

"June Minutes" from pg. 2

including a copy of the steelhead article featured in last month's newsletter (by request of a long standing member who wanted to share the information on his Facebook page) which reached 2,800 by the end of the month.

Other Business

South Shore Grade Update – WDNR Senior Fisheries Biologist, Paul Piszczek, informs us that he has received signed easements from the two landowners adjacent to the grade and is now working on the Canadian Pacific (CP) railroad easement. Project bidding will take place once the CP easement is received.

Update Club Charter – Ken Lundberg sent the board suggestions that he and Club member Tom Sklebar have for the update. He suggested that we place this as a work item on the agenda for the next in-person meeting we hold.

July Fly of the Month

Hex Para Drake

John Fehnel, Great Lakes Fly Shop – Duluth, MN



This extended body, bullet-style mayfly imitates the largest mayfly that hatches on the Brule River. The body is approximately 1 ¼ to 1 ½ inches not including the tails, which are about as long as the body. The hatch usually occurs in the evening the last week of June through the first week of July.

A recipe for the fly can be found at [https://bruleriversportsmensclub.com/
wp-content/uploads/2020/07/2020-July-fly-1.pdf](https://bruleriversportsmensclub.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/2020-July-fly-1.pdf).

Lake run brown trout spawning migration typically begins in the first or second week of July. The migration usually peaks in the middle of August and spawning commences in the second week of October and generally extends into the first part of November.



Pair of fresh run brown trout at the sea lamprey barrier/fishway window. (WDNR photo)



Spawning Pair of Browns – Male closest, female behind (Pratt photo)

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 <small>(cannot be Shipped)</small>	\$125	

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



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.bruleriversportmensclub.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

President — Dennis Pratt — prattd@charter.net
 Vice President — Ken Lundberg
 Financial Secretary — Dean Wellman
 Recording Secretary — Walt Swanson
 Treasurer — Jeff Stollenwerk

Board of Directors

Ed Chaplinski	Dennis Smet
Paul Helbach	Jim Waletzko
Courtney Johnson	Mike Sierszen
Mick Killoren	Ron Gaare
Mike Zicus	Glen Hill