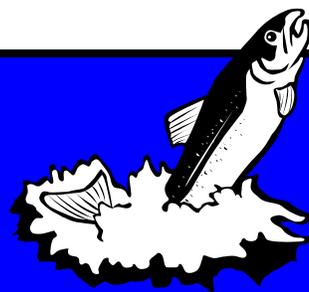


# Brule River

Sportsmen's Club, Inc.

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



June 2020

## Brule Rainbow/Steelhead History

by Dennis Pratt

The story begins with the railroad finally reaching the town of Brule in 1885. Previously, the only way to reach the famous Brule River brook trout fishery (located mainly from Brule to the headwaters) was via forest trail with a wagon or horse. Numbers of anglers dramatically increased with this new, easy access, and it soon became apparent that a decline in the brook trout fishery was inevitable as anglers began overwhelming the fishery.

Brook trout reproduction simply could not keep up with the angling pressure. Concerned trout fisherman began requesting better law enforcement and asking the government to bolster the fishery by

stocking cultured trout.

About the same time, local and regional newspapers began printing articles about the exceptional qualities of rainbow trout angling in other parts of the country. A local Solon Springs, Wisconsin (then known as white birch) native, Nicholas Lucius Jr. requested rainbows from the Wisconsin Fish Commission and stocked the Brule with 100,000 rainbow trout fry that were shipped to him by rail in 1890.

This type of rainbow (called the Shasta strain) was a true non-migrating strain first collected by the U.S. Fish Commission from the McCloud River, a headwaters tributary of northern California's Sacramento River.

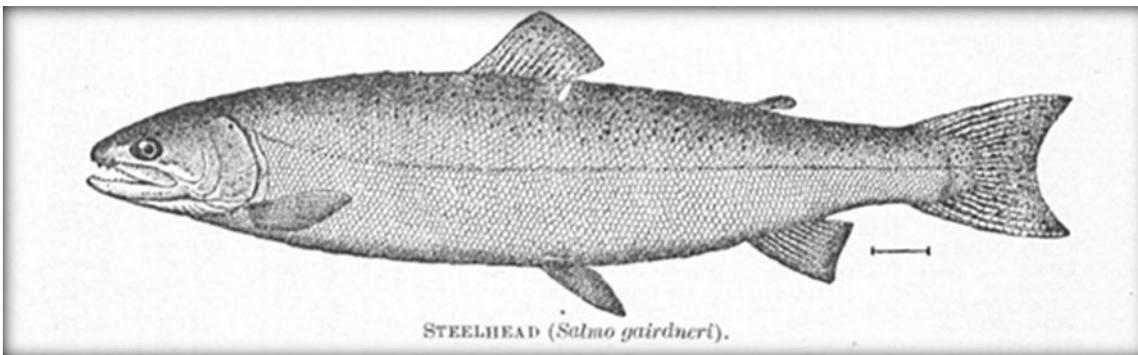
Those fish were distributed to states throughout the nation. Nicholas placed these first rainbows in the Brule headwaters and a few other nearby tributaries. He continued to stock for a couple more years, getting each year's supply by rail from the Madison, Wisconsin hatchery. Local fisherman reported that these rain-

the Brule River and many other western Lake Superior tributaries for nearly a decade before the State of Wisconsin developed its own steelhead stocking program at the Salmo Fish Hatchery in Bayfield, Wisconsin.

A total of 3.7 million rainbow/steelhead have been stocked in the Brule. Many strains originating from streams in northern California, Oregon, and Washington were used. Over the last 130 years, survivors of those various stockings evolved into the unique, naturally reproducing, self-sustaining Brule

River steelhead strain we have now.

Today's quality Brule River steelhead fishery does not require stocking and is maintained



Drawing from the Report of Commission of Fish and Fisheries of 1902

bows did not migrate to Lake Superior.

Migratory rainbows (steelhead) first entered the Brule picture in 1896 when 20,000 fry were stocked in the river by personnel from the U.S. Fish Commission's Lester River Fish Hatchery in Duluth Minnesota. Those steelhead eggs were collected at the Redwood Creek Federal egg collection station in Northern California and sent by rail to Duluth where they were hatched.

This stocking program continued in

by limiting angler harvest through restrictive regulations, improving reproductive habitat and protecting the river's watershed. The current angling regulations are set to ensure that all steelhead entering the river each year will be able to spawn at least once before they reach the minimum harvest size.

We are proud of our club's four-decade history of enhancing reproductive habitat through our annual volunteer trout habitat work.



**BRSC Calendar:** The in-person June meeting has been cancelled due to concerns over COVID-19. Meeting will be by email.





## Brule River Sportsmen's Club Regular Meeting Minutes May 31, 2020



President Dennis Pratt emailed the draft meeting notes to board members on May 24.

Minutes of the March Meeting: Motion was made to approve by Mike Zicus, seconded by Ron Gaare, and approved by the board.

Treasurer's and Financial Secretary's Reports: Dean Wellman submitted his financial secretary's report to the board by email on May 30. General fund deposits since the last meeting totaled \$1,450 (of which \$250 deposited on May 28 will appear in next month's Treasurer's report), and the Club had one new member. The report was approved following a motion by Ken Lundberg, seconded by Glen Hill, and approved by the board. Treasurer Jeff Stollenwerk reported to the board by email on May 26 that May's beginning checking account balance was \$14,126.44 and the ending balance was \$15,516.45. We had the following expenses in May: Pro Print (April newsletter - \$25.13) and Katie Thompson (May newsletter - \$200). The Treasurer's Report was approved following a motion by Ken Lundberg with a second by Mike Sierszen and approval by the board.

### Committee Reports

Habitat: Ron Gaare - July 25 and August. I remain the tentative habitat work dates (totally dependent on an improved local Covid situation by mid-July). If the work happens, we should each bring our own lunch this year to reduce Covid risk and we're looking at a project in the Beaupre Springs/East Fork area to avoid the heavy public use at the Stone's Bridge landing. Our postponed April habitat appreciation celebration will be held next year and combined with the 2020 celebration.

Legislative: The Annual Spring Fish and Wildlife Public Hearing and Wisconsin Conservation Congress county voting was held entirely online this year. There were more than 60,000 participants. Question 48 'to restore fish passage on the Iron River' passed, receiving 88% support. The support level within the three counties bordering Lake Superior (Douglas, Bayfield, and Ashland) was also 88%. Voting results are available online now at: <https://dnr.wi.gov/about/wcc/springhearing.html>

Scholarship: Mike Sierszen reported on April 30 that 27 scholarship applications had been received and distributed to the committee members. A recommendation for this year's college scholarship recipient will be submitted to the Board for the June meeting.

Education: Nothing to report.

Membership: Nothing new to report

Budget: Nothing to report.

Social Media: Mike Zicus reported that we received several inquiries regarding Club merchandise, membership renewals, and where to fish the river as well as a report of some lost items in the upper river.

### Other Business

**South Shore Grade Update** – Limited easement negotiations continue to progress.

**Update Club Charter** – Nothing to report.



## June Fly of the Month

### Brule River Burnt Wulff

*Damian Wilmot – Superior, WI*



This dry fly is a variation of the Royal Wulff that was developed for brook trout on the upper Brule many decades ago.

#### **Recipe:**

1. Hook: Tiemco TMC 101, #10 or size of your choice
2. Thread: orange 6/0 uni-thread
3. Tail: moose mane
4. Wing: fluorescent orange calf body hair
5. Body: peacock herl
6. Hackle: brown rooster saddle

For tying instructions, click on [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kl4ql6u\\_iSo&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kl4ql6u_iSo&feature=youtu.be)

# Jack Neurer Memorial Donation

Jack C. Neurer of Webster, Wisconsin, died on December 11, 2019. He was 86. The Club received a \$700 memorial donation from Jack's family in April. A number



Jack C. Neurer

of our board members knew Jack as a friendly fellow fisherman.



Retired DNR fisheries technician Bill Blust holds a male steelhead.

Jack's wife Tanya writes, "Please accept this donation in memory and celebration of the life of Jack Neurer. Jack was a life-long Brule River fisherman, brought to the river by his father at a young age. Jack, in turn shared the joys of the Brule River fishing with his son- another life-long Brule River fisherman in the making."

<b>BRSC Gift Store Order Form</b> (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	
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.brulriversportsmensclub.com](http://www.brulriversportsmensclub.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!*

<b>Officers</b>	<b>Board of Directors</b>
President — Dennis Pratt — prattd@charter.net	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                      Ron Gaare
Treasurer — Jeff Stollenwerk	Mike Zicus                          Glen Hill