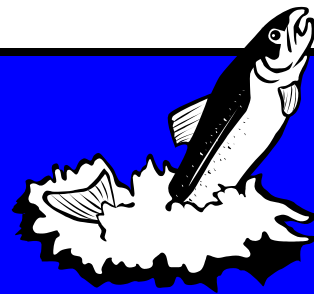


Brule River

Sportsmen's Club, Inc.

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



November 2023

Trapper Jerry Johnson Retires

The end of October signals the culmination of the 30 plus year career of federal employee Jerry Johnson. Jerry retired from the United States Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) program.

He has played an extremely important role in our trout habitat improvement strategy for Wisconsin's Lake Superior trout tributaries. He very efficiently removed problem beaver and their dams on more than 150 miles of our basin's trout water during his tenure.

This included more than 27 miles of the Brule River watershed (the main stem upstream of Stone's Bridge and most of the Brule's tributaries). He also provided this service to the towns and counties at their road culverts.

Our Wisconsin APHIS program is funded with your



Jerry removes a problem beaver on one of our Lake Superior tributaries.

inland trout stamp monies. On the Brule, his work especially helped protect our brook trout fishery by ensuring their access to tributary spawning areas and protecting critical trout habitats from degradation.

Congratulations, Jerry!



Drone photo of Jerry's last problem beaver dams on the Brule and at the mouth of Angel Creek.

Wilson Creek Culvert Replacement Project

The severely deteriorated culverts on Wilson Creek at Stone Chimney Road were replaced this summer. The Trout Unlimited Great Lakes program partnered with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Douglas County and the Town of Solon

Springs to replace the old perched double culverts with a single much larger culvert set deep enough in the stream bed to allow easy trout passage.

Fishery biologists were concerned



that the culvert replacement project could impact a major brook trout spawning site about 50 feet downstream of the road crossing.

We're very happy to report that the project had no impact

on the downstream spawning location and, in fact, brook trout can build nests and lay eggs now within just a couple yards of the culvert. The same group plans to replace two more

problem culverts on Wilson Creek where the stream crosses County Highway P next year.



BRSC
Calendar:

The next in-person board meeting will be held on Monday, March 25, at the KroBar at 6:00 p.m. Until then, the meetings will be held via email.





Brule River Sportsmen's Club Electronic Meeting Minutes October 23, 2023



President Dennis Pratt called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm. at Kro Bar.

Officers and Directors: Present - Ed Chaplinski, Paul Helbach, Glen Hill, Mick Killoren, Dennis Pratt, Mike Sierszen, Den Smet, Jeff Stollenwerk, Walt Swanson, Jim Waletzko, and Mike Zicus.

Minutes of the September Meeting: The minutes as written in the October newsletter were approved following a motion by Ed Chaplinski, second by Paul Helbach, and unanimous approval by voice vote.

Treasurer's and Financial Secretary's Reports: Treasurer Jeff Stollenwerk reported that September's beginning balance was \$20,302.85, and the ending balance was \$24,388.30 with the following expenses: Pro Print (August newsletter - \$30.16); Transfer to Savings (August donations - \$200); Katie Thompson (September newsletter - \$200); Ken Lundberg (Fish books Family Fun Day - \$292); Tom and Sue Johnson (Family Fun Day supplies - \$598.04). The Treasurer's report was approved following a motion by Mike Zicus, second by Jim Waletzko, and unanimous approval by voice vote. President Dennis Pratt reported for Financial Secretary Dean Wellman that there were \$315 in total deposits into the general fund since the last meeting and that the Club had three new members. The Financial Secretary's report was approved following a motion by Walt Swanson, second by Mike Zicus and unanimous approval by voice vote.

Committee Reports

Legislative: Ken Lundberg – Nothing to report.

Habitat: Dennis Pratt – Collected drone videos of headwater beaver activities to assist APHIS trapper, Jerry Johnson. Checked on Stone Chimney/Wilson Creek culverts brook trout spawning activity, walked lower Beaupre Creek habitat project area (all's well), checked on status of upper East Fork habitat project (looks great), visited Beaupre spring pond beaver dam site (beaver active once again).

Audit: Jeff Stollenwerk – Nothing at this time.

Education: Den Smet – Lori Danz (Superior Senior High) and Kraig Anderson (Northwestern Middle School) would like to do the egg hatching project. The aquarium should be set up the week before Thanksgiving. (Northwestern has the whole week off before the holiday.) Cary Edwards will have the eggs ready the week after Thanksgiving. This is the 23rd year of us doing this with a break during the Covid years.

Scholarship: Mike Sierszen/Paul Helbach – Suggestion was made that future awardees should accept the scholarship at a Club meeting. This requirement will be added in the application.

Membership: Jim Waletzko/Ed Chaplinski – Ed and Jim have been distributing paper newsletters to prospective members whenever they can, including when attending other club meetings. A suggestion was made to send stickers to paid existing members and new members. The smaller stickers would cost \$325 for 500. This was approved following a motion by Mike Zicus and a second by Mike Sierszen with unanimous approval by voice vote.

Social Media: Mike Zicus/Dennis Pratt – One inquiry on the website for producing PDF map. This was briefly discussed; however, it was dismissed.

Other Business

Call for Officer Nominations: All 5 officer positions are up for nomination this year. Call for nominations for President, Vice - President, Treasurer, Financial Secretary and Recording Secretary. Ken Lundberg has decided to step down as Vice President. Ed Chaplinski was nominated for the vacated Vice President position. President Dennis Pratt suggested that we appoint Ken Lundberg to Ed's vacated board position. This was approved following a motion by Walt Swanson followed by a

See "Minutes" on pg. 3



BRULE RIVER SPORTSMEN'S CLUB, NOVEMBER 2023

"Minutes" from pg. 2

second by Jeff Stollenwerk and unanimous approval by voice vote.

Club Store Items: Suggestion to increase lower river poster price. Poster mailing costs (\$10.25) and August 2022 printing cost per poster (\$21). An increase of \$10 from \$35 to \$45 was suggested. This was approved following a motion by Mike Zicus and a second by Mike Sierszen followed by unanimous approval by voice vote. Discussion on having the Wild Rivers TU Berge book brought up questions. Mike Sierszen will discuss logistics with his Wild Rivers contact.

Fly of the Month: Resumes in March. Mike Zicus has compiled a Fly of the Month document covering the four years we have been featuring flies. It's 70 pages long now but could probably be reduced in length if we used some kind of desktop publishing program rather than Word.

Establishment of a Club Email: Mike Zicus/Walt Swanson - everything appears to be working and this topic is closed.

Nebagamon Creek Culvert Removal: Dennis Pratt – collected final 2023 drone photos and videos on October 15. Feature article in October newsletter. Dennis will be writing an article for the Lake Superior Steelhead Association 2024 'Angler' magazine. A motion was made to remove this topic from the monthly agenda by Dennis Pratt followed by a second by Walt Swanson and unanimous approval by voice vote. (This item was placed on our board agenda in July of 2016 and at the August meeting that year we decided to keep this item on the agenda until this threat was removed).

Spring Raffle Items: Will feature a Dave Norling 7 1/2 4wt fly rod. Other possible items include Ron Weber family donated knives, brook trout photos, box of Fly of the month flies. Jeff Stollenwerk will obtain a raffle license for 2024.

November, January, and February meetings: A suggestion was made to hold these meetings via email. This was approved following a motion by Mick Killoren, second by Ed Chaplinski and unanimous approval by voice vote.

Upcoming Events: – Posted at <https://bruleriversportsmensclub.com/category/club-calendar/>.

The business meeting adjourned at 7:22 p.m. Recorded by Walt Swanson.

Time to Renew Your Membership



Memberships expire on
December 31.

You can renew electronically in our Club Store at <https://bruleriversportsmensclub.com/contact-us/join-the-club/> or you can renew by filling out the form in your newsletter and sending it with your membership dues to us by mail.

Thanks for your support!

Time to Vote for Club Officer Positions

We'll be sending out an electronic ballot for the five officer positions by early December (*voting deadline will be January 15*). Those members receiving paper newsletters will receive a ballot with this newsletter mailing. Paper ballots must be mailed so they reach the Club's mailbox by the January 15th deadline.

You will find short nominee biographies on our website at

<https://bruleriversportsmensclub.com/officer-candidate-biographies/>

BRSC Gift Store Order Form (prices include shipping & handling)			
#	Item	Cost	Total
	Lower river map poster of Brule (36"x24")	\$45	
	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			
https://brulerriversportsmensclub.com/contact-us/join-the-club/			



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

All information contained herein is confidential.
 All but \$1.00 of your membership dues is tax deductible.
 Donations are 100 percent tax deductible.

Officers	Board of Directors
President — Dennis Pratt — prattd@charter.net	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