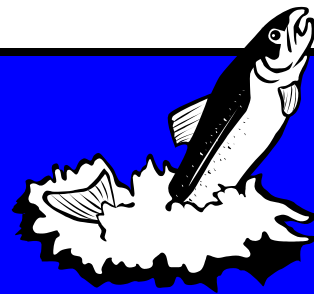


Brule River

Sportsmen's Club, Inc.

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



October 2023

Major Threat to Brule Fishery Finally Gone!

Wonderful news! We've finally achieved the goal of removing a very long-standing direct threat to your Brule River fishery, the culvert and the rail grade of the Duluth South Shore and Atlantic Railroad abandoned in 1934. It's now gone. The grade had spanned the Brule River's largest tributary, Nebagamon Creek, located about a mile downstream of where it crosses County Highway B. Many hurdles including funding, government red tape and a very confused property ownership mess had to be overcome to remove this threat. Thanks to DNR's Senior Fisheries Biologist, Paul Piszczek, and all those who contributed funds the threat was eliminated.

A little over a decade ago the downstream culverts wing-walls toppled and began severely plugging the culverts downstream end.



"Before" photo



Project Area (stream runs right to left)

Leaving this 12-foot diameter concrete culvert and its nearly 40-foot grade on Nebagamon Creek would have been a huge continuing issue. The biggest threat beyond the rail grades material being eroded into the stream would have been if the failing culvert were plugged with debris, it

would block Nebagamon Creek to a point where the grade washes away sending this great volume of backed up water down Nebagamon Creek then directly into the Brule River. This event would carry away many tens of thousands of cubic yards of sand as it washed away the sand laden banks of Nebagamon Creek and its valley walls.

Dumping this much sand into the Brule would have created a huge 'sand slug'. This slug of sand would move slowly down the Brule sequentially covering and destroying trout habitat as it went. Aquatic insect populations would plummet and trout spawning, and habitat areas would be destroyed.

The great news is that together we have entirely removed this threat!



"After" photo



BRSC
Calendar:



The next board meeting will be held on Monday, October 23, at the KroBar at 6:00 p.m.



Brule River Sportsmen's Club Electronic Meeting Minutes September 25, 2023



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

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

Minutes of the August Meeting: The minutes as written in the September newsletter were approved following a motion by Mike Zicus, second by Dean Wellman, and unanimous approval by voice vote.

Treasurer's and Financial Secretary's Reports: Treasurer Jeff Stollenwerk reported that August's beginning balance was \$24,448.06 and the ending balance was \$20,302.85, with the following expenses: Katie Thompson (August newsletter - \$200); Dennis Pratt (July-Aug expenses - \$346.46); JM Screen Printing (Club logo stickers - \$320); and Kayla Reed (College Scholarship - \$5,000). The Treasurer's report was approved following a motion by Ken Lundberg, second by Ken Zivic and unanimous approval by voice vote. Financial Secretary Dean Wellman reported that there were \$1,005 in total deposits into the general fund since the last meeting and that the Club had two new members. The Financial Secretary's report was approved following a motion by Ken Lundberg and a second by Walt Swanson.

Committee Reports

Legislative: Ken Lundberg – Nothing to report.

Habitat: Dennis Pratt – Dennis took some Beaupre Spring drone videos and checked out tree planting survival. The tamaracks are doing great. During the visit he attempted to lower the Spring Pond level by removing beaver dam debris. First pile was removed successfully, but on the second pile he found a yellow jacket nest the hard way. Brule River State Forest is ordering 500 tamaracks for next spring. A suggestion was made to order a dozen gloves for habitat work. This was approved following a motion by Walt Swanson and a second by Dean Wellman.

Audit and Scholarship: Nothing to report.

Education: Dennis Smet – Superior High School teacher Lori Danz plans on doing the aquarium again this year. Dennis hasn't confirmed with Northwestern Middle School yet.

Membership: Jim Waletzko/Ed Chaplinski – Jim suggested a Thank You sent to some long-time members. Ed has a fall meeting with the Miller Dam Lake Association. Ed will present a framed print to his granddaughter for her work designing the sticker.

Social Media: Mike Zicus/Dennis Pratt – Brule Rod company inquiry (potential future news article), a discussion followed about who we know that worked there also if the St. Croix Rods company would have any information. An inquiry on how to attain a Big Lake Parking Pass was received. Walt Swanson reached out to the Winneboujou caretaker Scott Anderson. The old system and information has been replaced, which means someone wanting a permit needs to visit the caretaker house at the Winneboujou Club to get back on the list. Instructions are posted on the board out front. Pictures and drone videos on culvert progress will be on the website soon. Two South Shore grade items have been posted on Facebook.

Other Business

October Fly of the Month: Modified Olive Sculpin.

Establishment of a Club Email: Zicus/Swanson - Jeff Stollenwerk suggested that we sign on the email system itself to verify all emails are addressed. Walt Swanson agreed with this as some have complained about not getting certain emails. Mike Zicus pointed out that Article Four, Section Three of our new Bylaws our state that "Email correspondence will be retained and archived through the Club's email account (which the Recording Secretary will maintain)." Walt explained that this would cause issues as he would have no idea if action had been taken or not. His suggestion was to follow the practice of the three "D"'s (1) Do it; (2) Delegate it; or (3) Delete it and once a year go in and archive all emails into a year folder for searching.

See "Minutes" on pg. 3



BRULE RIVER SPORTSMEN'S CLUB, OCTOBER 2023

"Minutes" from pg. 2

Nebagamon Creek Culvert Removal Progress: Progress will be reported on the website and in the newsletter.

Club Store: Winter hats gone. Lundberg will order 25 poster maps.

Spring Raffle: Mike Sierszen talked with David Norling at the September Spey Day event. David will make us a 7½ 4wt for our Spring raffle. Dennis Smet has a couple of Weber donated items we could add to this raffle. We will need to verify our Raffle license is current.

Upcoming Events – Posted on the Club Calendar <https://bruleriversportsmensclub.com/category/club-calendar/>.

The business meeting adjourned at 7:21 p.m. Recorded by Walt Swanson

Thanks to the following NGO's who helped fund the South Shore Grade Effort

- ◆ Brule Preservation Inc.
- ◆ Brule River Sportsmen's Club
- ◆ Izaak Walton League Duluth Chapter
- ◆ Izaak Walton League – Wis. Trust Committee
- ◆ Douglas County Fish & Game League
- ◆ Lake Superior Steelhead Association
- ◆ Western Lake Superior Trolling Association
- ◆ Wild Rivers Chapter Trout Unlimited
- ◆ Arrowhead Fly Fishers Club
- ◆ Headwaters Chapter of Trout Unlimited
- ◆ WI State Council Trout Unlimited Exec. Committee
- ◆ Patagonia Environmental Grants
- ◆ Fox Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited
- ◆ Patagonia Environmental
- ◆ Brule River Rats Stewardship Council
— *(GoFundMe campaign)*
- ◆ Elliot Donnelley Chapter of Trout Unlimited
— *Chicago*

Modified Olive Woolhead Sculpin

Dean Wellman, BRSC Financial Secretary – Brule, WI

Club member Paul Gausman introduced the Olive Woolhead Sculpin in August 2020. It's an excellent fly that attracts big predators. There is no cast that is a bad cast with this fly as fish will move on it. Recently, my friend was about to recast because he thought he'd made a bad cast. I was going to tell him to leave the fly, when he began the recast. As he was lifting the fly from the water, a brown of about 3 lbs. tried to get the fly in the air! After that, he fished it back to the canoe. The Olive Woolhead Sculpin can be a game changer when big browns are in the river.

Here's a modification that I had success with this fall. It uses Paul's original fly with some new materials and a zonker style rabbit strip (zonker cut rabbit strips are cut in the natural direction of the hair). Tight lines!

A recipe for the fly can be found at <https://bruleriversportsmensclub.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/2023-October-fly.pdf>.



BRSC Gift Store Order Form (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			
https://brulriversportsmensclub.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.

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.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.

Newsletter editor: Katie Thompson (goirish@cheqnet.net)

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