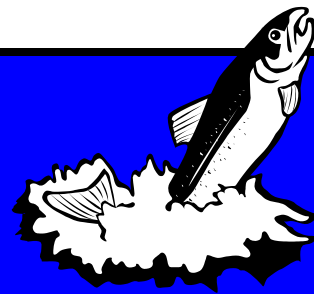


# Brule River

*Sportsmen's Club, Inc.*

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



February 2024

## The Brule Rod Company

Many of our board members have a rod or two built by the Brule Rod Company. During their existence they made many different types and styles of fiberglass rods. The fiberglass 9-foot steelhead rod was likely one of the most popular locally.

Other rod styles include a bait cast rod, a spin cast rod, a telescoping spinning rod, and a very stiff rod for Lake Superior trolling. The company started by the Johnson brothers in the 1960's built these rods in their small factory in Iron River a short distance from the Brule River.



## New BRSC 'Fly of the Month' book available soon

You've seen the flies we've featured in our March through October newsletters during the last four years. Due to popular demand, we've decided to print a soft-cover book covering those four years with fly photos and their fly-tying recipes. The books are in the process of being printed and will soon be available in our Club's web store.

## Club Officer Election Results

Dennis Pratt (President), Dean Wellman (Financial Secretary), Jeff Stollenwerk (Treasurer), and Walt Swanson (Recording Secretary) all received majority votes and will be returning to their previous positions. Ed Chaplinski was newly elected to the Vice President position by unanimous vote. Thanks to all who voted.

## Have you paid your membership dues?

Thanks to all who've sent us your membership dues. If you haven't received your membership card yet your membership for 2024 remains unpaid. All paid memberships will in addition to getting a membership card will also receive our Club's new window sticker.

Your continued membership is critical to our Club achieving the annual goal of continuing to protect and enhance the Brule and its fishery.



**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 January 2024



President Dennis Pratt sent an agenda and the reports to Officers and Directors.

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

Minutes of the November Meeting: The minutes as written in the January newsletter were approved following a motion by Ken Zivic, second by Michael Sierszen and unanimous email approval.

Treasurer's and Financial Secretary's Reports: Treasurer Jeff Stollenwerk reported that November's beginning balance was \$5,162.33, and December's ending balance was \$7,982.75 with the following expenses: JM Screen Print (500 logo stickers) \$333; Katie Thompson (November newsletter) \$200; The First Impression Group (25 lower river posters) \$549.74; \*Benevity Amer Online Test Deposit Reversal \$427.24; Pro Print (November newsletter) \$30.16; Officer Stipends \$900; Dennis Pratt (expenses Aug 31-Dec. 1) \$417.14; Jeff Stollenwerk (reimburse for online store test) \$20; Wisconsin Wildlife Federation (annual dues) \$110. The Treasurer's report was approved following a motion by Jim Waletzko, second by Mick Killoren, and unanimous email approval. President Dennis Pratt reported for Financial Secretary Dean Wellman that there was \$2,820.42 in total deposits into the general fund since the last meeting and that the Club had 3 new members and 53 renewals. The Financial Secretary's report was approved following a motion by Mike Zicus, second by Ken Lundberg, and unanimous email approval.

### Committee Reports

Legislative: Ken Lundberg – Noted the proposed legislation for closing doe season in northern forest zone. <https://www.bowhunting.com/article/wisconsin-lawmakers-present-bill-to-ban-doe-hunting-in-northern-forest-zone/#:~:text=Legislation%20introduced%20on%20January%2017,hit%20rock%20bottom%20years%20ago>.

Habitat: Dennis Pratt – Our first volunteer workday, planting tamarack/spruce at Beaupre project site will be held on May 18. No other habitat projects have been finalized yet.

Audit: Jeff Stollenwerk – Nothing at this time.

Education: Den Smet – The fish at both schools have hatched and are doing well. Schools have feed. We need to set a date in March to visit the classrooms. Spring break at both schools is probably in March. Maple School District's is March 11-15.

Scholarship: Mike Sierszen/Paul Helbach – College scholarship announcements were sent out earlier this month.

Membership: Jim Waletzko/Ed Chaplinski – Nothing to report.

Social Media: Mike Zicus/Dennis Pratt – Ken Zivic has suggested that we begin placing a 'Tips and techniques' section in our newsletters. Mike Sierszen did a very good job of researching the Brule Rod Company and we now have enough to do an article. Walt Swanson provided a high-resolution photo of the label on one of the rods.

### Other Business

Spring Clean-up Date: This year's spring clean-up will be held on April 27. (Backup date: May 11)

Officer Declined Stipends: Jeff has made a motion to transfer from General Fund to: College Scholarship \$700 and \$1,200 of declined stipends to remain in General fund. Glen Hill seconded the motion followed by unanimous email approval.

Fly of the Month: Resumes in March with Wellman's "Nuke Egg" fly.

Spring Raffle Items: Norling 7½ foot 4-wt bamboo fly rod, Weber Rapala knives, and Wellman fly boxes. Need to obtain raffle license for 2024. This will be a topic during our in-person March meeting.

See "Minutes" on pg. 3



"Minutes" from pg. 2

**Fly of the Month Book:** Wellman and Zicus have been working on an idea to publish a softcover booklet with our last four years of fly recipes. It's suggested that we print a couple of dozen copies for sale in our Club store. Likely a 60-page 8 1/2 x 11-inch format would be best. Paul Helbach made a motion to move forward with this proposal to print 24 copies. Ed Chaplinski seconded the motion, followed by unanimous email approval.

**Hat to Major Donors:** Need a vote to approve sending a club hat to all who make donations of \$500 or more (we only had two of these last year). Ken Zivic made a motion to approve and second by Dean Wellman, followed by unanimous email approval.

**Great Waters Expo:** The Expo is a go. Ken Lundberg and his son in the Twin Cities will tag team the Expo. Paul Sandstrom will help set up the new display backboard that we purchased recently). Dean has gathered enough support from Club members down there to cover all hours of the event. We'll be assisting Ken with gathering all the materials that he needs to bring to the booth (new photos, brochures, video set-up etc.).

**Wild Rivers Chapter Trout Unlimited Expo:** Pratt will represent the Club at this year's Expo to be held in Hayward. We're not allowed to sell any items at the event, but we'll display what we have available in our Club store and provide them with a handout on how to purchase online.

**2024 Election Results:** Pratt, Chaplinski, Wellman, Stollenwerk, and Swanson all received majority votes. Mike Zicus made a motion to certify election results, seconded by Ken Lundberg, and then unanimous email approval.

**Upcoming Events** – Please check our Club Calendar for the latest events. <https://bruleriversportsmensclub.com/category/club-calendar/>

Recorded by Walt Swanson

## Time to Renew Your Membership



**Memberships expired on December 31.**

Membership dues are critical for us to continue our Club's work.

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

**Thanks for your support!**

## CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

<https://bruleriversportsmensclub.com/category/club-calendar/>

### Set your calendars:

- **Great Waters Fly-fishing Expo:** March 15–17, Hamline University, Minneapolis Minnesota (BRSC will have a booth there)
- **Wild Rivers TU Chapter Expo:** April 6, Flat Creek Lodge & Convention Center, Hayward Wisconsin (BRSC will have a booth there)
- **BRSC Spring Clean-up** – April 27, meet at the Brule pavilion at 9 a.m.
- **BRSC Tree planting habitat project** – May 18, meet at 9 a.m. at the Upper St. Croix Boat Launch on County Hwy. A
- **Family Fun Day** – The tentative date for this year's event on August 17 at the Brule Fish Hatchery

<b>BRSC Gift Store Order Form</b> (prices include shipping & handling)			
#	Item	Cost	Total
	Lower river map poster of Brule (36"x24")	\$45	
	Women's baseball hat	\$25	
	Lower Brule River map	\$10	
	Upper Brule River map	\$10	
	Men'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			
<a href="https://brulriversportsmensclub.com/contact-us/join-the-club/">https://brulriversportsmensclub.com/contact-us/join-the-club/</a>			



**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.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.

<b>Officers</b>	<b>Board of Directors</b>
President — Dennis Pratt — <a href="mailto:prattdd@charter.net">prattdd@charter.net</a>	Ken Lundberg
Vice President — Ed Chaplinski	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