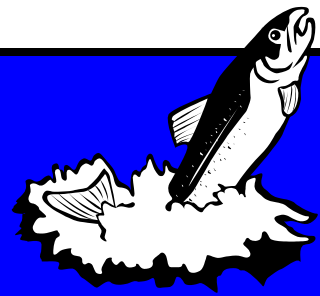


# Brule River

## Sportsmen's Club, Inc.



January 2024

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

## Club Accomplishments in Our 55th Year

### Letter from the President, Dennis Pratt

We completed all our Club sponsored volunteer projects for 2023. Thanks to all the volunteers who were able to gather and help get the work done.

Our 51<sup>st</sup> Spring Clean-up was delayed by two weeks due to the very heavy snowfall last winter, but it turned out to be another successful effort. We featured the cleanup in our June newsletter. The local Boy Scout Troop 212 also canoed the river in late May and picked up trash along the way. Our trout in the classroom project entered its 23<sup>rd</sup> year.

We once again were able to visit classes at the Northwestern Middle School and the Superior High School. At each class we gave presentations about the Club, the river's history, and the phenomenal Brule River fishery to a total of 243 students.

We were also proud to be able to present two scholarships this year: a \$1,000 scholarship to Northwestern High School senior Brinley Tonn and a \$5,000 scholarship to UW Steven's Point junior Kayla Reed. You can find details on our website or in our June and July newsletters.

We held three volunteer trout habitat workdays. The spring event involved planting tamarack and spruce trees in two of the four beaver pond footprints at our Beaupre Springs project area. We reported on that work in our July newsletter. I was able to inspect the new plantings multiple times during the summer and found them to be doing well. The objective is to eventually develop a streamside forest consisting of tree spe-

cies that aren't utilized by beaver, reducing the need to remove problem beaver in the future.

On July 22 and August 5, we continued the work we started last year on

the activities.

The "icing on the cake" for 2023 was the completion of the long-standing project to remove the South Shore Railroad Grade and its culvert on Nebagamon

Creek. The deteriorating grade posed a severe threat to the river. DNR fisheries biologist, Paul Piszczek, persevered over many years working to get landowner permission, and funding, studies, permits, and contracts needed to accomplish the task. Thanks, Paul!

We graciously thank all those organizations and the landowners who contributed to and helped support the project. The completion of the project was highlighted in the October newsletter.

It was a very busy and rewarding year to be a part of the Brule River Sportsmen's Club! Thanks to all our members who support our efforts to protect and enhance the river and its fishery.



South Shore grade looking south.

Beaupre Creek to remove encroaching speckled alder that was plugging the channel and hindering the recovery of a healthy streamside forest. With this year's work, we cleared the stream downstream to the confluence of Beaupre Creek and the east fork of the Brule. You can find that highlighted in our September newsletter.

The Club also played a major role in the Family Fun Day event held at the Brule Fish Hatchery in August. Turnout for this year's event was very good as we welcomed 293 people. Our Club had 13 members helping with a half dozen of



Winter on the Brule



**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 November 2023



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

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

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

Treasurer's and Financial Secretary's Reports: Treasurer Jeff Stollenwerk reported that October's beginning balance was \$24,388.30 and the ending balance was \$5,162.33 with the following expenses: Pro Print (September newsletter – \$30.16); transfer to savings (September donations – \$50); Katie Thompson (October newsletter – \$200); Pro Print (October newsletter – \$60.14); Computing Done Right (Annual Web Host – \$323); Transfer to new short CD 10-month (\$19,784.83). The Treasurer's report was approved following a motion by Dean Wellman, a second by Ken Zivic, and unanimous email approval. Financial Secretary Dean Wellman reported that there were \$714 in total deposits into the general fund since the last meeting and that the Club had no new members. The Financial Secretary's report was approved following a motion by Mike Zicus, a second by Ken Zivic, and unanimous email approval.

### Committee Reports

Legislative, Habitat, Audit, Membership and Social Media Committees: Nothing to report.

Education: Dennis Smet – Hayward and Washburn schools also have a fish egg hatching project. Carey Edwards is heading it up.

Scholarship: Mike Sierszen/Paul Helbach – Paul Helbach has been in touch with Breena, Northwestern High School counselor, but has nothing to report.

### Other Business

Fly of the Month - March 2024 will be the Nuke Egg (Dean Wellman), April will be the Seegar Swanson Sr. wet/dry caddis (Dean Wellman from interview with Seegar Swanson Jr.), and May will be the Pass Lake (Walt Swanson).

Board Election Ballot – Results will be finalized on Monday January 22.

Dean's Fly of the Month Fly Boxes - Jeff Stollenwerk thinks we should include them in the raffle next spring. Ken Zivic suggests having them as part of the raffle to possibly attract less active or non-members to the Club. The raffle period could be established so that the fly boxes are visible at upcoming events, i.e., Expo, clean-up day, family day, etc. He suggested tickets at one for \$5 and three for \$10. Dennis Smet believes the three Weber knives we have could go as prizes if we have a spring raffle. Ed Chaplinski agrees a raffle would bring money to the Club. Mike Sierszen thinks the disposition of the collection depends on how much we hope to get for them. His guess is that we might get more through a raffle e.g., 20 tickets @ \$10 each = \$200, which would likely be more than many people would pay for 32 flies if we just tried to sell them. Many fly shops charge ~\$2.50/fly. Mike Zicus thinks having one fly box and one Weber knife to round out the raffle would be okay as it still recognizes that the donated rod is the main prize.

Ed's Suggestion to Give Hats to Life Members and Donors of More than \$500 - Dean Wellman would approve hats for donations >\$500. Ken Zivic favors this and would make a motion to proceed. Jeff Stollenwerk supports the idea, as do Den Smet and Glen Hill agree. Mike Sierszen questioned whether we have a life member category and, if so, what the cost was. The category isn't on the membership form. He believes we need more discussion before deciding. He's okay with the big donations idea. Mike Zicus is okay with the hats to major donors idea, but noted we don't currently have a life member category. Seemed to recall it was discussed in the past but never went anywhere.



"Minutes" from pg. 2

2024 Great Waters Expo March 15 – 17 - Dean Wellman thinks we should do it and he will see if Paul Gausman will help again. Ken Zivic commented that we always seem to get great press at this event. His understanding is that there are local members who might help or even co-chair our participation. He wondered if we have a list of those individuals to call upon for help and noted we have some time to recruit. Jeff Stollenwerk believes it is good PR for the Club, so it's good for us to participate. That said, he recognizes it's a lot to ask of members to travel and man the booth. He will be out of town on those days so isn't available to help. Dennis Smet believes we should participate if we can find people willing to head up and work at the Great Waters Expo. Ed Chaplinski will have to think some more about the Expo. Mike Sierszen helped Ken last year but doesn't know yet if he can in 2024. Mike Zicus hopes we can participate, but recognizes it's a long way to travel for many on the board.

**Topics for upcoming Meeting** – Dean Wellman priced out a soft cover booklet for the Fly of the Month Series. Cost would be \$300 for 24 books, 5.5" x 8.5". Need thoughts on that. The cost would be about \$13 each. We could sell them for \$35 each and have them at the expo and on the website. He'd buy four. Could be a great gift idea. Ken Zivic anticipated getting some information on how to fish the Brule River when he joined the Club as well as protecting the waters. Thinks the monthly fly selection is great and appreciates Dean, and now Walt, stepping up to this effort as he has never tied a fly. He knows he's a newbie compared to other board members and suspects there are more members that would appreciate a little of the wisdom acquired from fishing the Brule River. Maybe we could produce a quarterly "Tips and Techniques" segment? He understands that fishermen hold their fishing spots close and may not want to divulge "secrets;" however, there are many things that go into the determination of what to look for, how to approach the waters, and techniques the people use for a successful outing on the river.

**Upcoming Events** – Events will be posted on the website <https://brulerriversportsmensclub.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://brulerriversportsmensclub.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!**

## MEMORIAL DONATIONS IN 2023

**We received donations in memory of  
Mark Wellman, Thomas T. Rogers and Gregggar Isaksen.**

Mark was the brother of Dean Wellman, our Club's Financial Secretary.

Thomas was the brother of longtime Club member Bill Rogers.

Gregggar was the husband of Club member and past Newsletter Editor Susie Isaksen.

*We send our heartfelt condolences and promise to use these donations for the protection and enhancement of the Brule River and its environments.  
Thanks to all who donated in their memory.*

<b>BRSC Gift Store Order Form</b> (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			
<a href="https://brulerriversportsmensclub.com/contact-us/join-the-club/">https://brulerriversportsmensclub.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.brulerriversportsmensclub.com](http://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.

<b>Officers</b>	<b>Board of Directors</b>
President — Dennis Pratt — <a href="mailto:prattd@charter.net">prattd@charter.net</a>	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                      Mike Zicus
Treasurer — Jeff Stollenwerk	Glen Hill                              Ken Zivic