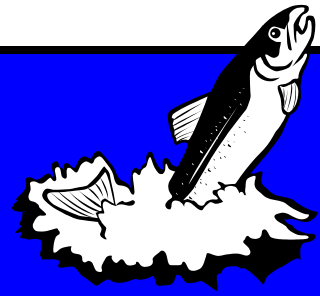


Brule River

Sportsmen's Club, Inc.



June 2024

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

'Trees for Trout' Project

by Dennis Pratt

Nine volunteers met on May 18 at 9:00 a.m. at the Upper St. Croix boat launch (Palmer Landing) and worked until noon on a project along Beaupre Spring Creek. This was the Club's way of celebrating Arbor Day.

Over the last decade, the Club has improved habitat in the upper Brule by draining the beaver ponds on Beaupre Spring Creek and reconnecting the groundwater from Beaupre Spring Pond with the East Fork of the Brule River.

Before our restoration work, spring waters from the pond completely evaporated from the four very large beaver pond



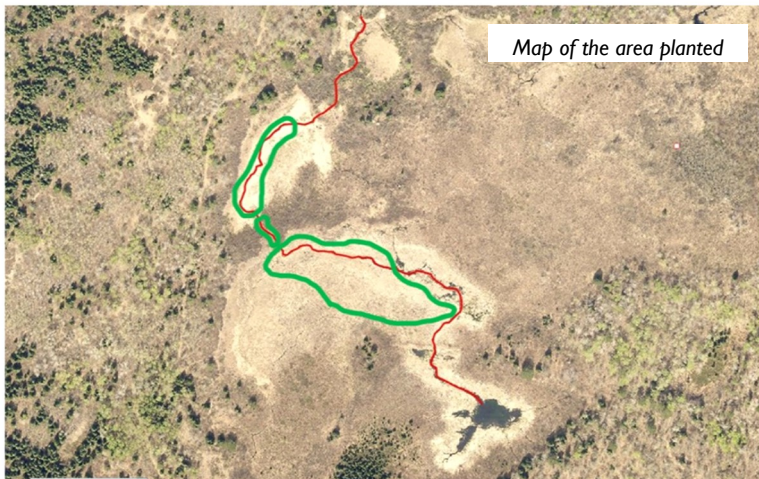
Volunteer crew at lunch

surfaces instead of reaching the Brule. That spring water connection has been restored to the river by the Club for over a decade now.

We planted 500 tamarack trees along the trout channel now flowing from the spring pond through two of the four old beaver pond footprints in this phase of our habitat work.

This effort is to reestablish a healthy streamside forest along the Beaupre Spring tributary that is less attractive to beavers. At noon, we gathered once again

at the Upper St. Croix boat launch and enjoyed a sub sandwich lunch provided by the Club.



Map of the area planted

Volunteer List

Tom Stieber	Mike Zicus
Paul Dedo	Mike Sierszen
Greg Gerard	Ron Gaare
Kevin Bovee	Dennis Pratt
Tim Spangenberg	



BRSC Calendar:

The board meeting will be held on
Monday, June 24, at the KroBar at 6:00 p.m.





Brule River Sportsmen's Club Electronic Meeting Minutes May 27, 2024



President Dennis Pratt called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. at KroBar.

Officers and Directors: Present – Glen Hill, Ken Lundberg, Dennis Pratt, Mike Sierszen, Den Smet, Jeff Stollenwerk, Walt Swanson, Jim Waletzko, Dean Wellman, Mike Zicus, and Ken Zivic.

Minutes of the April Meeting: The minutes as written in the May 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 April's beginning balance was \$10,226.91, and the ending balance was \$10,936.81 with the following expenses: WI Dept. of Admin (raffle license) \$25.00; postage and shipping supplies Dec.-March \$204.75; transfer to savings (March donations) \$171; The Frame Corner (pictures for Expo display) \$228.64; Katie Thompson (April newsletter) \$200; Pro Print (April newsletter) \$28.59; Twin Gables (lunch for river cleanup volunteers) \$405. The Treasurer's report was approved following a motion by Ken Zivic, second by Den Smet, and unanimous approval by voice vote. Financial Secretary Dean Wellman reported that there were \$1820 in total deposits into the general fund since the last meeting and that the Club had 7 new members and 10 renewals. The Financial Secretary's report was approved following a motion by Ken Zivic, a second by Walt Swanson, and unanimous approval by voice vote.

Committee Reports

Legislative: Ken Lundberg – Ken had nothing to report. Tom Sklebar mentioned the following: the Farm Bill doesn't look good for wildlife; Vacant District Director position for Wisconsin Wildlife Federation; the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation made about \$17,000 from NW District Banquet.

Habitat: Dennis Pratt – We planted about 500 tamaracks. The black spruce previously planted didn't survive very well. Beavers moved into Beaupre Springs this spring. APHIS removed them last week. The water level is being lowered now. The brush removal in the lower part of the stream last year worked well, and there is a bumper crop of brown and brook trout fingerlings in the stream. Dennis noted that only retirees have been showing up for workdays. He suggested changing it to weekdays to avoid competing with other events scheduled on weekends. July 24 and August 1 were suggested as the next work dates. Would meet at Palmer Landing, to begin the removal of the small earthen dam on Swamp Angel Creek. This suggestion was approved following a motion by Mike Zicus, second by Mike Sierszen, and unanimous approval by voice vote.

Audit: Jeff Stollenwerk – Nothing currently.

Education: Dennis Smet – Nothing currently.

Scholarship: Mike Sierszen/Paul Helbach – We received eight applications for the college scholarship. A final meeting to discuss the applications will be held an hour before our next regular meeting.

Membership: Jim Waletzko/Ed Chaplinski – Nothing currently. Discussion about who has paid or not and ideas on how to address slow renewal rate followed.

Social Media: Mike Zicus/Dennis Pratt – Not a lot going on. Tree planting article and raffle announcement were discussed.

Other Business

Fly of the Month: Wellman – Will feature a comparadun.

Spring Raffle: Sierszen – Distributed raffle tickets to board members.

See "Minutes" on pg. 3



BRULE RIVER SPORTSMEN'S CLUB, JUNE 2024

"Minutes" from pg. 2

Fly of the Month Book: The fly book is very popular. We have three remaining. Decided to order a second printing of 50 copies.

Challenge Center Canoe Trip: Den Smet was contacted about our support. Den believes we have enough drivers for the event with two other groups offering support. The date is July 13, with July 27 as the alternate.

Family Fun Day: Angelica Komarek discussed supplies needed for the event: lures and t-shirts; who would be helping; and new layout of stations with more spacing. An additional donation of \$500 was mentioned and this suggestion was approved following a motion by Jeff Stollenwerk and a second by Mike Sierszen and unanimous approval by voice vote.

Angelica also mentioned that the hatchery folks were planning to quit fin clipping Seeforellen browns because the handling was reducing the growth of the

fish. Club concern was expressed about not being able to distinguish wild and stocked fish when they were caught because many anglers prefer not to keep wild fish. Additionally, it's important to monitor movements of stocked browns that might be coming into the Brule. It was suggested that Dennis write a letter from the Club expressing our support for continued fin clipping. A motion was made by Mike Zicus, a second by Dean Wellman, and unanimous approval by voice vote.

Spring Clean-up: Den Smet made a motion to donate \$250 to the Boy Scouts for their work on the river cleanup, second by Jim Waletzko, and unanimous approval by voice vote.

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

The business meeting adjourned at 7:29 p.m.

Recorded by Walt Swanson



Schedule of Summer Events

Summer Volunteer Habitat Projects

- Wednesday, July 24
- & Thursday, August 1
- meet 9:00 a.m.
- @ Palmer's Boat Landing



Brule Hatchery Family Fun Day

- August 17
- More information to come in the July newsletter



HI VIS Snowshoe Adams Comparadun

Dean Wellman
BRSC Financial Secretary
Brule, WI



We're acknowledging Doug Swisher and Carl Richards (authors of *Selective Trout* 1971 and *Emergers* 1991) with this fly. These books can help a novice become a backyard biologist.

The "comparadun" featured in *Selective Trout* is a no hackle dry fly that significantly changed dry fly tying and fishing. Tying a "no hackle" fly that sat in the surface film was and still is a game changer and up-ended traditional dry fly patterns. It also led to new synthetic dry fly dubbing and tail materials, which offered substitutes for traditional furs such as muskrat, beaver, and mink for bodies.

This recipe can be found at <https://bruleriversportsmensclub.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/2024-June-fly2.pdf>.



BRULE RIVER SPORTSMEN'S CLUB 2024 Raffle

\$10 per ticket -- now 'til they're gone (or Aug. 26)

YOU COULD WIN:

Norling 8'3" 5 wt Custom Cane Fly Rod

Dave Norling donated the rod with custom-machined reel seat and ferrule, ferrule plug, two tip sections, rod sleeve and metal tube. (Retail: \$2,400)



Weber Heirloom Stainless 9" Fillet Knife

Ron Weber's legacy includes this Rapala/Normark stainless-steel prototype made by J. Marttiini (Finland) sheathed in artfully illustrated leather.

Fly of the Month Collection

32 of our "Fly of the Month" flies ('20 – 23) tied by BRSC Board Member Dean Wellman, boxed with the Brule River Sportsmen's Club fly pattern booklet.



REQUEST YOUR \$10 TICKETS TODAY!

---EMAIL---

GENERAL: INQUIRY@BRULERIVERSPORTSMENSCLUB.COM

DENNIS PRATT: PRATTD@CHARTER.NET

MICHAEL SIERSZEN: MESIERSZEN@GMAIL.COM

DRAWING: MONDAY, AUGUST 26, 2024; 6 PM

KRO BAR & GRILL ... BRULE, WISCONSIN

(DO NOT HAVE TO BE PRESENT TO WIN)

ALL PROCEEDS SUPPORT THE CLUB'S COLLEGE AND HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIPS

bruleriversportsmensclub.com



Piszczek WWF Fisheries Conservationist of Year Award

by Ken Lundberg

Paul Piszczek, Wisconsin DNR Fisheries Biologist in the Superior Office, received the 2023 Outstanding Fisheries Conservationist award from the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation (WWF). The WWF is a statewide organization comprised of 211 sporting groups.

Paul received the award for his nearly ten years of work on the South Shore Railroad grade and culvert removal project. In 1934, the South Shore Railroad over Nebagamon Creek was abandoned leaving a 40-foot-high grade over a box culvert.

Over time, the culvert wing walls began collapsing into the stream and bank erosion occurred. If the culvert failed and impounded water upstream caused the grade to collapse, there would have been a wall of sand carried down to the Brule covering valuable habitat and spawning grounds.

On paper it looked like a simple one-year project costing less than \$100,000. It quickly turned into a nightmare of unexpected hurdles, time delays, and rising costs.

Paul oversaw the project and the necessary work, which included grant writing for additional funds, obtaining the necessary permits, and other land issues. It took ten long, tedious years to work through the unexpected hurdles and finally oversee the actual grade and culvert removal.

Nebagamon Creek is now an open and free flowing stream. Its channel is no longer susceptible to any risk associated with continuing grade erosion or culvert collapse. Much of the project's success was directly related to Paul's tenacity through all the hurdles, cost overruns, and time delays.

Paul Piszczek's Acceptance Speech

From my days as a young boy fishing with my family and friends in Chicagoland's ponds and streams to annual family fishing trips on Wisconsin's waters of the Mississippi River, never did I think that one day I would be recognized as the Fisheries Conservationist of the Year by the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation. I am honored to receive this award and grateful to Ken Lundberg for taking time to nominate me. Wouldn't you know that of all the evenings on the calendar, this is the one when I had a previously scheduled family wedding out-of-state that precludes me from meeting you all. Thank you, Ken, for accepting the award on my behalf. The project for which Ken wrote my nomination was in many ways life-changing for me, and it was the largest project I had ever undertaken, well-beyond my graduate thesis on trout in the Great Smoky Mountains nearly 30 years ago. The project was one that reaffirmed my philosophy of staying in the game, persevering, because in the end it would matter, matter to fish and their habitat and matter to people, those local and those far away. The meetings, phone calls, emails, negotiations, and humbling pleas; they were all worth it. And because of it, you recognized me. What a gift, both professionally and personally.

Among the dozens of individuals who made this project possible, I particularly thank Dennis Pratt of the Brule River Sportsmen's Club, Bob Banks of Brule River Preservation, Inc., and Dave Zentner of the Izaak Walton League who provided input and ignited a unique fundraising campaign that was critical to the project's future funding. I truly appreciate the willingness of the private property owners to allow the project on their land, as well as the many Wisconsin DNR staff who worked with me on the legal arrangements and guided me through the environmental review process. I thank Myron Olson of the Town of Brule and Jason Jackman of Douglas County. I thank Ted Koehler of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Jeff Tyson of the Great Lakes Fishery Commission, and Terry Heatlie of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration for their work in procuring and administering essential project funds. Thank you Brad Ray and Brad Eggold of Wisconsin DNR for supporting my effort on the project. I thank Keith Anderson of Beaver River Consulting for developing the design plans and overseeing their implementation and Brook Benes of Wren Works for the construction effort. Their tireless cooperation with me created the site conditions we have today. For any of you in the room who have in any way contributed to the project, I express my gratitude. I thank my wife, Esther, for her interest and support in hearing about the project's progress or seeing it for herself in the field. This project and this award are professional and personal achievements in which I take great pride. Thank you.

** originally posted in [Brule River Coalition](#), [Brule River Preservation](#)

BRSC Gift Store Order Form (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			
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.

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

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	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