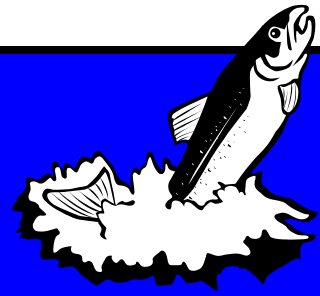


Brule River

Sportsmen's Club, Inc.



March 2024

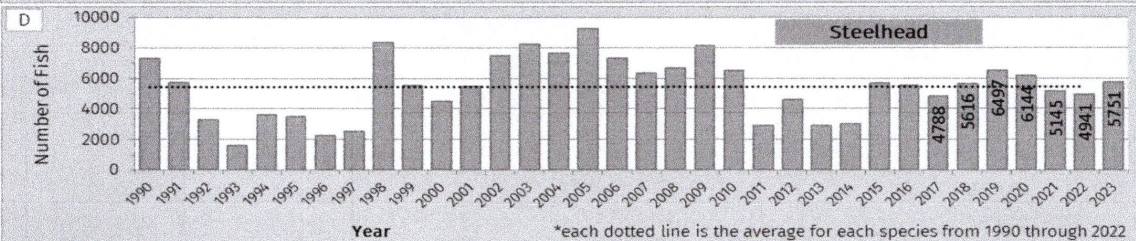
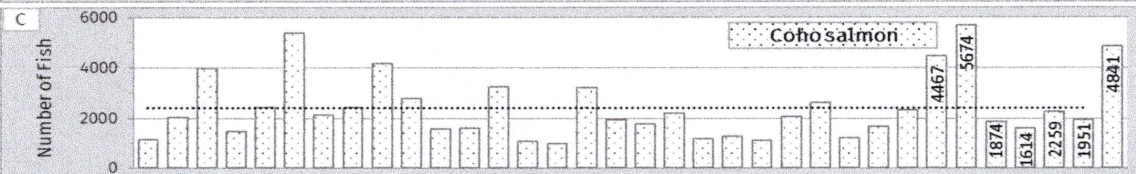
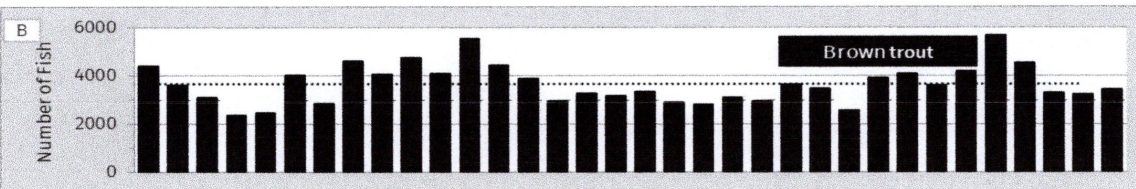
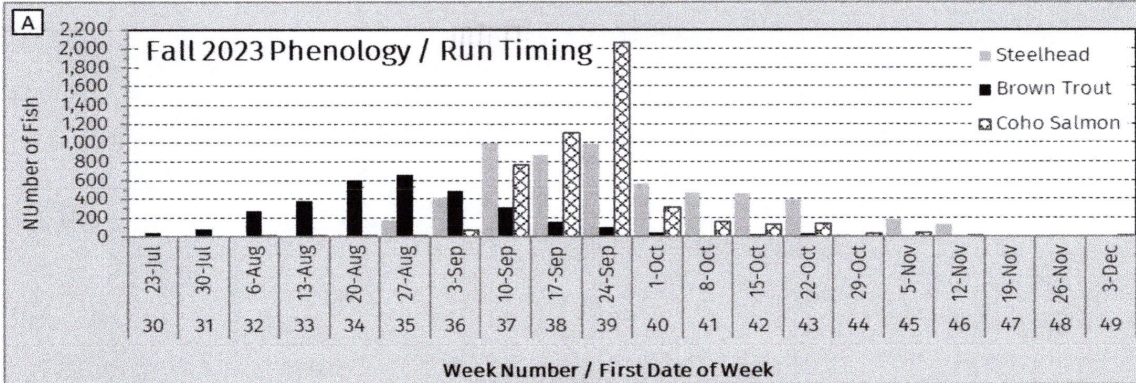
OVER 500 MEMBERS DEDICATED TO THE IMPROVEMENT AND PRESERVATION OF THE BRULE



2023 BOIS BRULE RIVER FALL FISHWAY UPDATE

Brown Trout	Chinook Salmon	Coho Salmon	Fall Run Steelhead	Brook Trout	Pink Salmon	Splake
3436	610	4841	5751	0	116	24

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) video-monitored trout and salmon migration at the fishway from July through December. [Chart A](#) shows the phenology (i.e., migration/run timing) of the three most common lake-run trout and salmon species in the lower river. Individuals were larger than normal, mainly due to their feeding on the high cisco abundance in the lake. August and September brought large rain events, which jump-started the fall run. Steelhead and coho salmon peaks came in the 37th and 39th weeks of the year with 78% of fish having passed the barrier by Oct. 1. Most steelhead (59 percent) ranged from 23 to 27 inches long while 9 percent measured 12 to 17 inches long. Coho salmon generally ranged from 24 to 26 inches long, with some measuring 29 inches or more; two Chinook salmon measured 39 inches. 70 percent of brown trout were 21 to 26 inches long. [Charts B, C and D](#) show the fall 2023 numbers relative to previous fall numbers. The fall 2023 numbers reflect typical variability within these populations of trout and salmon that sustain themselves through natural reproduction.



In-person board meetings resume this month —
Monday, March 25, at the KroBar at 6:00 p.m.

BRSO
Calendar:





Brule River Sportsmen's Club Electronic Meeting Minutes February 2024



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

Officers and Directors: Responding – Ed Chaplinski, Glen Hill, Ken Lundberg, Dennis Pratt, Den Smet, Jeff Stollenwerk, Walt Swanson, Dean Wellman, Mike Zicus and Ken Zivic.

Minutes of the January Meeting: The minutes as published in the February newsletter were approved following a motion by Jeff Stollenwerk, second by Den Smet and unanimous Email approval.

Treasurer's and Financial Secretary's Reports: Treasurer Jeff Stollenwerk reported that January's beginning balance was \$7,982.75, and ending balance was \$11,826.66 with the following expenses: Katie Thompson (January newsletter) \$200; Pro Print (January newsletter) \$30.16; Scouts (Spring River Clean-up) \$125. The Treasurer's report was approved following a motion by Den Smet, second by Ken Lundberg and unanimous Email approval. Dennis Pratt reported for Financial Secretary Dean Wellman that there were \$2,825 in total deposits into the general fund since the last meeting and that the Club had three new members and 38 renewals. The Financial Secretary's report was approved following a motion by Jeff Stollenwerk, second by Ken Lundberg and unanimous Email approval.

Committee Reports

Legislative, Scholarship and Membership: Nothing to report.

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

Audit: Jeff Stollenwerk – We will be delaying the annual audit until April.

Education: Den Smet – Both schools are on spring break from March 11-15. We will go into the classrooms after March 15. We don't have the dates yet.

Social media: Mike Zicus/Dennis Pratt – Mike Zicus has checked to make sure that all the links on our website are working. Dennis Pratt reports that the March newsletter will feature the Fall run information; it may also include a short item on TFM lampricide treatments.

Other Business

Spring Clean-up Date: This year's spring clean-up will be held on April 27; back-up date is May 11.

Fly of the Month: The March newsletter will feature Dean Wellman's 'Nuke Egg' fly.

Spring Raffle Items: Mike Sierszen – Norling 7 1/2-foot 4-wt will soon be finished. We'll make an announcement regarding the raffle date when the raffle tickets are available later this spring.

Fly of the Month Book: Fly of the Month booklet has been printed. Mike Zicus has placed it in our Club Store (we've sold four already). We will bring two dozen to the Great Waters Expo. Sale price has been set at \$25 online and \$20 when purchased at the Expo. Also, Dean Wellman reported that 17 have been spoken for by board members. Dean Wellman and Mike Zicus have done a superb job on the booklet.

Great Waters Expo: Ken Lundberg will be setting up the booth with the help of Paul Sandstrom. Ken's son will be assisting him through the event. Dean and Ken now have enough volunteers to man the booth. We've recently purchased a new (used) booth backboard for \$100 as the old one was too bulky and had seen its day. Ken Lundberg is in the process of getting new picture enlargements for display. Dean has purchased the fly-tying materials (for about \$45) for the booth again this year. We'll use any leftover materials for Family Fun Day. Pratt will have the handouts printed and delivered to Ken.

See "Minutes" on pg. 3



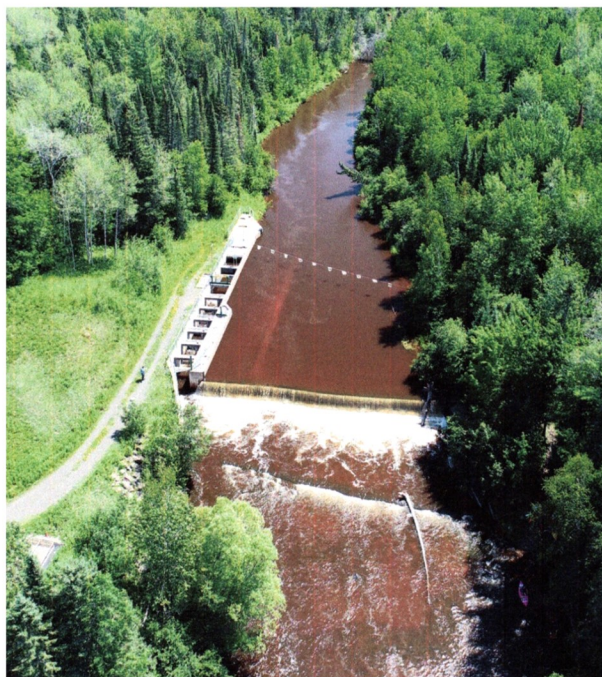
"Minutes" from pg. 2

Wild Rivers Chapter Trout Unlimited Expo: Dennis 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.

Wisconsin Wildlife Federation District I Fund Raising Banquet: This year's banquet is being held on April 18. Ken Lundberg is purchasing a table again this year so contact Ken for your tickets.

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

Recorded by Walt Swanson



Sea Lamprey Control in the Brule

The first Sea Lamprey appeared in Lake Superior in 1946, entering from the lower lakes. Lampreys reproduce and spend their juvenile development in tributary streams with juvenile lampreys spending from 3-13 years as filter feeders in the streams before they transform into their parasitic adult form and migrate downstream to the lake. They spend a couple of years feeding in the lake before returning to spawn in the stream. This life cycle led biologists to focus on reducing the lamprey recruitment coming from their natal streams.

The first strategy used was to try to block the spawning adults from entering streams with electrical barriers.

As the Brule was known to be one of the major spawning streams, a barrier of this type was installed in the 1950s about a mile upstream from the mouth just below the first rapids. Problems with electrical barriers included electrical outages and physical damage to both up migrating and descending salmonids (especially steelhead whose upstream and downstream migrations both occurred during peak electrical use). Treatment with the chemical TFM began in 1958. The Brule's electrical barrier was operated into the 1970s to evaluate the success of chemical treatments.

TFM treatments began in the 1960's and were applied every three or four years to reduce stream abundances of larval lampreys, but the treatments were usually only 80 to 90 percent efficient, meaning many lampreys were still produced. TFM treatments were also known to reduce invertebrate populations and slightly impact fish when they were stressed.

Long-time resident and BRSC board officer, Dean Wellman, described the following during the peak of the TFM treatments of the upper river. "In my years of observation of the TFM, I observed mortality on small rainbows, brown trout, and chubs. I did not witness any brook trout kill, and witnessed the decline of those bugs that use the silt beds as their home. And *Ephoron luekon*, known as the "white may fly" or "white miller" is still recovering. The problem with them is that they hatch during the day. The fly catchers and fish have a field day on them if they don't hatch in significant numbers. That is probably why their recovery has been so long. Midstream bugs such as stoneflies and caddis flies were not affected as much due to the TFM concentration not reaching a lethal limit. I'm just glad we are done with it."

A few years after the completion of the Sea Lamprey Barrier/Fishway in 1986, TFM treatments were no longer needed upstream of the barrier. This reduced the treatment area of the Brule watershed from 80 miles to 9.4 miles of the Brule and its tributaries downstream of the barrier.

A window located at the upstream step of the fishway, along with a time-lapsed video camera system initially purchased with the help of the Sportsmen's Club and other organizations, has made it possible for the DNR to monitor salmonid migrations in the river once electricity was installed at the new barrier. Last fall's salmonid run estimates are included.

THE NUKE EGG

Dean Wellman, BRSC Financial Secretary – Brule, WI

We featured the Glo Bug egg fly in March of 2023. This March, we're featuring the "Nuke Egg," which is a very simple fly using one piece of yarn on top of the hook shank with an added translucent "veil" around the egg. The veil imitates a loose egg from the redd. This fly can be a game changer when fish have a little more time to look it over in slower, clearer currents.

A recipe for the fly can be found at <https://bruleriversportsmensclub.com/march-fly-of-the-month/>.



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