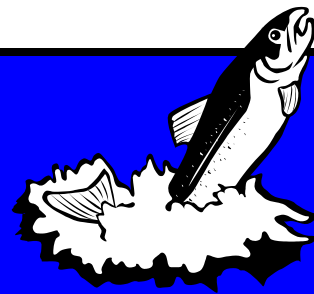


Brule River

Sportsmen's Club, Inc.

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

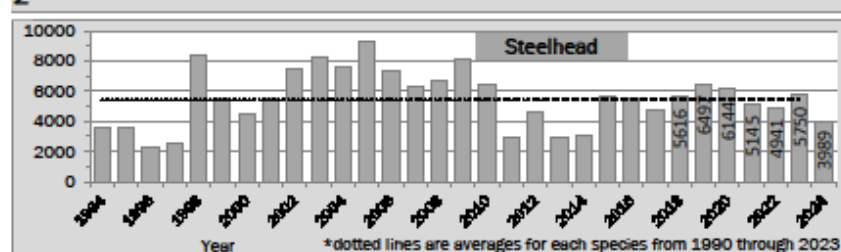
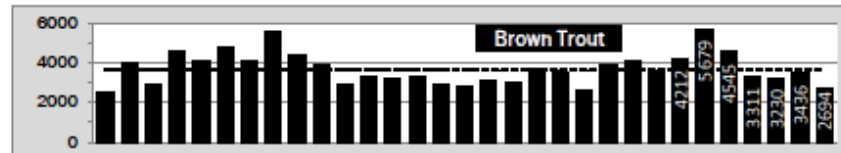
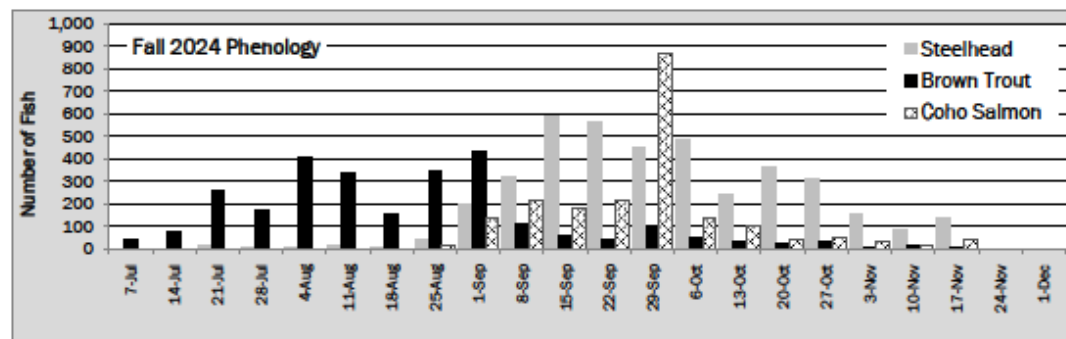


March 2025

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES 2024 Bois Brule River Fall Fishway Update Douglas County, Wisconsin

Brown Trout	Chinook Salmon	Coho Salmon	Fall Run Steelhead	Brook Trout	Pink Salmon	Splake
2694	306	2043	3989	0	8	14

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) video-monitored trout and salmon migration at the fishway from July through November. The following chart shows the phenology (i.e., run timing) of the lower river's three most common lake-run trout and salmon species. Steelhead peaked in mid-September, whereas coho salmon peaked during the last week of September when 42 percent of the run passed that week. Low river flows persisted during the run due to the little rainfall, until two rain events occurred in early-November after much of the run. The lowest river flow was 112 cubic feet per second on October 3. All species counts were lower than average, though for steelhead, the proportion of smaller, younger fish was twice that of 2023. Relatively low fall steelhead numbers have often been succeeded by higher spring numbers. Overall, the 2024 numbers reflected the variability within these populations of trout and salmon that sustain themselves through natural reproduction.



2024 Summary

- 69 percent of Brown Trout were between 21 and 26 inches long.

- Coho Salmon were larger than average and generally ranged from 23 to 25 inches; some exceeded 29 inches.

- 56 percent of Steelhead were between 20 and 25 inches long and 17 percent ranged from 12 to 17 inches.



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

BRSC Calendar:





Brule River Sportsmen's Club Meeting Minutes February 24, 2025



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

Officers and Directors: Present - Dennis Pratt, Den Smet, Jeff Stollenwerk, Walt Swanson, Dean Wellman, Mike Zicus, and Ken Zivic.

Minutes of the January Meeting: The minutes as written in the February newsletter were approved following a motion by Dean Wellman, second by Ken Zivic, and unanimous approval by voice vote.

Treasurer's and Financial Secretary's Reports: Treasurer Jeff Stollenwerk reported that January's beginning balance was \$14,646.85, and the ending balance was \$18,631.56 with the following expenses: WI Dept. of Financial Institutions (annual fee) \$25; Transfer to savings (Nov. and Dec. donations) \$2,220; Katie Thompson (January newsletter) \$200.00; DP Reimbursement (expenditures, Oct. 21 to Jan. 24) \$567.12; Pro Print (January newsletter) \$35.73. The Treasurer's report was approved following a motion by Walt Swanson, second by Dean Wellman, and unanimous approval by voice vote. President Dennis Pratt reported for Financial Secretary Dean Wellman that there were \$3,285 in total deposits into the general fund since the last meeting and that the Club had 1 new member and 65 renewals. The Financial Secretary's report was approved following a motion by Dean Wellman, second by Ken Zivic, and unanimous approval by voice vote.

Committee Reports

Legislative and Membership: nothing to report

Habitat: Dennis Pratt – Dennis contacted Paul Piszczek regarding potential projects for this summer. Paul suggested returning to the little Brule River to re-cut the stream-bank brush. Dennis will also meet with Paul on Feb. 27 regarding a potential project to add gravel to the section of the Brule downstream of the Winneboujou Club boat house in a future year.

Audit: Jeff Stollenwerk – Audit committee to report in April.

Education: Den Smet– Fish in aquariums are doing well. Den Smet and Dennis Pratt will make presentations to Superior Senior classes on Friday the 28th and to the Northwestern 6th graders on Tuesday, March 4.

Scholarship: Mike Sierszen – Applications are due on April 30.

Social Media: Mike Zicus/Dennis Pratt – Mike Zicus reported that the web site cleanup is done. Mike mentioned that our habitat project maps should be redone.

Other Business

Online Meetings – In person meetings will resume on March 24 at the Kro Bar.

Spring Clean-up Dates – April 26 with a backup of May 10. An idea to purchase safety vests (about \$9 each) for those who remove trash from Highway H for example was discussed. Dennis Pratt made a motion to purchase 12 vests, followed by a second from Walt Swanson, and unanimous approval by voice vote. More discussions next month, including a possible meal at Twin Gables.

Membership Drive – Pratt – A membership renewal reminder was sent out once again at the end of January to all members with email addresses who had not paid their dues. As of February 20, 2025, we've had 166 members renew their membership [131 out of 344 e-members (38%) and 35 out of 82 paper- members (42%)]. We also included a membership form with this month's paper newsletters to all who had not paid yet. Discussion about whether we should email an overdue reminder again at the end of February followed.

Fly of the Month – Dean Wellman - Resumes next month. Two months still open (July and October).

Arrowhead Fly Fisher's/MNTU, IF4 Film Festival – Dennis Pratt had a booth representing the Club at this year's event held on February 2.

Raffle 2025 – Discussion was held on having a raffle this year, Jeff Stollenwerk mentioned that he was planning on keeping the raffle license. Possible items for the raffle were discussed.

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

The business meeting adjourned at 6:32 p.m.
Recorded by Walt Swanson



Spring Clean-up Project Enters 53rd Year

Come join us on Saturday, April 26, to help clean up the Brule River Valley.

We will meet at the Brule pavilion at 9 a.m. for area assignments (coffee and rolls served). Volunteers will then spread out and collect trash, returning at noon for a Club provided lunch.

If the weather is inclement, we will hold the clean-up on May 10.

Photo of Club member Bill Blust -2023.



Volunteer Trout Habitat Work Dates Set

July 26 & August 2 — Details in next month's newsletter

Spring's Wiggler

Dean Wellman, BRSC Financial Secretary — Brule, WI

I was first introduced to this fly in the mid 1970s when fishing the Betsy River in Michigan for spring-run steelhead. The river was clear and a fisherman in a wheel chair was fishing below the barrier and hooking steelhead one after another.

The fly he was using was called a Spring's Wiggler. It was developed by Ron Spring, a Muskegon sport shop owner. Since then, this fly has been a difference-maker many times for me on the Brule. I like fishing it dead drift as I would using a stonefly nymph. The thought is that it's designed to imitate a Hexagenia mayfly nymph.



A recipe for the fly can be found at <https://brulriversportsmensclub.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/2025-March-fly.pdf>.

24th Year of Trout in the Classroom



Dennis Smet and Dennis Pratt visited our two schools (Northwestern Middle School's 6th grade and Superior High School's 11th and 12th grades) with the Club provided trout aquariums again this year to present information about the Brule River and the Club's activities. We contacted a total of 224 students with this year's project.

Photo of Dennis Smet and the 6th graders.

BRSC Gift Store Order Form (prices include shipping & handling)			
#	Item	Cost	Total
	Lower river map poster of Brule (36"x24")	\$50	
	Women's baseball hat	\$30	
	Lower Brule River map	\$10	
	Upper Brule River map	\$10	
	Men's baseball cap (mesh back)	\$30	
	Limited edition brook trout print	\$40	

The Brule River Sportsmen's Club, Inc. is a tax-exempt organization defined by Chapter 501 (C) (3) of the IRS Tax Code.
<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	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