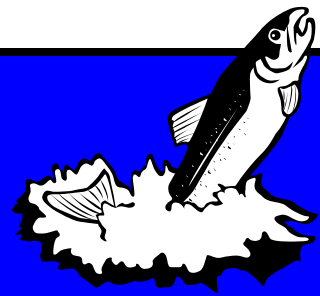


Brule River

Sportsmen's Club, Inc.



May 2024

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

Another Memorable Brule Opener

by Ken Lundberg

Mother Nature always has the last say for our openers. We were expecting warm, dry snow-free conditions after a very mild winter. The week before, 8–14 inches or more of wet sticky snow fell. Compared to last spring's waist deep snow this was a breeze.

There was not much chatter among family planning to fish, just we will be there and ready. My granddaughter, Sidney, who has a special spot in my heart for helping me while my wife was in hospice care called and wanted to fish.

She added, "I would like to take my boyfriend Jared with who has never fished trout." I responded, "Are you trying to get rid of him?" Openers are usually very tough fishing.

On Friday evening my house was filled with family, fishing gear and stories of past years. The next morning, well before legal fishing time, our crew of two sons, two grand kids and boyfriend were following a trail to a series of our favorite early season fishing spots.

We split up at the river. Another grandson and his dad were about a mile upstream. My granddaughter said everything is so quiet and peaceful. She was also feeling the magical sounds of the river while waiting for dawn.

The quiet time to reflect and plan for the day is a favorite time for me. This was only interrupted by two Common Mergansers flying up and down the river wondering what happened to their quiet, peaceful river.

My son, Tom, took Jared downstream a bit to help him get started. Sidney was with me, and our start was marred by snags and retying leaders and hooks.

Within minutes it sounded like a bull moose running through thick timber. Tom emerged and grabbed the landing net. Jared had hooked a nice steelhead on his second cast. We all joined the fun and watched him catch his first trout, a nice silver 27 inch yet to spawn. Not a bad way to start trout fishing.

An ample number of pictures were taken before releasing the fish. Some of us shared our horror stories of how long it took to catch their first steelhead. I won that contest hands down, taking seven years. My dad was not a steelhead fisherman, and we learned the art by trial and error. Mostly on the error side.

Sidney and I returned to our spot, locating a few more snags before finding fishable drifts. We switched from spawn and yarn to brown nymph flies. She was quickly into two steelhead followed by a nice native brown. The day could not

have been going any better. Anything else would just be frosting on the cake. After some fast action in the first hours, things quieted down and the grind of a long day of fishing started.

The good news was no ice building up in rods eyes or cold icy wind coming off Lake Superior. I spent most of the time on the bank watching the show and enjoying hot coffee. That's a far cry from my younger days where I fished hard all day.

Now the joy and pride of playing a role in introducing my family to trout fishing and watching their skills develop is greater than catching fish.



Grandson Ethan



Granddaughter Sidney

See "Opener" on pg. 3



BRSC Calendar:

The board meeting will be held on
Monday, May 27, at the KroBar at 6:00 p.m.





Brule River Sportsmen's Club Electronic Meeting Minutes April 22, 2024



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

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

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

Treasurer's and Financial Secretary's Reports: Treasurer Jeff Stollenwerk reported that March's beginning balance was \$9,232.99, and the ending balance was \$10,226.91 with the following expenses: Pro Print (February newsletter) \$30.16; Katie Thompson (March newsletter) \$200; Pro Print (business cards) \$80.92; Pro Print (March newsletter) \$96.60; Transfer to Savings (February donations) \$90; WI Dept of Admin (raffle license) \$25. The Treasurer's report was approved following a motion by Walt Swanson, second by Courtney Johnson, and unanimous approval by voice vote. President Dennis Pratt reported for Financial Secretary Dean Wellman that there were \$736 in total deposits into the general fund since the last meeting and that the Club had two new members and 21 renewals. The Financial Secretary's report was approved following a motion by Dean Wellman, a second by Ken Lundberg, and unanimous approval by voice vote.

Committee Reports

Legislative: Ken Lundberg – Governor Evers line item vetoed a few things. The Wisconsin Wildlife Federation is working to stop commercial lake trout fishing on Lake Michigan. Wake boats are coming under scrutiny for causing damage to lake shores and lake bottoms. Legislation is being drafted. The herbicide 2,4-D used for selective broadleaf weed control may be considered for restricted use near water sources.

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

Audit: Jeff Stollenwerk – Budget committee meetings were held by email. Three major items were mentioned: The Club continues to be in good financial shape; the online store has shown continued growth; Investment CDs have ~5% returns. The budget report was approved following a motion by Mike Sierszen and a second by Mike Zicus.

Education: Den Smet – Den and Dennis made presentations to >200 students at Superior High School and Northwestern.

Comments were made about the positive reactions from the younger students receiving the new Club stickers. Carey Edwards has been taking care of the newly added Hayward and Washburn aquariums.

Scholarship: Mike Sierszen/Paul Helbach – Three applications received for college so far, expecting more soon. No word from Northwestern High School yet.

Membership: Jim Waletzko/Ed Chaplinski – All extra newsletters handed out. Ed mentioned visiting with two new prospective members.

Social Media: Mike Zicus/Dennis Pratt – Not a lot going on. Articles needed for the newsletter. Ken will do one regarding the steelhead opener.

Other Business

Spring Clean-up Date: Smet - This year's spring cleanup will be held on April 27 (backup date May 11). Den Smet made a motion to cover food costs, with a second by Ed Chaplinski and unanimous approval by voice vote.

Family Fun Day: Attendees were asked to think about volunteering before the next meeting. We'll cover this item in next month's meeting.

Lake Superior Trollers Veteran Event Support: Mick Killoren made a motion to donate \$500 and a second by Paul Helbach and unanimous approval by voice vote.

Fly of the Month: Pass Lake by Walt.

Spring Raffle Items: Mike Sierszen – 300 tickets will be sold over four months. Drawing during the August meeting. Tickets coming soon.

Fly of the Month Book: The fly book is very popular. We've sold 31 thus far and have another 11 are spoken for.

Wild Rivers Chapter Trout Unlimited Expo: Dennis Pratt and Ken Zivic represented the Club at this year's Expo held in Hayward on April 6. Doesn't seem to be much additional Club store activity as a result.

Wisconsin Wildlife Federation District I Fund Raising Banquet: Ken Lundberg – Banquet seemed to be very successful.

Wisconsin Wildlife Federation Annual Meeting: Ken Lundberg represented BRSC at this year's meeting held in Wisconsin Rapids. He wrote a recommendation for Paul Piszczek for the outstanding fish manager award, which Paul received. He accepted it for Paul who couldn't attend. The board voted last month to reimburse

See "Minutes" on pg. 3



BRULE RIVER SPORTSMEN'S CLUB, MAY 2024

"Minutes" from pg. 2

him for his hotel stay. Ken is covering mileage and meals.

however, it will be late. This would be used to support the family fun day.

Club Store Items: Dennis Pratt made a motion for approval to replenish Club store items as needed, followed by a second by Ken Lundberg and unanimous approval by voice vote. Women's hats were recently ordered because they were out of stock.

Upcoming Events – Please check

<https://bruleriversportsmensclub.com/category/club-calendar/> for the latest events.

The business meeting adjourned at 7:27 p.m.

Recorded by Walt Swanson

Wisconsin Wildlife Federation Grant Application Youth Outdoor Skill Events: Application will be given to Tom Sklebar;

"Opener" from pg. 1

Everyone in our group landed steelhead, including the four grand kids. If I wrote a script of how the opener should go, there would have been very little editing.

The reports from others up and down the river were a little better this year. River conditions, ease of moving about and warmer temps made it easier to fish all day. It sounded like an above average opener. When we left in the late afternoon, the parking lot still had about eight cars compared to one or two last year.



Grandson Lucas

The Pass Lake Special

Walt Swanson
BRSC Recording Secretary
Superior, WI



As I understand the story, the Pass Lake was invented by a Lutheran minister named Stubenvoll from Clintonville, WI in the 1930s. Originally it was tied with a mallard flank feather tail, black chenille body, brown hackle and white calf tail wing. I've seen it tied as a wet fly or as a dry fly. Folks tie it in all sorts of ways. Different materials, colors and hooks in sizes from 8 to 16 are common. This is a great fly for beginners. If the presentation is good, you will catch fish.

This Pass Lake Special recipe was passed to me from my dad.

A recipe for the fly can be found at <https://bruleriversportsmensclub.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/2024-May-fly.pdf>.

Club's 52nd Spring Clean-up Well Attended

Our annual spring clean-up was a success again this year. Board member Den Smet did a great job of organizing this year's event. He has organized our spring clean-ups since 1991. Although this year's work day started out drizzling, the wet conditions subsided after the first hour.

We had a total of 46 volunteers this year. At noon, volunteers were provided with a delightful broasted chicken dinner at the Twin Gables restaurant in downtown Brule. Some of our volunteers had cleaned their sections earlier in the week.

We thank Brule Forest supervisor, Dan Kephart who provided staff member, Mitch Pauly and their dump truck to gather the morning's trash and haul it to the town's landfill.

2024 Clean-up Volunteers

Mark & Suzie Brathol
Jason & Cristal Hoffman
Jim Waletzko
Doug Anderson
Ken & Tom Lundberg
Walt & Anna Swanson
Paul & Adam Helbach
Ron Gaare
Den, Mary, and Erin Smet
Michael & Julia Shamla
James Streveler
Brodie Allen
Ben Eichberg
Connor Monaghan
Will Monroe
Lori & Lloyd Hautajarvi

Ed Chaplinski
Jim Henzie
Courtney Johnson &
Grandsons Zander & Pegan
Terri & Ken Zivic
John Holter
Mitch Pauly
Glen & Judy Hill
Dennis Pratt
Tom Bydalek
Greg St. Onge
Bill Blust
Tim Spangenberg & Julie Zenner
Phillip Brown
Mick & Flo Killoren
Jeff Stollenwerk

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 — prattdd@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