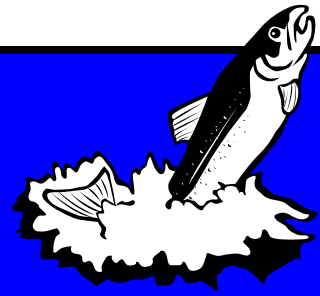


# Brule River

## Sportsmen's Club, Inc.



November 2024

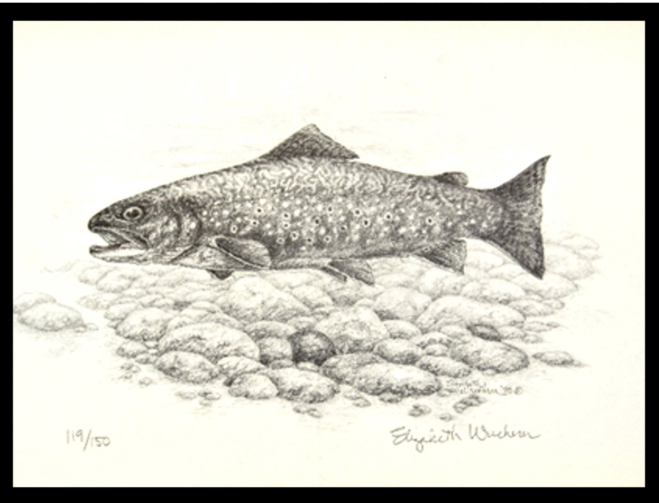
OVER 500 MEMBERS DEDICATED TO THE IMPROVEMENT AND PRESERVATION OF THE BRULE

## Christmas/Hanukkah Gift Ideas

With only a few weeks left until Christmas/Hanukkah, you might find items in our Club Store to help fill out part of your gift list. The Fly of the Month booklet (\$25) is a great option for fishermen of all ages!

All purchases help support Club activities. We promptly mail out items purchased via our Club Store on the next business day to ensure they will reach you in time for the holidays.

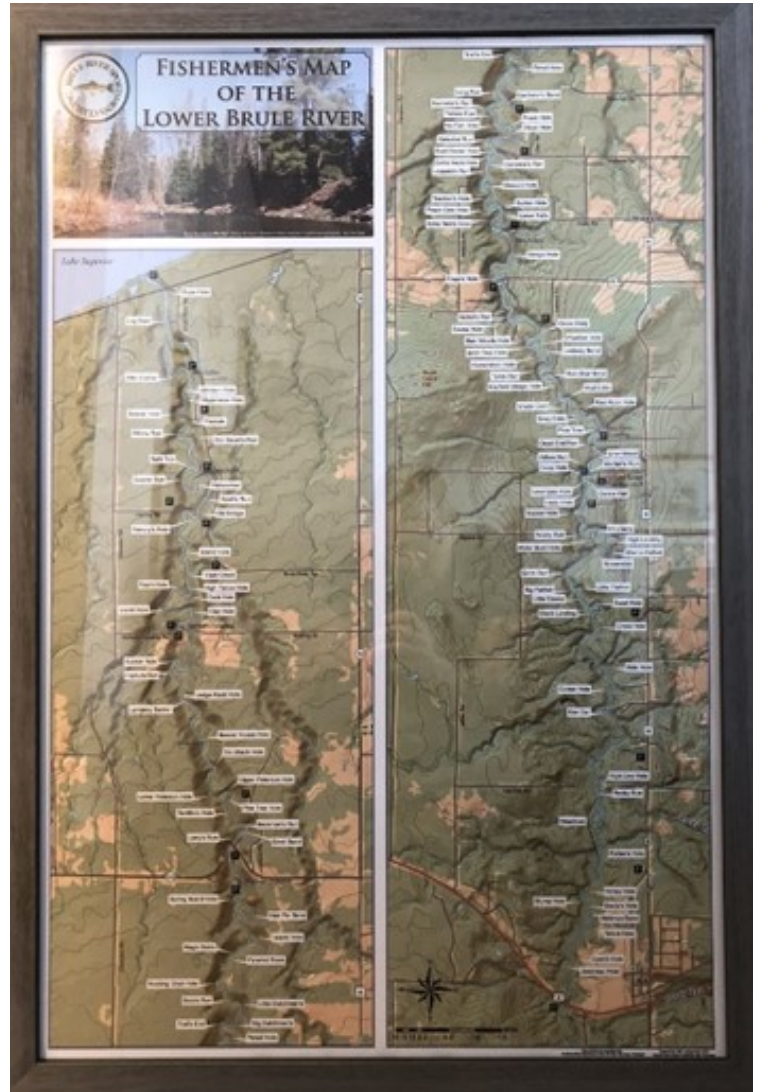
The Club Store can be found at <https://brulerriversportsmensclub.com/contact-us/join-the-club/>



### Club Store Items:

Limited edition book trout print (\$40); lower river map poster (\$50); men's and women's baseball hats (\$30)

See pg. 4 for a list of other available items.



**BRSC Calendar:**

The board meeting will be held online  
Monday, November 25, at 6:00 p.m.





## Brule River Sportsmen's Club Meeting Minutes October 28, 2024



President Dennis Pratt called the meeting to order at 6:00 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, and Dean Wellman.

Minutes of the September Meeting: The minutes as written in the October newsletter were approved following a motion by Ed Chaplinski, a second by Courtney Johnson, and unanimous approval by voice vote.

Treasurer's and Financial Secretary's Reports: Treasurer Jeff Stollenwerk reported that September's beginning balance was \$9,102.19, and the ending balance was \$11,900.82 with the following expenses: Pro Print (August newsletter) \$28.59; Computing Done Right (professional email) \$180; Computing Done Right (Web host service) \$361.00; Katie Thompson (September newsletter) \$200; Pro Print (September newsletter) \$40.59; transfer to savings (July transfer error correction) \$610; transfer to savings (August donations) \$575. The Treasurer's report was approved following a motion by Ken Lundberg, second by Dean Wellman, and unanimous approval by voice vote. Financial Secretary Dean Wellman reported that there were \$120 in total deposits into the general fund since the last meeting and that the Club had two new members. The Financial Secretary's report was approved following a motion by Jim Waletzko, a second by Den Smet, and unanimous approval by voice vote.

### Committee Reports

Legislative, Habitat and Audit: Nothing to report.

Education: Dennis Smet – Eggs will be eyed up the last week in November. There is a new contact person at the Iron River fish hatchery this year. Northwestern Middle School has already expressed interest.

Scholarship: Mike Sierszen/Paul Helbach – Nothing for college. Northwestern High School has requested the scholarship for next year. Paul is working on getting a bio from our Northwestern High School scholarship recipient, Jay Kaufman.

Membership: Jim Waletzko/Ed Chaplinski – Ed said he talked to two customers at the St. Croix Fly Shop after last month's meeting on his way back and they expressed interest in joining.

Social Media: Mike Zicus/Dennis Pratt – November newsletter items – possible articles discussed were total volunteer hours, photos of this year's projects, Club Store items for Christmas, and membership renewals.

### Other Business

Call for Nominations – Board members whose term ends in December: Zivic, Sierszen, Waletzko, and Hill. Nominations were approved following a motion by Dean Wellman, a second by Mike Sierszen, and unanimous approval by voice vote.

Online Meetings – Video conferencing software will be used for Club Meetings for November, January, and February. These will start at 6 p.m. and end at 6:30 p.m.

Fly of the Month – Will resume in our March newsletter. Flies have already been chosen for March, April, May, and June.

Club Store Prices Review – The poster and baseball caps will increase by \$5. This is a result of increased costs for the Club. This was approved following a motion by Dean Wellman and a second by Ed Chaplinski and unanimous approval by voice vote.

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

The business meeting adjourned at 6:39 p.m.

*Recorded by Walt Swanson.*



## Member Essay Submissions

We were very lucky this month to have two members submit wonderful essays about their experiences fishing the Brule. The first was written by Board of Director, Ed Chaplinski and the second by longtime Club member and outdoor writer Dan Zekor : Conservation | Danzekoroutdoors

Both essays are posted in our 'River Reflections' section on our website: <https://bruleriversportsmensclub.com/category/river-reflections/>.

## Meetings Going Online

At our October meeting, your board decided that we will be holding our Winter meetings via video conferencing software, and we'll resume in-person meetings on March 24 at the KroBar in Brule next year.

## Memberships Expire Next Month

Your membership needs to be renewed for 2025 beginning on January 1. Club memberships are desperately needed for us to accomplish our objectives. All members upon dues payment will receive a membership card and a Club sticker.

You can easily update your membership in our Club Store at <https://bruleriversportsmensclub.com/contact-us/join-the-club/>

## Board of Directors Nominations for 2025-2028

The board members whose terms end in December are **Ken Zivic, Mike Sierszen, Jim Waletzko** and **Glen Hill**. All four were nominated and approved following a motion by Dean Wellman, a second by Mike Sierszen, and unanimous approval by voice vote.

All four graciously accepted those nominations. The election will be held in December.

*Full bios of the candidates can be found on the Club website at <https://bruleriversportsmensclub.com/the-board/>. Shortened versions appear below.*

**Ken Zivic** - I am a retired Information Technology Executive. Born in Pennsylvania, I grew up knowing only trout fishing in western Pennsylvania streams, a love that I now maintain on the Brule and surrounding Lake Superior tributaries. In 1981, I started exploring northwestern Wisconsin. I fell in love with the area and continued to expand my interests through outdoor activities. My wife Terri and I built our retirement home in Port Wing, moving there in July of 2019. My intention is to be involved with the surrounding communities and causes to help protect the future of the culture and environment in this part of the country.

**Jim Waletzko** - I first fished the Brule River in the late 1950s with my dad and uncles. I graduated from UW-Superior with a major in biology and a minor in chemistry. I taught high school biology and chemistry throughout a 32-year career. After testifying against "tubing on the Brule River" at a legislative hearing in Brule, I was invited to join the Brule River Sportsman's Club. River ecology and trout habitat improvements have been an interest of mine for decades. I enjoy taking an active interest in this BRSC effort.

**Mike Sierszen** - I retired from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in 2018, having spent 27 years at the Duluth lab as a Research Ecologist. I investigated ecological effects of human disturbance on aquatic systems, especially focusing on the food webs of the Great Lakes and their coastal habitats. In 2018, I joined the Board of the Sportsmen's Club. I'm especially excited about our Habitat projects and guarding the river's future by fostering environmental professionals through our scholarship programs. I can be found somewhere along the Brule most times of the year.

**Glen Hill** - I've basically lived in Maple, WI all my life. As a youngster, my cousins and I rode our bikes to fish the Brule. My enthusiasm was there, but my skill was lacking! I finally caught a steelhead on a spawn bag when I was 19. After that, spawn was hard to get and fish were few and far between. I noticed others were catching fish on yarn, and I finally caught two one day on yarn. I've never looked back since. I thought that joining the Club and doing what I could to help improve the river was a good way to pay the river back.

<b>BRSC Gift Store Order Form</b> (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	
<p><i>The Brule River Sportsmen's Club, Inc. is a tax-exempt organization defined by Chapter 501 (C) (3) of the IRS Tax Code.</i></p> <p><a href="https://brulerriversportsmensclub.com/contact-us/join-the-club/">https://brulerriversportsmensclub.com/contact-us/join-the-club/</a></p>			



**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>	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