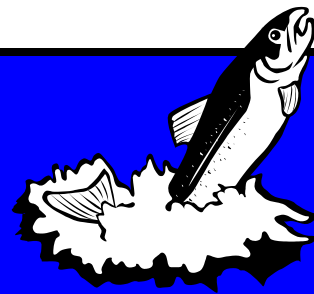


Brule River

Sportsmen's Club, Inc.

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



September 2024

Brule Family Fun Day 2024

by Dennis Pratt

The Brule Fish Hatchery and the Brule River State Forest once again hosted Family Fun Day on Saturday, August 17. This wonderful, family-focused event has been held for a good number of years.

This year there were 24 activities managed by 56 dedicated volunteers from many organizations. Our Club played a major role in this effort with nine members working at various activities. In total, 288 attendees, made up of 153 adults and 135 children, enjoyed the day. BRSC helped fund the event again this year.

(pictured right) Mick Killoren assists a lucky young angler with his catch and release brown trout.

(pictured below) Dean Wellman shows a youngster how to tie a fly.



Raffle Winners

- ◆ Custom-built cane fly rod donated by Dave Norling – **Sharon Moen**
- ◆ Weber heirloom stainless steel 9" fillet knife – **Lloyd Hautajarvi**
- ◆ BRSC Fly of the month Collection – **Noah Wellman**

BRSC FAMILY FUN DAY VOLUNTEERS:

Tom Sklebar, Dean Wellman, Dennis Pratt, John Simonson,
Ed Chaplinski, Erin & Dennis Smet, Mick Killoren, Frank Pratt



BRSC Calendar:

The board meeting will be held on
Monday, September 23, at the KroBar at 6:00





Brule River Sportsmen's Club Electronic Meeting Minutes August 26, 2024



President Dennis Pratt called the Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Officers and Directors: Responding - Ed Chaplinski, Glen Hill, Courtney Johnson, Dennis Pratt, Mike Sierszen, Den Smet, Walt Swanson, Dean Wellman and Mike Zicus.

Minutes of the July Meeting: The minutes as written in the August newsletter was approved following a motion by Dean Wellman, second by Mike Zicus, and unanimous Email approval.

Treasurer's and Financial Secretary's Reports: President Dennis Pratt reported for Treasurer Jeff Stollenwerk reported that July's beginning balance was \$12,691.96, and the ending balance was \$13,232.88 with the following expenses: Pro Print (June newsletter) \$53.58; DP-Reimbursement (May 15-July 7 Club Expenses) \$528.73; Angelica Komarek (FFD expenses – tables) \$421.95; transfer to savings (June donations) \$335; Katie Thompson (July newsletter) \$200; Pro Print (July Newsletter) \$28.59. The Treasurer's report was approved following a motion by Den Smet, second by Glen Hill and unanimous email approval. Financial Secretary Dean Wellman reported that there were \$1,715 in total deposits into the general fund since the last meeting and that the Club had three new members and four renewals. The Financial Secretary's report was approved following a motion by Walt Swanson, second by Mike Zicus, and unanimous Email approval.

Committee Reports

Legislative, Audit, and Education Committees: Nothing to report.

Habitat: Dennis Pratt – Dennis thanked all the volunteers for their help. We discussed a possible project for next year – at the Station Rapids area.

Scholarship: The Board voted previously to approve moving enough money from the General Fund to College Scholarship Fund to award this year's scholarship. Paul Helbach reports that our Northwestern High

Scholarship recipient, Jay Kaufman, will be attending our September meeting.

Membership: Ed Chaplinski – A new fly shop in Park Falls will get this month's extra newsletters.

Social Media: Mike Zicus/Dennis Pratt – September newsletter Items – Family Fun Day and Challenge Center Canoe Trip articles and maybe something about the 2023-24 Steelhead Run.

Other Business

Family Fun Day Wrap-up – Dennis Pratt listed the Club volunteers that worked at the event. There were 56 total volunteers. 153 adults and 135 children registered.

Fly of the Month - Dean Wellman - Spectral Spider by Larry Barnhart.

Raffle – Drawing was held during the meeting: first prize - Sharon Moen; second prize - Lloyd Hautajarvi; third prize - Noah Wellman.

Challenge Center Canoe Trip Wrap-up – Smet – Good turnout, 9 canoes and 1 kayak. Will have more information in the newsletter article.

Fin-clipping letter to DNR - Dennis Pratt shared the information he received from the DNR, and the Club was officially disappointed with the response he received.

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

The business meeting adjourned at 6:54 p.m.

Recorded by Walt Swanson



Challenge Center Canoe Trip

by Dennis Smet

Saturday, July 27, 2024, dawned warm and sunny for canoeing the Brule. This day's canoers were a very special group from the Challenge Center in Superior, WI. The Challenge Center was created in 1969 by popular demand and with the help of Catholic Charities. It is a pre-vocational industry designed for adults with physical and cognitive challenges to help them develop skills and find meaningful and successful work situations in the community.

Since 2003 (this year's event marks our 18th), the Brule River Sportsmen's Club has supported an annual canoe trip down the Brule for this group. The activity was first organized by Club member Ron Pearson who had a personal interest in the Challenge Center. With Ron's passing and the advanced age of many of the former canoe



"pilots," new groups have stepped up to the task. With help from the Sportsmen's Club, The Superior and Iron River Knights of Columbus, The Brule Valley Ski Club, and members of the community, enough volunteers appeared to give each of the 13 Challenge Center participants (9 consumers and 4 staff) a safe and fun adventure.

The trip started at Big Lake and ended at the Ranger Station campground for a photo shoot. Two canoes tipped and those on board were cooled by river water with no complaints and even more to talk about. The day ended with lunch at Smet's Muddy Acres, prepared and served by local talent. Survey indicated that it was a successful day!



Spectral Spider

Larry Barnhart - BRSC member, Brule, WI

The Spectral Spider was originated by Walt Johnson from the Pacific Northwest in the early 1950s. Walt was a pioneer in the use of synthetic materials in fly tying. I've had success with this fly on steelhead and lake run browns, and I also used it when I caught my first Atlantic salmon at the St. Mary's rapids. Trey Combs' book, *Steelhead Fly Fishing*, describes it: "What, exactly such a spider represents is known with certainty only to trout. But to my eye, the fine barring of duck flank suggests the scale highlights of a minnow. Walt Johnson's Spectral Spider, a steelhead and sea run cutthroat fly of considerable renown, simulates a small fish by means of his clever use of mallard flank and spectral stacking of Antron fibers."

A recipe for the fly can be found at <https://bruleriversportsmensclub.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/2024-September-fly.pdf>.



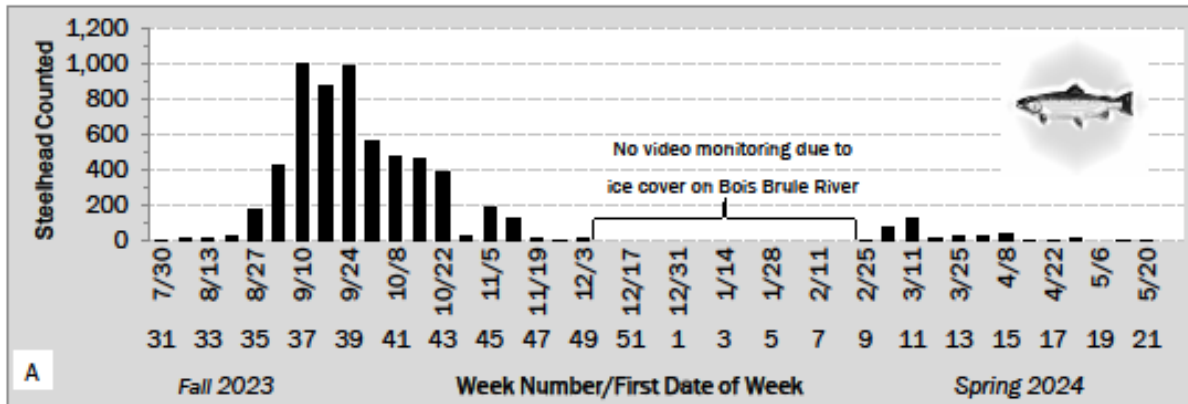


BRULE RIVER SPORTSMEN'S CLUB, SEPTEMBER 2024

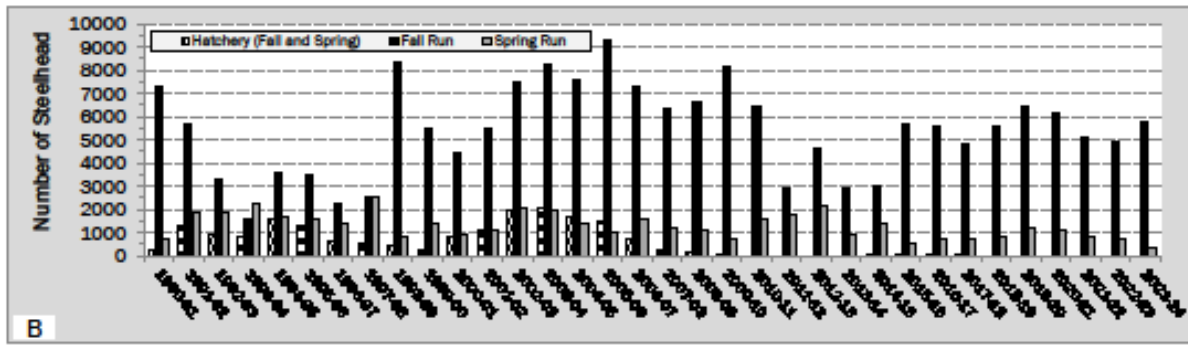
WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES 2023 - 2024 Bois Brule River Steelhead Run Douglas County, Wisconsin

Fall 2023 Count	Spring 2024 Count	Total Wild Steelhead Run Count
5,750	311	6,061

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) monitored the steelhead run with digital video equipment at the fishway window during fall 2023 and spring 2024. [Chart A](#) shows steelhead upstream migration timing (i.e., phenology). As typical, most steelhead arrived in the fall and overwintered in the river. Atypical however were the environmental conditions that likely influenced fall and spring phenology and the spring count. The considerably dry summer of 2023 was followed by above-average September rainfall and runoff in the region, which was coincident with a mid-September migration peak. Winter 2023-2024 was largely warm and dry with minimal regional snowpack, negligible runoff and low river water levels. Ice-out occurred in mid-February, much sooner than the typical mid-March ice-out timeframe. The early March migration peak occurred nearly three weeks before the early-season fishing opener.



This year's 6,061 steelhead, along with those counted since video monitoring began in 1990, are shown in [Chart B](#). The 33-year average is 6,189. The population continues to be balanced, self-sustaining and supportive of an action-oriented fishery with harvest opportunities. Nearly half of all steelhead in the 2023-2024 run ranged from 20 to 25 inches long, weighed three to five pounds and were four to five years old. While 36 percent of the run exceeded the minimum legal length limit of 26 inches and weighed from six to nine pounds, eight percent of the run consisted of three-year-old "jacks" that were 12 to 17 inches long and one to two pounds. This naturally reproducing, spring-spawning population typically fluctuates between 3,500 and 8,500 fish relative to variable environments in the Bois Brule River and Lake Superior.



Lake Superior Fisheries Unit - Superior Office

August 8, 2024

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	
<p>The Brule River Sportsmen's Club, Inc. is a tax-exempt organization defined by Chapter 501 (C) (3) of the IRS Tax Code. https://bruleriversportsmensclub.com/contact-us/join-the-club/</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.bruleriversportsmensclub.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