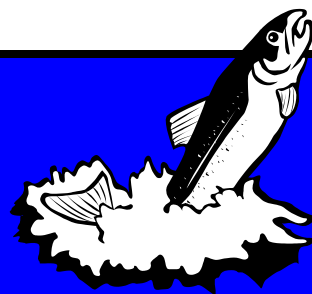


Brule River

Sportsmen's Club, Inc.

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



October 2024

Severe Ash Tree Mortality Noted in Brule River State Forest

by Dennis Pratt

The emerald ash borer infestation has finally reached the banks of the Brule River. Many of the Brule River State Forest's green and black ash trees show signs of damage from the infestation of the emerald ash borer, a small invasive beetle.

The two ash tree species are very common components of the Brule Forest with the green ash found in upland areas and lining the banks of the river and the black ash is found in lowland areas of the forest.

The beetle infestation is expected to eventually elimi-



Dead Ash Tree

nate the entire ash tree component of the Brule River State Forest. The Club's financial secretary, Dean Wellman, submitted a series of photos showing signs of the invasion on his property located downstream of US Highway 2. He reports extensive damage to the abundant ash forest there.

Some of the first damage noted is the significant woodpecker flecking in the upper portion of the tree

where the woodpecker's search for the ash borer larvae. The trees typically die from

See "Ash Tree" on pg. 3



Ash Borer Larvae



Channels under the bark



BRSC Calendar:

The board meeting will be held on
Monday, October 28, at the KroBar at 6:00 p.m.





Brule River Sportsmen's Club Meeting Minutes September 23, 2024



President Dennis Pratt called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. at Kro Bar.

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

Minutes of the August Meeting: The minutes as written in the September newsletter was approved following a motion by Dean Wellman, second by Courtney Johnson and unanimous approval by voice vote.

Treasurer's and Financial Secretary's Reports: President Dennis Pratt reported for Treasurer Jeff Stollenwerk that August's beginning balance was \$13,232.88, and the ending balance was \$9,102.19 with the following expenses: Angelica Komarek (Family Fun Day expenses) \$495.24; UW Stevens Point and Ben Fromm (college scholarship) \$5,000; Katie Thompson (August newsletter) \$200; Angelica Komarek (Family Fun Day expenses) \$366. The Treasurer's report was approved following a motion by Den Smet, a second by Ken Lundberg, and unanimous approval by voice vote. Financial Secretary Dean Wellman reported that there was \$1,525 in total deposits into the general fund since the last meeting and that the Club had four new members and one membership renewal. The Financial Secretary's report was approved following a motion by Mike Sierszen and a second by Paul Helbach.

Committee Reports

Legislative: Ken Lundberg – Gray wolf delisting has been a topic in discussion. No decisions currently.

Habitat: Dennis Pratt – No projects for next year have been discussed with DNR at this time.

Audit: Jeff Stollenwerk – Nothing currently.

Education: Den Smet will make all classroom arrangements and Dennis Pratt will handle the in-class presentations.

Scholarship: Mike Sierszen/Paul Helbach – Paul Helbach introduced our Northwestern High Scholarship recipient, Jay Kaufman. He was accompanied by his father Tim. Jay's plan is to complete his Criminal Justice / Peace Officer (CJPO) degree at Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College.

Membership: Jim Waletzko/Ed Chaplinski – the Board discussed special membership renewal ideas in the hope of increasing renewals. Ed Chaplinski dropped all the newsletters he had at the Hayward Fly Fishing Company. He was going to drop off the newsletters he picked up at tonight's meeting at the St Croix Fly Shop on his way home.

Social Media: Mike Zicus/Dennis Pratt – Newsletter items discussed – Northwestern High Scholarship recipient article or ash tree issue.

Other Business

Fly of the Month – Mark's "No Name" Bucktail Streamer

Possible Zoom Meetings – Several platforms are available; however, all of these have a cost. Need to make a decision on tool at October meeting.

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

The business meeting adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

Recorded by Walt Swanson



"Ash Tree" from pg. 1

the top down with the last stage noted being an abundance of sprouts growing out of the lower trunk as the trees die.

The adult beetle lays from 40-200 eggs in the bark crevices in the upper portion of the tree. The eggs hatch in a couple of weeks, and they burrow in, just under the bark. They spend the next 1 to 2 years before emerging as adults. The larvae kill the tree by feeding on the wood, chewing channels immediately under the bark, which eventually cuts off the flow of water and nutrients.

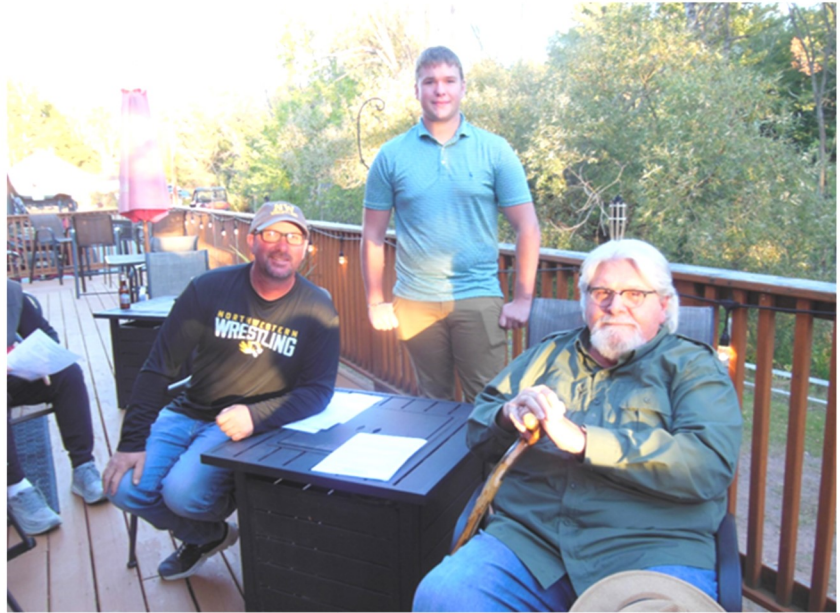
It is thought that the ash borer was transported to the US from northeastern China in shipping crates. It was initially detected in the southeast corner State of Michigan in 2002. Since that time, its range has quickly expanded to much of the eastern half of the US. Wisconsin's first confirmation occurred in the south in 2008 and is presently found in all 72 counties of the State.

Douglas County was first invaded eleven years ago and at present nearly all the ash trees in the City of Superior have either died or have been removed.

The loss of ash trees will severely change the nature of the rivers' streambank forest repeating the event that

occurred when Dutch Elm disease eliminated of the towering elm trees in the 1960's.

Scholarship News



Jay Kaufman, our 2024 Northwestern High School \$1,000 scholarship recipient, is presently attending the Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College working toward a Criminal Justice / Peace Officer (CJPO) degree. He hopes to eventually become a Conservation Warden. Jay is standing between his father Tim (seated on the left) and board member Paul Helbach (to his right.)

Mark's "No Name Bucktail Streamer"

Dean Wellman, BRSC Financial Secretary - Brule, WI

This fly was originally tied by my brother in the 1980s. We had been trying different variations of bucktail streamers for fall steelhead. We also started using pieces of rabbit strip as a throat instead of traditional hackle.

This is a simple tie that chrome steelhead like to take on the swing in the lower river. Full sinking lines or sink tips are the best for getting the fly down in the deeper faster runs.

A recipe for the fly can be found at

<https://brulerriversportsmensclub.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/2024-Oct-fly.pdf>



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><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>https://brulriversportsmensclub.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.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 Dennis Smet
Vice President — Ed Chaplinski	Paul Helbach Jim Waletzko
Financial Secretary — Dean Wellman	Courtney Johnson Mike Sierszen
Recording Secretary — Walt Swanson	Mick Killoren Mike Zicus
Treasurer — Jeff Stollenwerk	Glen Hill Ken Zivic