

# United Northern Sportmen's News

Conservation Pledge: I give my pledge as an American to save and faithfully to defend from waste, the natural resources of my country - its' air, soil and minerals, its' forests, waters and wildlife.

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## Club Calendar

Ranges Closed on Mondays,  
for Maintenance, Reserved Activities

- Apr. 5 UNS Board Meeting  
6:00pm, Clubhouse or Zoom
- May 1 Start of UNS Camping Season
- May 3 UNS Board Meeting  
6:00pm, Clubhouse or Zoom
- Jun. 7 UNS Board Meeting  
6:00pm, Clubhouse or Zoom
- Jun. 10 UNS School of Fish  
9:30am - 12
- July 5 UNS Board Meeting  
6:00pm, Clubhouse or Zoom
- Aug. 19 UNS Youth Outdoor Field Day

All members are encouraged to attend board meetings. RSVP Eric at [gonefishing0101@hotmail.com](mailto:gonefishing0101@hotmail.com). If the meeting is via Zoom a connection will be provided when you RSVP.

### RANGE USE CALENDAR

may be found on our Website:  
[www.unitednorthernsportsmen.org](http://www.unitednorthernsportsmen.org)

### SHOOTING HOURS

Range hours: 8am to 30 minutes before sunset. All ranges are closed on Mondays. Range opening and closing times are posted on the ranges and the bulletin board on the Clubhouse Bldg. Please obey the rules or lose your shooting privileges.

### NEWSLETTER SCHEDULE:

A monthly newsletter is emailed before the end of the month. A printed newsletter will be mailed quarterly, at the beginning of each quarter. Articles are due by the 15th of the previous month. If you have an article you would like share or photos please send to [sue@b-green.us](mailto:sue@b-green.us). It may be shared space permitting.

### EMAILS WANTED:

Remember, the next time you renew your membership, or even tomorrow, send us your current email address so you can receive our newsletter via email. You will not only receive an enhanced version but you will also get it sooner. And, after all, we are a conservation club!

Emails may be sent to [unsclub@gmail.com](mailto:unsclub@gmail.com).

## UNS SCHOOL OF FISH TO RETURN ON SATURDAY, JUNE 10th

The School of Fish is a 2 ½ hour fishing class (9:30am -12:00pm) open to kids ages 6 to 12, taught by pro angler and Fishing the Midwest TV show host Mike Frisch. Held at the UNS Retreat on Island Lake, students will learn about lakes, the fish that live in them, and how to find and catch those fish. The kids will also learn how tie a fishing knot and rigging, and using a slip-bobber setup.



All students will receive a full-color School of Fish workbook, a Zebco rod and reel, and tackle box with tackle, and a School of Fish hat. AND... class students have the opportunity to enter a drawing to be a fishing TV show guest on Fishing the Midwest TV on the Sportsman Channel!

Best of all, the School of Fish is FREE to all students, compliments of United Northern Sportsmen. The class will be capped at 20 students so sign up fast!

If you have questions or just wish to sign up, please contact Jeff Jarvela, Committee Chair, at [jjjarvela@msn.com](mailto:jjjarvela@msn.com).

## YOUTH OUTDOOR FIELD DAY

UNS will also be hosting the Youth Outdoor Field Day on August 19th.

See Page 3 for more information on:  
UNS 2023 Shooting Range  
UNS 2023 Camping Season

## UNS BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES, March 1, 2023

**Call to Order:** by President Tom Wasbotten at 6:13pm. **Moment of Silence** - Leroy Warner and Tom Harvey.

**Conservation Pledge** was recited.

**Roll Call of Officers:** Tom Wasbotten, Lance Parthe, Bob Kuettel, Tina Sund, Duane Lasley, Jeff Jarvela, Vickie Jensen, Lance Haavisto, John Bathke, Eric Hansen, Keith Darsow, Ron Cretens, Maggie Cretens. **Appointed Positions Attending:** Sue Bathke.

**Correspondence:** Hermantown Trap Team request for a donation.

**Agenda Additions & Approval:** Motion to approve the agenda (M/S/C).

**Reading of Minutes:** Eric Hansen read the February 2023 Board of Directors meeting minutes. Motion made to accept the minutes as read and (M/S/C).

**Treasurer's Report:** Tina Sund as of 2/28/23 Motion made to approve the Treasurer's, report and pay the bills (M/S/C).

**Membership Secretary's Report:** Tina Sund as of 2/28/23: Current membership is 1485 Individual Membership renewals: 19 and 1 new, Family Membership 15 and 3 new. Coming up in March: 104 renewals:

### OTHER REPORTS:

**Web Master:** Eric Hansen: made UNS fishing contest updates to the UNS website and Facebook page. No new range reservations.

**Facilities Committee:** Lance Parthe reported a steady stream of shooters lately, Ron Cretens kept snow cleared, generator is ready for next year, Tom Wasbotten reports that the Northern Trends deposit for storm damage repairs has been sent.

**Range and Grounds Calendar:** Lance Parthe received a text from Steve Holt regarding his next class. Lance Parthe spoke with Kipp Duncan re: Firearm Safety classes.

**Incident Report:** Lance Parthe - nothing new to report.

**Volunteer Awards Committee:** Vickie Jensen - nothing new to report.

**Communication Committee:** Co-Chair Maggie Cretens said they will meet on March 15 at 2:00 pm. Zoom link will be sent.

### OLD BUSINESS:

**Website Development Work Session - John Bathke:** We will meet this Saturday, from 9:30 to 12:30.

**UNS Youth Outdoor Field Day August 19th Update** – John Bathke spoke to Cody Privette re: information he has including people to contact.

**69th Annual UNS Ice Fishing Contest – Tom Wasbotten:** Tina Sund passed out financial summary from 2007 to 2023. Our profit was \$3,816.51 (3rd highest since 2007). UMD Rod & Gun Club did a great job selling tickets. 314 attendees. THANK YOU to all those who helped make this year a success! Tom requested a motion to pick up Ice Fishing supplies for 2024 when they go on end-of-season sale. Motion made (M/S/C).

**Dump Station Variance MN Dept of Health – Tom Wasbotten:** Callie Harrison called. We got the variance, and it's a permanent one!! (As long as we don't violate any rules.)

**School of Fish Saturday, June 10th – Jeff Jarvela:** He will contact the Communications Committee to help with advertising. We received an update from Mike Frisch. Jeff will verify that we can use Frisch's logo in our communications and promotions.

**Club Donations to the Community 2023:** Tom Wasbotten spoke on the donation recipients from last year. Bob Kuettel talked about the history of UNS donations to the St Louis County Sheriff's Volunteer Rescue Squad. Tom spoke about other organizations UNS donates to.

### NEW BUSINESS:

**Board Approval to add a Hold Harmless Clause to Club Documents – Tom Wasbotten:** Tom had a handout from Dwight Swanstrom Insurance Agency. We need to have this clause included in our documents. Motion made to insert a Hold Harmless clause into club documents (M/S). Discussion followed regarding to whom this clause would pertain. Motion made to amend to contact an attorney, died for lack of a 2nd. Original motion carried (M/S/C).

**Board Approval to Sell Used Club Equipment - Tom Wasbotten:** Tom suggested selling unused electronic equipment for \$350. Motion made to post equipment on Facebook's Market Place and Craig's List (M/S/C). Lance will send photos.

**Board Approval Donation to the UMD Rod & Gun Club – Tom Wasbotten:** Tom asked for a motion to donate \$500 to UMD Rod & Gun Club. Motion made (M/S/C).

**Board Approval of Funds Transfer – Tom Wasbotten:** Tom suggested club funds be re-invested in Fidelity Government Money Market Fund Premium Class FZCXX which requires a \$100,000 minimum investment. Motion made to invest funds (M/S/C). Current investments are yielding 4% to 4½%+.

**Members Sick or in Distress:** None reported

**Date of Next Meeting & Adjournment:** In Person Meeting on Wednesday, April 5th at 6 pm at UNS Clubhouse. Motion made to adjourn meeting at 7:19pm (M/S/C).

Respectfully submitted by Eric Hansen, Secretary.

## UNS SHOOTING RANGE

The shooting ranges at United Northern Sportsmen Conservation Club are a favorite amenity used by many of our club members. Due to the fact that we have no gates or fences on our property, many non-members believe that we are open to the public. We are a private club, and the use of our facilities is reserved for members only. Non-members use of our facilities creates problems. The most important is safety. The shooting ranges are safe if all the participants know and understand the rules regarding the use of our shooting ranges. That is an unknown for Non-members. Another problem with non-members shooting on our ranges is their non-paper targets like glass bottles, spray cans, etc. left behind when they're done shooting along with all their spent casings. With the increased use of high-capacity semi-automatic sporting rifles, our ranges are seeing increased wear and tear, and a lot more spent cartridges. The ranges are maintained by volunteers who put in hours of extra work because of non-member usage. The ranges open at 8 am and close half an hour before sunset. The times have been agreed to with the homeowners in the area - a fact that non-members are unaware of. Liability is another issue.

To help curb non-members trespassing and using our facilities, this spring we are making a concerted effort to have the shooting ranges monitored heavily through April and May. After May, our Camp Host arrives and will assume the responsibilities of range monitoring. Several members have committed to being UNS range officers and helping us with this initiative. If you are a member and one of our ranger officers approaches you and asks for your membership card, please be courteous. They are there on your behalf. If you are using the ranges and there is no range officer present, please don't hesitate to ask other shooters if they are a UNS member. Ask them politely to leave or suggest they become a UNS member. Membership applications are available on our website which they can mail to our membership administrator. Within a week or two, a membership package will be mailed to them including a set of club rules.

The Range Committee

### CURRENT OFFICIAL UNS SHOOTING RANGE RULES

All ranges are operated on a first come first served basis, unless otherwise posted for closures. Please exercise common courtesy, common sense, and good sportsmanship for a safe and enjoyable experience.

Some important rules to remember when planning to use the UNS shooting ranges include:

- UNS R1. Ranges are open 8:00 am to 1/2 hr. before sunset. All ranges are closed on Mondays.
- UNS R2. Children under 18 years of age must be with a parent or legal guardian member at all times on all shooting ranges and archery areas.
- UNS R3. Eye and Ear protection is required for all people on the range.
- UNS R4. All firearms are unloaded and cased when not on the firing line. Remove guns from their cases pointing down range on the benches provided. Always keep muzzles pointed down range.
- UNS R5. DO NOT touch firearms when people are down range.
- UNS R6. Loaded firearms shall not be left unattended at any time.
- UNS R7. All shooting is to be controlled and aimed at targets straight down range only. NO EXCEPTIONS.
- UNS R8. No one is allowed in front of the firing line while firing at the rifle range.
- UNS R9. All firearm actions must be open unless aiming and shooting.
- UNS R10. NO ALCOHOL OR FDA CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES shall be used prior to or during range use.
- UNS R11. Paper targets only. No metal, wood, glass, exploding targets, or plastic material.
- UNS R12. Only UNS authorized metal gongs can be used on the 200- and 300-yard ranges.
- UNS R13. Only clay pigeons can be used on the trap range.
- UNS R14. Targets shall only be placed in the target holders at the backstop. All targets are placed at the BOTTOM of the back stop – NOT AT THE TOP.
- UNS R15. Anyone not shooting or spotting must remain behind shooting range divider when range is active.
- UNS R16. Centerfire rifles, black-powder arms, shotguns, or handguns larger than 45 caliber are prohibited on the pistol range.
- UNS R17. Fully automatic firearms, and trigger activators, bump stocks, or machine gun conversion kits are prohibited as per State of Minnesota Law MS609.67
- UNS R18. Remove all targets when it's safe and you are done shooting.
- UNS R19. Pick up your spent brass and put in the buckets on the ranges.
- UNS R20. Pick up your trash and take it with you.

### UNS 2023 CAMPING SEASON OPENS

The 2023 UNS Camping Season will start on May 1st and closes on October 15th. Our peak season runs from the Friday (May 26th) before Memorial Day through the Monday of Labor Day (September 4th). During the peak season Individual or Family Memberships are limited to 14 days of camping. A member intending to camp at UNS must register immediately upon arriving and before setting up camp. Day guests must also register immediately on arrival.

The UNS Official Club Rules are available at the clubhouse or from the Camp Host and may be viewed online. We ask all members to take the time to review and understand the regulations, and abide by them. Keep in mind UNS is a private club and camping is for Members only. We do not allow any guests to stay overnight.

Please take the opportunity to say hello to our Camp Host, Ron Cretens during the season. Ron is looking forward to helping you make your camping stay a positive experience. We hope you all have a great camping season.



## **DNR-CONTRACTED COMMERCIAL FISHERS CAPTURE 30 INVASIVE CARP IN THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER**

A commercial fishing business contracted by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) captured 30 invasive carp Monday in Pool 6 of the Mississippi River, near Winona. While invasive carp have been previously captured in Pool 6 and upstream as far as the Twin Cities metro, this is the largest number captured at one time this far upstream.

The DNR is working with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and other partners to respond to this capture, which consisted primarily of silver carp. Along with removing the captured carp from the river, additional commercial fishing is being conducted this week in Pool 6. A previously scheduled netting and capture operation using the Modified Unified Method (MUM) in Pools 5A, 6 and 8 will begin April 24. MUM is an adaptive process using boats or sound to herd carp into nets for removal. The DNR also continues to work with partners to assess other potential prevention and management tools, including experimental invasive carp deterrents now being tested for effectiveness.

“While there is currently no ‘silver bullet’ to prevent or eliminate invasive carp, we will continue to use a combination of proven methods and the best available information to minimize risk by targeting and removing as many fish as possible,” said DNR Invasive Fish Coordinator Grace Loppnow. “As demonstrated by this catch, the expertise of our contracted commercial fishers is one of many important tools.”

More information about invasive carp is available on the [DNR website](#).

## **USDA INVESTS MORE THAN \$48.6 MILLION TO MANAGE RISKS, COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE**

WASHINGTON, DC, February 21, 2023 -

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will invest more than \$48.6 million this year through the Joint Chiefs’ Landscape Restoration Partnership for projects that mitigate wildfire risk, improve water quality, restore forest ecosystems, and ultimately contribute to USDA’s efforts to combat climate change. This year, the USDA Forest Service and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) will invest in projects, including 14 new projects, bringing together agricultural producers, forest landowners, and National Forest System lands to improve forest health using available Farm Bill conservation programs and other authorities.

“The need for cross-boundary wildfire risk reduction work as part of our Wildfire Crisis Strategy is more urgent than ever. These projects, and the \$930 million of investments being made across 21 landscapes in highest-risk fireheds in the western U.S., speak to our commitment to improve forest health and resiliency across the nation’s forests to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire,” said Forest Service Chief Randy Moore. “We have long moved beyond wildfire seasons to fire years, with an annual average of 8 million acres burned since 2015; more than 10 million acres burned in three of those years. The Joint Chiefs’ Landscape Restoration Partnership promotes cross-boundary work needed to increase the scale of our wildfire risk reduction efforts to protect people and communities, critical infrastructure, water supplies, and ecosystems from extreme wildfire.”

See the complete article about [USDA invests millions](#).

## **APRIL WEED OF THE MONTH: LESSER CELANDINE**

In a few short weeks (or longer in the northern part of the state), we will begin seeing the pops of color of spring ephemerals. Some skunk cabbage is already taking advantage of areas with recent snow melt in the metro area. As the snow recedes and the ground temperatures begin to warm, the beginning of spring is a great time to look for the emergence of invasive plants.

Lesser celandine (*Ficaria verna*), also known as fig buttercup, is a relatively new invader to the state. It is a great example of a plant to watch for in the spring. Early spring detection allows for quicker management response and targeted treatments before other desirable plants begin to develop and flourish.

Lesser celandine has a very short lifecycle, growing as soon as the snow melts and dying back to its underground roots by June. Its bloom time varies greatly in the state blooming from March 26th - May 6th in various posts. Environmental conditions influence blooming times, but being prepared earlier in the spring will allow for greater management success. It is also important to familiarize yourself with native plants that look like invaders such as [lesser celandine](#).

*Maggie Barnick, Minnesota Department of Agriculture*



*Lesser celandine (left) and marsh marigold (right) are often mistaken for one another. However, there are differences when observed closely.*

## TENKARA FLY FISHING - A LINE, A ROD, AND A HANDFUL OF FLIES.

In the woods of the North Shore is where some brook trout are found. Small streams for small fish. A traditional Japanese style of fly fishing, tenkara fishing involves a long telescoping rod with no reel, and a short line attached to the tip of the rod. It looks like a cross between a cane pole and a fly rod. The tenkara angler doesn't use a bobber or live bait, or a weighted fly line on a metal rod. Instead, they use the long, lightweight rod to make short, accurate casts with a tiny, unweighted fly.

On small streams, brushy with overgrown alders casting can be frustrating. The tenkara rod, at 20 inches rather than 8 or 9 feet, really solved that problem and made getting to and from the streams more pleasant. It opens up more opportunities on North Shore streams. Imagine a dry fly landing lightly on the water's surface. With tenkara, the line is actually held off the water instead of laying on it. With a traditional fly rod, laying one cast down when it hits the water will spook the fish. With a tenkara rod, only the fly and about 12 inches of tippet hits the surface. In small creeks or tight areas, you can do an overhead cast and just land the fly at the top of the run and let it dead drift down. Tenkara is more about presentation than pattern. Instead of matching the hatch, it's how you present the fly or drift the fly. You just need to lay a good cast and get a good drift.

Tenkara fly rods put the skill of landing a fish in the angler's hands. If you hook a big fish, you have to be able to move, wade upstream or downstream, and play that fish using the flex of the rod to tire it out.

*From article by Tom Hazelton, Published in Minnesota Conservation Volunteer, May-June 2022*

### SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE FOR CAMP AT THE LONG LAKE CONSERVATION CENTER

The United Northern Sportsmen's Club is proud to announce the Long Lake Conservation Center camps are open again this year and we are giving scholarships.

Send some lucky kids to camp! The programs take place from June - August. The camps include Forkhorn Camps, Outdoor Explorer Camp, Astrology Camp and Fishing Camp. More information for this is posted on LongLakeCC.org. If you have any kids or grandkids that are interested have them call or email Tom Wasbotten, 218-721-4864, twasbotten@outlook.com.it

### HOW CLIMATE CHANGE IS THROWING OFF SPRING EPHEMERALS AND TREE LEAF-OUT

For short-lived spring wildflowers such as wood anemone and Dutchman's breeches, timing is everything. These fleeting plants, known as ephemerals, grow in temperate forests around the world, leafing out and flowering early in spring before the trees towering above them leaf out. Emerge too early, and it will still be winter; emerge too late, and it will be too shady under the forest canopy for essential photosynthesis to happen.

Over their evolutionary history, these plants have figured out the best timing for their survival. But climate change is altering spring growing conditions, and plant life is changing along with it.

There are many examples of plants shifting flowering time in response to warming temperatures, such as cherry blossoms opening earlier and earlier each year. However, when one part of an ecosystem shifts, will all the organisms that depend on it successfully shift too? Or will they be out of luck? And what if interconnected species respond to change at different rates, leading to disruptions in long-standing ecological relationships?

[Press Here for More!](#)

UNITED NORTHERN SPORTSMEN'S NEWS  
PO Box 161108, Duluth, MN 55816  
[www.uns-duluth.com](http://www.uns-duluth.com)  
[unsclub@gmail.com](mailto:unsclub@gmail.com)

#### 2023 Board of Directors

President Tom Wasbotten	218-721-4864 763-228-8889
Vice President Lance Parthe	218-349-5555
Secretary Eric Hansen	218-831-8646
Treasurer Tina Sund	218-591-3304
Sgt at Arms Bob Kuettel	218-393-2000
<hr/>	
Membership Tina Sund	218-591-3304
Webmaster Eric Hansen	218-831-8646
Newsletter Editor Susanne Bathke	612-991-5364
Camp Host Ron Cretens	218-349-8510

#### Directors

John Bathke	612-991-5363
Maggie Cretens	218-349-6399
Ron Cretens	218-349-8510
Keith Darsow	218-390-4557
Lance Haavisto	906-235-8483
Jeff Jarvela	218-461-6007
Vickie Jensen	218-591-5619
Duane Lasley	218-310-4273