

# 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

- 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 beginnoing 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 2023 CAMPING SEASON OPENS

The 2023 UNS camping season officially commences on May 1st and closes on October 15th. Our **Peak Season** runs from the Friday before Memorial Day (This year that is May 26th) through Monday of Labor Day (This year that is September 4th). During the Peak Season, Individual or Family Memberships are limited to 14 days of camping.

As the season begins, please take a few minutes to review our club's rules. Copies are available on our website, at the clubhouse, or from the Camp Host. Members are responsible for abiding by them. Some of the key areas relating to camping are reviewed below. The club's rules contain a complete list.

A member intending to camp at UNS must register immediately upon arriving and before setting up camp. When you fill out the camping registration form, if you have a family membership please identify the members of your family who will be on the property. Due to legal and liability insurance regulations, any child under 18 years of age must always be accompanied by one of their parents or a legal guardian while on UNS grounds.

A membership is limited to one camping site per day and a campsite cannot be occupied until the sleeping unit (trailer, motor home, RV) arrives. Campers registering to camp on a site must spend the entire night at that campsite for each calendar day they intend to stay.

Day guests must also register immediately upon arrival. Keep in mind UNS is a private club and camping is for Members only. **We do not allow any guests to stay overnight.** However, as a courtesy to members who may want to have a guest during the day, daily guest passes are available on a one-day basis (8:00am until 11:00pm). A guest must be accompanied by a current member. The number allowed is limited to one guest per Individual Membership and two guests per Family Membership, no exceptions. And it is your responsibility in the evening to make sure your guest(s) are off the club property no later than 11:00pm.

We have a total of 37 camp sites on a first come first served basis. No member shall, in any way, attempt to reserve in advance a campsite for themselves or anyone else. Members or nonmembers **may not** leave personal property, including motor vehicles and boats, overnight on UNS property except if they are overnight camping at UNS.

Twenty three of the sites have electrical hookup and a few have water available. Shower facilities are provided on a fee basis. Please only two vehicles (car and/or truck) are allowed per campsite at any time and one wheeled RV. Quiet time is 11:00pm to 8:00am CST. No generators may run during quiet time. Keep in mind that electrical hookups and other amenities are not available after October 15th.

Thank you, the UNS Board of Directors.

## UNS BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING Minutes, April 4, 2023

**Call to Order:** by President Tom Wasbotten at 6:09pm. **Conservation Pledge** was recited.

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

**Excused Officers:** Lance Parthe, Duane Lasley

**Introduction of Guests and Members:** Tom Wasbotten introduced guests.

**Correspondence:** Three newsletters: Gnesen Township, Wildwoods & Coop Light & Power.

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

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

**Treasurer's Report:** Tina Sund as of March 31, 2023. We received our tax statement for 2023. Tina will pay it in one payment. Motion to approve financial report and pay the bills (M/S/C).

**Membership Secretary's Report:** Tina Sund as of March 31, 2023: Current membership is 1462 Individual Membership renewals: 21 and 2 new, Family Membership 16 and 2 new. Coming up: 123 renewals:

### OTHER REPORTS:

**Web Master:** Eric Hansen: updated website: Home Page, volunteer hours, April newsletter, Range Reservations, and updated Facebook.

**Facilities Committee:** Tom Wasbotten received a letter from MN Health Dept. for a permanent variance for our dump station. Northern Trends check was sent out. Repairs should be scheduled for Apr, May or June depending on the weather. We need 2 wheels for docks, spring maintenance needs to be done. It is one month to camping opener (which may need to be delayed due to weather). Biffy needed to be pumped. The ranges and grounds are icy and very slippery.

**Range and Grounds Calendar:** Bob Kuettel reports the ranges have been quiet lately and there are no new range reservations. We have pending Conceal Carry Class. As a reminder: all ranges are closed on Mondays and can only be used for range reservations, classes and maintenance.

**Incident Report:** Tom Wasbotten - nothing to report.

**Volunteer Awards Committee:** Vickie Jensen - Jeff Jarvela reached 100 hours.

**Communication Committee:** Co-Chair Maggie Cretens said nothing new to report.

### OLD BUSINESS:

**Website Development Committee Update** – Lance Parthe will meet with web developer Don Bremer with Donneray Consulting to fill in the necessary category content information. Then he will meet with the web development committee to review the content and make last minute changes before it is published.

**UNS Youth Outdoor Field Day August 19, 2023 Update** – **John Bathke:** We have Cody Privette's files for reference, we plan on meeting in couple weeks to get things going, we'll have volunteers from Deer Hunters Ass'n and MN DNR, we need UNS volunteers. Tom Wasbotten: Committee members are Sara Spindler, Cody Privette, Bob Kuettel, Paul Pederson, John Bathke & Lance Parthe. Tina Sund needs kids' names right away for the reservation list.

**Communications Committee Request Form Procedures** – **Maggie Cretens:** Talked about the Communications Committee's sub-responsibilities. Lance Haavisto presented details for submitting and reporting requests for communications committee help with events and the forms to fill out. UNS Communications email is: UNSvolunteer@gmail.com. The two forms are: pre and post event.

**School Of Fish Saturday, June 10, 2023 Update** – **Jeff Jarvela** reports that the event communication went out & 13 kids are already signed up. Limit is 20. Tom Wasbotten thought if more than 20 kids sign up, we could consider a 2 nd session. Jeff will check with Mike Frisch.

**Funds Transfer to Fidelity Account** – **Tom Wasbotten** reports the transfer of funds has been made into our Fidelity Money Market account.

### NEW BUSINESS:

**Donation Request from the Hermantown Trap Team** – **Tom Wasbotten** asked for a motion to donate \$300.00. Motion made and (M/S/C).

**Members Sick or in Distress:** None known.

**Date of Next Meeting & Adjournment:** In Person Meeting on Wednesday, May 3rd at 6 pm at UNS Clubhouse. Motion made to adjourn meeting at 7:19pm (M/S/C).

Respectfully submitted by Eric Hansen, Secretary.

## DNR TO MODERNIZE ELECTRONIC LICENSE SYSTEM

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and Minnesota IT Services have selected conservation technology company S3 as the vendor to build a modern electronic licensing system to serve the state's anglers, boaters, hunters and recreational vehicle owners.

"This is an important and exciting milestone toward making it easier for all Minnesotans who already buy licenses for their outdoor pursuits and those who would like to try something new," said DNR Commissioner Sarah Strommen. "The new licensing system will modernize DNR's ability to connect Minnesotans with the information and services they need so they can get outside and enjoy our exceptional lands and waters."

S3 has built licensing systems for a number of other states including Arkansas, Michigan, Missouri and Ohio.

"We are one step closer to modernizing the way you can access licensing services from the DNR," said Tarek Tomes, commissioner of Minnesota IT Services. "The new system will make it faster and easier for Minnesotans to buy licenses and ultimately, experience Minnesota's natural resources."

Minnesotans will still be able to buy licenses at their favorite bait shop or sporting goods store, but the new system will provide much improved online capabilities, including the ability to buy and store licenses on mobile devices. Recreational vehicle and boat license and registration services will continue to be provided by mail, online or in-person at deputy registrar offices. Licenses and registrations will also continue to be available at the DNR license center in St. Paul.

The new system's construction and testing are expected to take about two years to complete, with a public launch expected in early 2025. For more information, and to sign up to receive email updates about the new license system, visit the DNR website ([mndnr.gov/rlp/elshtml](https://mndnr.gov/rlp/elshtml)).

## FISH AND WILDLIFE ALMANAC

**A weekly list of DNR news briefs about fish, wildlife, and habitat management.**

Prospective bear hunters have until Friday, May 5, to apply for a bear hunting license from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. Applications for the 2023 season can be submitted online, at any license agent or by telephone at 888-665-4236.

A total of 4,035 licenses are available in 14 permit areas for the 2023 season, which opens Friday, Sept. 1, and closes Sunday, Oct. 15.

Lottery winners will be notified by Thursday, June 1. The deadline to purchase bear hunting licenses awarded by lottery is Tuesday, Aug. 1. Any remaining unpurchased licenses will be available over the counter starting at noon Friday, Aug. 4.

An unlimited number of bear licenses also will be sold over the counter for the no-quota area that includes east-central and far northwestern Minnesota. No-quota licenses are valid only in the no-quota area.

Hunters with either a quota or no-quota license who are interested in taking a problem bear should contact the area DNR wildlife manager in the area(s) of interest ([mndnr.gov/areas/wildlife](https://mndnr.gov/areas/wildlife)) to be added to the hunter contact list for any potential opportunities.

Complete instructions about how to apply for a license, maps of permit areas and a listing of permit availability for each area are available on the DNR website ([mndnr.gov/hunting/bear](https://mndnr.gov/hunting/bear)).

## DNR WEBINARS IN MAY

The webinars are part of the DNR's Minnesota Outdoor Skills and Stewardship Series. The webinars are free, but registration is required. More information is available on the outdoor skills and stewardship page of the DNR website ([mndnr.gov/discover](https://mndnr.gov/discover)).

**May 3rd: Freshwater Drum.** Chris Domeier, DNR Ortonville area fisheries supervisor, will discuss when, where and how to fish for freshwater drum (also called sheepshead) in Minnesota. He'll also cover their life history and how to clean and cook this often overlooked, native and tasty species.

**May 10th: Catching walleye on opening weekend.** DNR Fisheries staff and walleye fishing experts will join us for a discussion on what to expect for the upcoming fishing opener and provide some tips on how to catch early season walleyes. We will especially focus on southern Minnesota, the location of the 2023 Minnesota Governor's Fishing Opener, which is in Mankato this year.

## BABIES EVERYWHERE AT THE RAPTOR CENTER

Baby raptor season at TRC has begun! Our first baby call of the year was quite a surprise, not because of when it came, but what species it was. Can you identify the young raptor in the photos below?

Every year, we anticipate the first baby to be a great horned owl, as great horned owls typically are the earliest nesters in MN, laying eggs as early as mid-January. However, that was not how the 2023 baby season started. If you guessed that the above photos are of a juvenile Northern saw-whet owl, you are correct! In MN, Northern saw-whet owls traditionally nest in late March/early April in tree cavities or man-made nest boxes, and their young fledge in May. Compared to great horned owls, the population of northern saw-whet owls nesting in the Twin Cities Metro is relatively small. The call about this youngster came from Edina on March 6, so not only was the species a total surprise, but the owl had already fledged making it at least a month old! That meant that the mom laid her eggs in early January just like many great horned owls. The young owl was found on the ground in a duck coop, but was uninjured and flew into a tree, blending beautifully with the bark and dried leaves. Over the summer, it will replace its uniquely-colored juvenile feathers and will look more like an adult with brown and white mottled plumage.



For the next 4.5 months, TRC expects to receive well over 150 calls about nestling raptors and many more (another 150 or so) about youngsters which fledged but then soon found themselves in some type of predicament. To prepare, our front desk and hospital staff have set up efficient systems to ensure that all young raptors needing a little help get the attention they need in a timely fashion. Training of new staff and a volunteer baby crew has already occurred, and this weekend, a nest-making party will be held so nests will be readily available when needed. This year we are anticipating providing aid to young great horned, barred, eastern screech and a few Northern saw-whet owls; red-tailed, red-shouldered, broad-winged, and Cooper's hawks; American kestrels, merlins and peregrine falcons; a few osprey; and maybe even a turkey vulture! Based on their natural history, each species has unique requirements even as young chicks, and it is truly a team effort to help keep them wild.

This chick was treated at TRC in the spring of 2022. Thanks to the work you support through your gifts, they have been able to reach adulthood. Our hospital is nearly 100% donor supported, meaning your help goes directly to the medications, equipment, food, and expertise required to save these species. You make a difference and allow us to ensure the ongoing health of future generations of owls, eagles, hawks, falcons, and vultures. If you're interested in supporting this effort, please make a gift on our crowdfunding site, linked [here](#).

*Article from The Raptor Center NL, U of MN , 3/24/23*

**May 17: How to help baby wildlife.** Spring is baby season for Minnesota's wildlife! Unfortunately, the surge of babies means a higher likelihood young wildlife will find themselves in trouble – or so we think. Parenting looks a little different for wild animals than people or even their domestic counterparts. Join Heidi Cyr, nongame wildlife permit coordinator for wildlife rehabilitators, to learn more about “orphaned” wildlife, signs an animal needs help, and the best ways to keep wildlife wild..”  
*See Page 2 for DNR RSVP Information.*



## UNS SCHOOL OF FISH COMING UP 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 to 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).

### 13TH ANNUAL YOUTH OUTDOOR FIELD DAY

One of your clubs priorities is to try to keep our youth involved in the great outdoors. On August 19th UNS will be hosting the 13th annual Youth Outdoor Field Day along with the Lake Superior Chapter of the Minnesota Deer Hunters Association. The activities will be similar to those in past years such as high-powered (deer) rifles, small bore range (.22 cal), archery range, trap range, black powder demonstration, tree stand safety, and trapping seminar. Lunch will be served, and participants will have a chance to take home a great prize. As always, this event is free! Registration has started and is open to the first 80 kids (ages 8 to 16).

This year's UNS event chair will be John Bathke. If you are interested in helping out the day of the event contact John Bathke at 612-991-5363 or [John@b-green.us](mailto:John@b-green.us).

### 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](http://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](mailto:twasbotten@outlook.com).

**UNITED NORTHERN SPORTSMEN'S NEWS**  
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