

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.

VOLUME 66

AUGUST 2021

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Club Calendar

- Aug. 2** Ranges Closed, Maintenance
- Aug. 4** UNS Board Meeting
6pm, UNS Clubhouse
- Aug. 9, 16** Ranges Closed, Maintenance
- Aug. 23, 30** Ranges Closed, Maintenance
- Sept. 1** UNS Board Meeting
6pm, UNS Clubhouse
- Sept. 3-6** Ranges Closed, Holiday
- Sept. 4** UNS Walleye Fishing Contest
- Sept. 13** Retired Police Recertification
Event, Steve Holt
- Sept. 18** Ruffed Grouse Opening
- Sept. 20, 27** Ranges Closed,
Maintenance
- Sept. 25** Duck and Goose Opening

All members are encouraged to attend. If attending you must RSVP with Cody Privette, cody@ckpriv.com, as space is limited at the retreat. In the event we reach capacity, the Zoom Meeting Connection, will be provided.

SHOOTING HOURS

Range hours are 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 Retreat Bldg. Please obey the rules or you may lose your shooting privileges.

RANGE USE CALENDAR

may be found on our Website:
www.unitednorthernsportsmen.org

UNS ANNUAL WALLEYE FISHING CONTEST

*** NEW DATE***

The 2021 UNS Annual Walleye Fishing Contest has been set for September 4th, Labor Day Weekend. Not going to be on Island Lake that Saturday? No problem! With the new date comes a new way of participating. This year the UNS Annual Walleye Fishing Contest will be going virtual through the Fishdonkey APP available for free on IOS or Android App stores. This way you can participate as long as you're fishing on Minnesota waters. Please stay tuned for more details in the monthly newsletter, Website, and facebook.

Lance Haavisto, Event Chair

YOUTH OUTDOOR FIELD EVENT CANCELED

I am writing this to let you know that I spoke to Paul with MDHA and we have made the difficult decision to cancel the annual Youth Outdoor Field Day that was to be held on 8/14/21.

Unfortunately due to the uncertainty of the COVID pandemic, we got to a late start with planning and there simply isn't enough interest in the event this year to move forward.

While this event takes a fair amount of work and time to plan and setup, it is a rewarding experience and well worth the time and effort. Every year that I have been involved with the event, there has been at least one example of a child who was timid and scared to participate but at the end of the day was having fun and was excited to get out hunting, shooting, etc. in the future. Events like this will help to bring up the next generation of our members and I hope to see it continue in the future.

I hope to see this event continue next year and am open to any suggestions or feedback that can help with the planning process.

Cody Privette, Event Chair



UNS BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES JULY 7, 2021

Call to order: by President Tom Wasbotten at 6:01 pm., Conservation Pledge.

Roll call of elected officers: Tina Sund, Tom Wasbotten, John Bathke, Lance Haavisto, Jeff Jarvela, Lance Parthe, Vickie Jensen, Duane Lasley, Judy Foy, Mike Foy and Cody Privette.

Members Present: Sue Bathke, Eric Hansen, Ron Cretens.

Excused Officers: Gene Shaw.

Presentations: Cindy Craig gave an overview of the desire to plant a memorial tree for Dan Smestad and other past BOD members. Motion made to establish a memorial tree program. Discussion followed (M/S/C). Mark Castleman gave an overview of concerns about the new campground rules over the Fourth of July weekend.

Correspondence: Thank you from Two Harbors Trap Team, Red Cross AED notice, Gnesen Newsletter, Second Harvest Food Bank request.

Agenda additions: Motion to approve the agenda (M/S/C).

Reading of Minutes: Motion to approve the June BOD minutes (M/S/C).

Treasurer's Report: Tina Sund as of 6/30/21: Motion made to approve the report and pay bills (M/S/C).

Membership Secretary's Report: Tina Sund as of 6/30/21: Current membership is 1825 with 15 individual memberships & 117 family memberships. 91 - 2nd notices were mailed.

Committee Reports:

Webmaster – Eric Hansen: Updated range reservations and events.

Newsletter – Sue Bathke: Deadline for the newsletter is 7/15. The newsletter for July will go out on Friday.

Facilities Committee – Tom Wasbotten: Tom gave an overview of a call from Dave M at MN Power regarding a homeless camper. Discussion also followed about an ADA portapotty. Motion made to approve the ADA portapotty (M/S/C).

Lance Parthe: Lance gave overview of the website development. We had a trap thrower stolen and one thrower has a broken spring. An RV had a brake fail and damage the launch dock. Still have issues with the cameras. Need to fix under ground water supply. Lance Haavisto mowed the trap range. An overview was given of an issue on the rifle range.

Incident Reports – Tom Wasbotten: We have a number of incidents that took place over the Fourth of July weekend, will be moved to the end of the meeting.

Range and Grounds Calendar – Bob Kuettel & Lance Parthe: Steve Holt reserved 9/13 for recertifying retired police officers. Motion made to approve the request (M/S/C). St. Louis County Rescue Squad wants to use the boat launch 7/10 to train for water rescues. Motion made to approve (M/S/C).

Grants Committee – Gene Shaw: Gene not present.

Volunteer Awards Committee – Tina Sund: Nothing new to share.

Finance Committee – John Bathke: Committee didn't meet. Nothing to share.

OLD BUSINESS:

Randy & Peggy Baumgartner – Tom Wasbotten: Discussion followed about the volunteer award for Randy & Peggy Baumgartner. Committee will review the volunteer awards.

Adopt a Highway Program Follow Up – Gene Shaw & John Bathke: Gene had made several attempts to get ahold of him, John will follow up again.

UNS Fishing Contest/Fish Donkey – Lance Haavisto: Nothing new to share.

UNS Youth Outdoor Field Day Event August 14th – Cody Privette: Cody gave an overview of the progress of planning for the Youth Outdoor Field Day Event.

Campsite Electrical Update – Lance Parthe & Cody Privette: Discussion followed about adding camper electric pedestals to 10 sites near the garage. Motion made to move forward with the electrical project and use Hunt Electric (M/S/C).

NEW BUSINESS:

Fourth of July Weekend Campground Report – Tom Wasbotten: Tom thanked the board members who helped out on the Fourth of July weekend. Discussion followed about vehicles parking on the highway.

Campground Committee Update – Tom Wasbotten: Committee will meet quarterly.

President's Authorization Regarding Board Letters – Tom Wasbotten: Overview was given on the need to get infraction letters sent out without discussing at BOD meetings. Motion made to approve sending a letter for "minor" infractions with president authorizations and "major" infractions need to be discussed via email or BOD meeting (M/S/C).

Serious Incident Report – Tom Wasbotten: Tom called a closed meeting to order to discuss infractions. Infraction letters will be sent as directed. Further discussion followed regarding an incident 6/29 – 7/5 with members and a membership being proposed to be cancelled. Motion made to approve the recommendation (M/S/C).

Members sick or in distress: None to share.

Adjournment: Motion made to adjourn at 8:27 pm (M/S/C).

Respectfully submitted by Cody Privette, Secretary.

Next BOD meeting will be held on August 4th at 6pm at the UNS Clubhouse.

UNS SHOOTING RANGES

Since May we have mostly been centered around the fishing and camping UNS has to offer. But the DNR is now announcing the availability of the 2021 Hunting Regulations. One of the things hunters do to get ready for the season is to sight-in their guns. Of course that isn't the only reason for using our ranges. Some come to practice shooting and others for the fun of shooting. We have a big bore or rifle range, we have a trap range, a pistol range, a long gun range, and an archery range.

GROUSE

DNR PLANS TO CLOSE THE HUNTING SEASON IN THE EAST-CENTRAL ZONE FOR 2021 FOR SHARP-TAILED GROUSE:

Minnesota's sharp-tailed grouse population has declined significantly in the east-central portion of the state, according to spring population counts conducted by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and cooperators who help count the birds.

Based on the new population information, the DNR plans to close the hunting season in the east-central zone for 2021 and future years. The DNR also is continuing to work with the Minnesota Sharp-tailed Grouse Society (MSGs) to explore habitat management options.

Sharp-tailed grouse require areas of approximately 1 to 3 square miles of grassland and brushland, so managing their habitats often requires cooperation between multiple land owners. Sharp-tailed grouse habitat changes are driven by brushlands becoming forest, conversion to other land uses, and less fire and other large-scale disturbances on the landscape that historically created and maintained the large open areas of grassland and brushland.

THE COUNTS WERE ALSO DOWN FOR RUFFED GROUSE:

Minnesota's ruffed grouse spring population counts are down from last year as expected during the declining phase of the species' 10-year cycle — a predictable pattern recorded for 72 years. Although peaks vary from eight to 11 years apart, the most recent peak in the cycle occurred in 2017.

Ruffed grouse populations are surveyed by counting the number of male ruffed grouse heard drumming on established routes throughout the state's forested regions. Drumming is a low sound produced by males as they beat their wings rapidly and in increasing frequency to signal the location of their territory. Drumming displays also attract females that are ready to begin nesting. The spring drumming counts are an important indicator of the ruffed grouse breeding population. The number of birds present during the fall hunting season also depends upon nesting success and chick survival during the spring and summer.

If production of young birds is low during the summer months, hunters may see fewer birds than expected based on counts of drumming males in the spring. Conversely, when production of young is high, hunters may see more birds than anticipated in the fall.

The 2021 statewide survey results for ruffed grouse were 1.3 drums per stop. The most recent peak in 2017 was 2.1 drums per stop. During the low point of the cycles, counts are typically about 0.8 drums per stop. Drum counts were 1.4 drums per stop in the northeast survey region; 1.1 drums per stop in the northwest; 0.8 drums per stop in the central hardwoods; and 0.9 drums per stop in the southeast survey region.

Minnesota's ruffed grouse hunting season opens on Saturday, Sept. 18. More information about ruffed grouse hunting and sampling, the grouse survey report is available on the [DNR grouse hunting page](#).

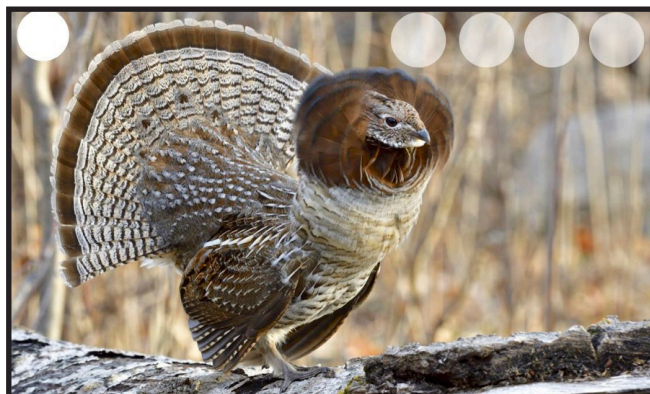


Photo from Brainerd Dispatch

MILKWEED

You've probably heard that monarch butterflies are in trouble, and that a good way to support them is to plant swaths of milkweeds (*Asclepias*), because these plants are the only ones the monarch larvae will eat. Perhaps you've planted some of the three species that are commonly available: orange milkweed (*A. tuberosa*), common milkweed (*A. syriaca*) and swamp milkweed (*A. incarnata*).

Everybody loves these classics, but perhaps you feel it's time to broaden your monarch-garden repertoire. Worldwide, there are more than 200 milkweed species currently identified. The Biota of North America Program (BONAP) lists 79 species native to North America. My personal patch of common milkweed is half down our 500 foot driveway. Everytime I drive down the driveway the smell hits me and I pause to admire them along with the monarch butterflies surrounding them.

This 3 to 4 foot perennial is very robust in open places and grows in patches. The erect, hairy stems have elliptical opposite leaves and stalked clusters of greenish purple flowers. The juice is milky and the flat seeds are wind born by tufts of silky hairs. Young stems, pods and flower buds are sometimes eaten like asparagus. The flowers are rich in nectar and are in bloom for 2 weeks in late July.

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UNITED NORTHERN SPORTSMEN'S NEWS
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