



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 62

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\$12.00

Banquet correction

It was brought to my attention that in last month's newsletter I noted that the price of the tickets would increase to \$50 on April 4th. That was a mistake. The price won't increase until April 17th so you still have time at the \$25 rate. I'm sorry for any inconvenience this may have caused. As for the banquet; Eric states that all is coming well and prizes are coming in but we still need everyone to try to get at least one prize. As stated before, this is our clubs largest fundraiser of the year and any and all help would be greatly appreciated. Also, any donations will be accepted and greatly appreciated. If you can help with the donations please give Eric Hansen a call at 218-729-8723 or anyone on page 4 of this newsletter and we will get someone to pick it up or let you know where to drop it off.

Spring Clean-up

Starting with April 5th our monthly meetings will be at the Sportsmen's Retreat and with this comes spring cleaning. This will be for men and women alike. We need help cleaning the inside of the retreat and also getting the grounds ready for the season. This includes putting the fire rings and picnic tables out and just basically picking up the grounds from winter trash. Any and all help will be greatly appreciated.

Club Calendar

- April 5** **UNS Board Meeting**
Sportsmen's Retreat
6:00 PM Pot Luck Dinner
7:00 PM Meeting
Work Party Prior to
- April 12** **UNS Membership Meeting**
Sportsmen's Retreat
6:00 PM Pot Luck Dinner
7:00 PM Membership Meeting
Work Party Prior to

Turkey season (spring) opens
- April 15** **Stream Trout in streams**
(summer) season opens
- April 22** **MN/SD walleye and northern**
pike seasons open (border
waters)
- April 29** **MN/WI walleye and northern**
pike seasons open (border
waters)

Minnesota DNR Proposes license and park fee increases

Fishing and hunting licenses and visiting Minnesota state parks would cost a few more dollars under the Department of Natural Resources' budget proposal. The DNR proposes to raise the annual resident fishing license fee by \$3 to \$25 and the resident deer hunting license by \$4 to \$34. An annual state park permit would rise from \$25 to \$30 and a day pass would rise from \$5 to \$6. Fees for boats, snowmobiles and ATVs would also increase. The last time Minnesota raised these fees was in 2013, the first time in 12 years. DNR Commissioner Tom Landwehr said Wednesday increases are needed to keep the state's Game and Fish Fund and other accounts from going into the red in the next few years. Minnesota Trout Unlimited Executive Director John Lenczewski, who serves on a citizens oversight committee for the DNR, supports the fee increases. "The licenses in this state in a bargain and the resources are phenomenal and we have to maintain that investment to maintain that quality and that quality of life," Lenczewski said. The Legislature must approve the increases.

2017 UNITED NORTHERN SPORTSMEN'S AWARDS BANQUET REGISTRATION FORM

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

NUMBER ATTENDING (\$25 PER PERSON) _____ PHONE NUMBER _____

PLEASE PROVIDE NAMES OF ALL ATTENDING. Mail completed registration form, along with a check to: Dan Smestad, 4136 Kingston Road, Duluth, MN 55803, 525-3669. Request must be received by March 21st to be eligible for Early Bird Drawing. After April 17th the cost will be \$50 per person.

(Club Notes continued from page 4)

Emailing of Newsletter – Joe Roberts: Gave Duane Lasley 6 pages of emails and a process has been started to get the email address database updated. Discussion followed about ordering new forms with email fields.

Camp Host Job Description Committee – Bob Kuettel: First meeting for the committee will be 5pm April 5th at Island Lake Inn.

Approve Donation to Wildwoods Rehab Organization - Board recommends a \$100 donation. Motion by Duane Lasley 2nd by Mike Foy to approve donation. Discussion followed about asking for a speaker from Wildwoods to join us at a Membership meeting; Carried

NEW BUSINESS:

Approve Membership Secretary \$6,500 expense – Motion by Duane Lasley 2nd Judy Foy. Discussion followed about what the expenses are for. Carried.

Approve 2017 Allocation to Cover Aggregate Trap Team Donation Requests of \$1000 to be Paid From Charitable Fund– Requests need to be in by 5/3 divided evenly amongst teams on a per capita basis. Motion by Sandy Roberts 2nd by Larry Chesney to approve allocation for donation. Discussion followed and clarifications were made; carried.

Membership Question/Concern - Motion to table concern until April Board of Directors meeting 2nd by Duane Lasley; Carried.

Attendance Drawing -Sarah Haavisto won the \$20.00

Progressive Drawing - William J. Callahan was not present, therefore did not win \$90.

Members sick or in distress - None reported

Adjournment - Motion was made by Mike Foy, 2nd by Gene Shaw at 8:05pm; carried.

Respectfully submitted by Cody Privette, Secretary.
Next Meetings will be April Board of Directors on 4/5 and April Membership Meeting on 4/12 both will be 7pm at the retreat.

Mille Lacs Lake Information

What is happening at Mille Lacs Lake? The

aquatic system is undergoing significant change, including a declining walleye population. The vast majority of walleye that hatch do not survive to their third autumn in the lake. The DNR has initiated unprecedented actions in response to this unprecedented change. The agency wants to increase the walleye population as quickly as possible with minimal impact to the local community. **Why is this happening?** While state and tribal fisheries management has played a role in the decline, the persistent problem of promising walleye year classes that disappear year after year also is linked to system change. Changes include increased water clarity that benefits sight-feeding fish; the introduction of zebra mussels, Eurasian watermilfoil and spiny water fleas; significantly higher populations of northern pike that prey on walleye; a changing zooplankton community that may be altering the aquatic food chain; and declines in certain forage species, including tullibee.

What is the DNR doing? As part of a multi-pronged systematic approach to improve the walleye population, DNR convened a blue-ribbon panel of national fisheries experts to review past and current management practices. These experts reviewed and confirmed the DNR's work and offered recommendations. The agency now is in the process of creating a new fisheries office to focus exclusively on Mille Lacs, assigning a new Mille Lacs project leader and providing more staff support for monitoring and technical analysis.

What will this mean to anglers? The agency will continue to implement regulations that protect young walleye. The 2013 year class is the first strong year class the lake has produced since 2008. The 2013 year class and upcoming year classes need to be protected to ensure there is adequate spawning stock in the future. Currently, there is adequate spawning stock, more than enough egg production and abundant fry production.

UNS Club Notes from March 8th, 2017

Call to order: by President Tom Wasbotten @ 7:02 pm. Conservation Pledge.

Roll Call of Officers - Tom Wasbotten, Bob Kuettel, Sandy Roberts, Joe Roberts, Tina Sund, Gene Shaw, Judy Foy, Mike Foy, Bob Klein, David Shrader, Dan Smestad, Larry Chesney, Duane Lasley, and Cody Privette.

Excused Officers - Eric Hansen, Tina Sund, John Bathke, and Mike Drager

Members - None

Correspondence - was shared

Agenda Additions- Motion to approve the agenda with the new additions by Mike Foy, 2nd by Bob Klein; carried.

Reading of Minutes - Cody Privette read minutes

refurbished. Plowed pistol range twice. Picked up old busted up targets.

Joe Roberts: Met Lance at retreat to work on cameras, need to reschedule.

Discussion followed on retreat scheduled events.

Grants Committee - Mike Drager: Mike not present

Volunteer Awards – Dan Smestad: Dave Shrader has 1000+ hours.

Facilities Calendar – Bob Kuettel: Border Patrol has the rifle range reserved for the following dates in March: 6th, 7th, 13th, 14th, 20th, 21st, 27th, and 28th. April: 3, 4, 17, 18. Possible reservation from a DNR firearm safety instructor in April.

Budget Report – John Bathke: John not present.

OLD BUSINESS:

Spring Banquet April 21 – Sandy Roberts: Please

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from the February Membership meeting. Motion to accept minutes as corrected by Sandy Roberts, 2nd by Larry Chesney; carried. Synopsis of Board of Directors minutes from March 1st was also read.

Treasurer's Report - Tina Sund: Duane Lasley made a motion to accept the report and pay our bills, 2nd by Bob Klein; carried.

Membership Secretary's Report - Sandy Roberts: current membership is 1644, \$2359 was deposited and 14 2nd notices were sent.

Committee reports:

Web Master – Eric Hansen: made updates to the events page, range page and Face Book page.

Incident Reports – Mike Foy: Nothing new

Retreat Improvements & Maintenance – Dave Shrader: Painted four signs at the retreat and

pickup your prizes and get them delivered to Sandy.

Joe Roberts: Guns for the banquet are ordered and waiting at the FFL to be picked up.

Approve Summer Fishing Contest Expenses

\$4500 – Motion by Joe Roberts 2nd by Duane Lasley; Carried

Approve Range Rules Changes – Bob Kuettel:

read the proposed changes. Motion to approve changes by Duane Lasley 2nd by Dave Shrader; Carried.

Survey Committee Report – Duane Lasley: Will be meeting next week. Have a rough draft put together.

(Continued on page 3)