



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 57

DECEMBER 2012

NUMBER 12

\$12.00

Election of Officers for 2013

Sandy Roberts of the Nominating Committee reports that we have a full slate of candidates set for this years election but additional candidates are always welcome. President Jim Lemmerman will call one last time at the December Membership Meeting for nominations from the floor. If you know of someone who would like to take his/her turn on the Board of Directors, or any of the other positions, now is the time for you to nominate them. They must be a member in good standing and must be present at the meeting to accept the nomination. The meeting is December 12th at 7:00 PM at the Sportsmen's Retreat. Hope to see you there.

Fall site-in days

The fall site-in days came to a close the day before MN Big Game Season opened with a total profit of \$3303.80 and 49 new memberships. Your club would like to thank all of those people that helped with the event but is stressing that next year if we don't get additional help we might have to cancel it. It is not a whole lot of work but time consuming. So please consider giving us some of your help and expertise next year on this event. Contact any one of the Board Members, new or old, and give them your name please.

Club Calendar

- Dec. 1** **Muskie season ends
Lake Trout (Lake Superior)
Season opens**
- Dec. 9** **First day of Chanukah**
- Dec. 12** **UNS Membership Meeting
Sportsmen's Retreat
6:00 PM Pot Luck
7:00 PM Meeting
Election of Officers for 2013**
- Dec. 16** **Last day of Chanukah**
- Dec. 21** **First day of Winter**
- Dec. 25** **Merry Christmas to all**
- Dec. 31** **Deer season (archery) ends
Happy New Year!**

January, February and March

These meetings will be held at Gander Mountain due to the winter weather. Dates are the same and meeting times are 7:00 PM. Hope to see you there after you've done your shopping.

(Continued from page 4)

NEW BUSINESS:

Titan Rental: Mike Foy contacted Titan and they are willing to help.

Drawing: Ted Johnson won the \$20.00 drawing.

Robert Denno was not present to win the Progressive drawing.

Correspondence: was shared

Members sick or in distress: Dan Smestad (*surgery*), Rick Ceiluch (*fell out of deer stand*.)

Cards will be sent.

Adjournment: a motion to adjourn at 8:08 pm was made by John Bathke, 2nd by Mike Foy; carried.

Respectfully submitted by Eric Hansen, Secretary.

Despite snow, snowmobile trails not ready for riding

Despite the recent snowfall throughout much of northern Minnesota, snowmobile trails are not yet ready for riding, according to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

Minnesota's snowmobile trails officially opened Dec. 1; however, several conditions must be met before trails are open and ready for travel:

- The ground must be frozen to allow for crossing of wet areas.
- Adequate snow cover – about 12 inches – must be on the ground to allow for trail packing and grooming.
- Landowner permits that allow trails on private land must be in place.
- Trails must be cleared of dead falls, signs must be in place and gates must be opened; snowmobile clubs volunteers and DNR staff are currently working on these tasks.

“Although we have had a few cold days and many northern Minnesota lakes are forming ice, the ice is not yet thick enough on most lakes to support foot travel or snowmobiles,” noted Bob Moore, Grand Rapids area supervisor. “Ice thickness can vary greatly from one lake to another, and from different areas of the same lake.”

The DNR recommends a minimum of 5 inches of new clear ice for snowmobiles.

Snowmobile clubs and trails crews are preparing trails, but it could be a few weeks before

those trails are ready. Work in many wet or swampy areas cannot begin until those areas freeze.

Many snowmobile trails cross private land. Landowners give permission for snowmobile use on these trails beginning Dec. 1. That permission is only for snowmobile use. Other uses are trespasses.

When the trails open, the DNR urges early season riders to use caution. Early season trails may have fallen trees or other debris across the trails, unfrozen areas, rocks or ruts, or standing crops and closed gates. Also, road ditches have obstacles to watch for under grass and snow, such as culverts, signposts and rocks.

Minnesota has more than 22,000 miles of groomed snowmobile trails; more than 21,000 miles of them are maintained by local snowmobile club volunteers. Maintenance costs are partially funded through snowmobile registrations, trail pass sales, and the un-refunded gas tax attributed to snowmobile use. Donations and volunteer work by trail clubs make up the remainder of the costs and efforts to operate these trails.

Trail users are encouraged to call in advance or research online to get local conditions for the area they plan to ride. State trail conditions are posted each Thursday on the **DNR website**.

Local trail conditions are often posted online by local tourism associations, chambers of commerce and volunteer snowmobile clubs. To find the nearest club, visit the **Minnesota United Snowmobiler's Association** website.

Early wolf season concludes; late season began Nov. 24th

Hunters registered 147 wolves during the early portion of Minnesota's first wolf season that ended Nov. 18; 53 fewer than the statewide harvest target, according to the DNR and the wolf harvest trend closely mirrored the deer harvest.

Minnesota's late hunting and trapping season began Saturday, Nov. 24. It will conclude Thursday, Jan. 31, 2013, provided late season harvest targets in each of Minnesota's three wolf zones are not met. Hunters and trappers are encouraged to monitor the **DNR website** daily to ensure their season is open.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all!

UNS MEMBERSHIP MEETING Minutes November 14, 2012

Call to order: by President Jim Lemmerman @ 6:59 PM.

Roll call of officers: Jim Lemmerman, Joe Roberts, Sandy Roberts, Eric Hansen, Cindy Craig, Chuck Ceiluch, Judy Foy, Mike Foy, John Bathke, Bob Curtis.

New members: Doreen Lane, Kala Lane

Agenda additions: Sandy Roberts: committee report from camping committee

Approved John Bathke, 2nd Cindy Craig, Approved.

Reading of Minutes: Eric Hansen read minutes from the Oct 10 Membership meeting. Motion to accept the minutes as corrected was made by Joe Roberts, 2nd by Cindy Craig, carried. Boards of Directors minutes from Nov 7, 2012 were also read.

Treasurer's report: Cindy Craig as of 10.31.2012
Checkbook balance \$ 10,727.44 Regular savings account \$5.00 Money Market Acct \$5,034.44 Building Fund \$ 8180.32 Total Funds \$ 23,947.16

John Bathke made a motion to accept and pay our bills, 2nd by Judy Foy, carried.

Membership secretary's report: Sandy Roberts – current membership is 1647.

Committee reports:

Web master – Eric Hansen: made updates to the events page, range page and Face Book page & checked out web page e-mails.

Retreat improvements – Bob Curtis and Bob Kuettel updated the locks on the Ice Fishing trailer and picked up shotgun shells. Bob Kuettel has a check from selling brass.

Incident reports – Bob Curtis, Mike Foy and Eric Hansen: none to report.

Grants committee - Kevin Stern and Mike Drager were not here for updates but we do have a grant for \$3084 from the NRA.

Sight-In days: Our efforts earned us \$3303.80 and 49 new memberships.

Fall Fund Raiser: Doreen Lane reports that \$3,506.00 has been collected. Winners are: \$250 - Shawn Jarvie: \$125 - Marty Knezovich \$75 - Erin Carlson

Campground permit - Joe Roberts: we got the well report back, it looks good. We will be working on plans for showers over winter.

Camping Committee: Sandy Roberts says the committee has changed the wording for earning additional camping days. Joe Roberts made a motion to concur with the camping committees work, 2nd by John Bathke; carried.

Ice Fishing Contest: Joe Roberts reports that planning has been started. Event is scheduled for January 27, 2013.

OLD BUSINESS:

Grill: Bob Curtis says even though he has been hunting he did work on adding the gas burner to the grill.

Forest inventory: Jim Lemmerman reports it is complete. Jim Larson will contact loggers for the work.

The board will make the final approval.

Nomination Committee: Sandy Roberts read the roster of nominees. Jim Lemmerman called for nominations for the following positions: President, Vice President, Secretary, and Trustees: no additional nominations were made so all were closed until next month. - Bob Curtis nominated Bob Kuettel for the Sgt at Arms position.

(Continued on Page 3)