

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

- Jan. 6** **UNS Board Meeting**
7pm, Held Virtually
- Jan. 26** **Ice Fishing Contest**
CANCELED
- Feb. 3** **UNS Board Meeting**
7pm, Held Virtually
- Mar. 3** **UNS Board Meeting**
7pm, Held Virtually



SHOOTING HOURS

Range opening and closing times are posted on the ranges and also on 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

NEWSLETTER SCHEDULE: Monthly newsletters are sent before the end of the previous month. Articles are due by the 15th of the previous month. If you have an article you would like share please send to sue@b-green.us. It may be shared space permitting.

THE CHALLENGES OF WINTER SHOOTING UNS RANGES 2020-2021

Besides the usual challenges of trying to keep your fingers and toes warm, keeping your optics and your eye glasses from fogging up in winter can be challenging for people using the shooting ranges. As you know at UNS this year, COVID-19 has also been an ongoing challenge for us.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, volunteers have been hard to recruit. At the last board meeting we decided that without volunteers, it would be nearly impossible to remove the snow from the range areas. In years past we would try to remove the snow from the pistol range and by doing so it also created another problem since the ranges generally weren't cleared until days after a snowfall. In the meantime, several people would use the range before it was cleared and the snowblower would pick up the snow and spent casings that had fallen into the snow, and throw them up on to the berms around the pistol range which made it very difficult in the Spring to clean them up.

For this reason, this year we're just going to let the casings fall into the snow and in the spring after the melt it'll be easier to clean them up. We are still asking that you do your part in helping us keep the shooting ranges in good working order and cleaning any spent casings or garbage up from around the bench areas as you normally do. The parking lots and entrances will still be plowed as normal so you will have ongoing access to the shooting ranges. One biffy will be available and the garbage cans will be left out.

It is hard to predict how much snow we get in any winter season so as the season progresses, we will address these issues accordingly. If anybody has any ideas or would like to be part of the solution, please feel free to give us a call as we do appreciate any feedback you might have. Until then, happy shooting.

Lance Parthe, 218-349-5555 or Bob Kuettel, 218-393-2000

UNS ANNUAL ICE FISHING CONTEST CANCELED FOR 2021

The United Northern Sportsmen's 68th Annual Ice Fishing Contest will NOT be held in 2021. Normally this popular event is held in late January. Due to ongoing concerns with the COVID pandemic the event has been canceled. This is our oldest fundraiser and our intent is to hold this event again in 2022.

UNS BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES DECEMBER 2, 2020

Call to order (Via Zoom): by President Tom Wasbotten at 7:00 pm., Conservation Pledge.

Roll call of officers: Tina Sund, Bob Kuettel, Tom Wasbotten, Lance Haavisto, Lance Parthe, John Bathke, Gene Shaw, Vickie Jensen, Duane Lasley, Dan Smestad, Cody Privette.

Members Present: Sue Bathke, Eric Hansen

Excused Officers: Mike Foy, Judy Foy.

Correspondence: Dept. of Health Renewal, MNCF thank you letter, thank you from Wildwoods, Gnesen Township Newsletter, St. Louis River Alliance Membership renewal.

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

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

Treasurer's Report: Tina Sund as of 11/30/20: Motion made to approve the report and pay bills (M/S/C).

Membership Secretary's Report: Tina Sund as of 11/30/20: Current membership is 1808 with 62 individual & 36 family new memberships and 16 family memberships, and 35 2nd notices were sent out.

Committee Reports:

Webmaster – Eric Hansen: Updated Facebook and web page with range reservations and volunteer hours.

Newsletter – Sue Bathke: 12/15 is the deadline for January's newsletter.

Incident Reports – Bob Kuettel: Nothing new to share.

Facilities Committee – Lance Parthe: No news to share. Ice is forming on the ranges.

Range and Grounds Calendar – Bob Kuettel: Nothing to share. Reminder that the ice fishing contest has been canceled.

Grants Committee – Gene Shaw: Tough finding money that people want to spend.

Volunteer Committee – Dan Smestad: Nothing new.

Finance Committee – John Bathke: Discussion items are on the agenda.

Communications Committee – John Bathke: Nothing to share.

OLD BUSINESS:

Fall Sight In/ Fall Fundraiser Final Reports – Bob Kuettel: Bob gave an overview of the sight-in event. 312 guns total for a \$1,565 and sold over 40 raffle tickets and brass sales of \$125. **Tina Sund:** thank you to Keith for selling all of the extra tickets. Fundraiser did very well. A profit of \$6,245.15 total for the raffle. Total profit for sight in \$1,489.80, total event \$7,734.95.

Nominations Committee Update & Call For Nominations – Duane Lasley: Duane gave us the list of candidates: Vice President – Lance Parthe, Treasurer – Tina Sund, 3 BOD Positions: Keith Darsow, Jeff Jarvela, Dan Smestad, John Bathke, and Gene Shaw. Discussion followed about nominees and vacant positions. John Bathke gave an overview of the voting process this year. Motion made to reconsider the mail-in voting process and utilize electronic means via Zoom to vote. Discussion followed about the voting process. Motion made that we move to an electronic voting system (M/S/C).

Board Review & Approval of 2021 Club Budget – Tina Sund: Tina gave an overview of the proposed annual budget. Motion made that the BOD approve the presented budget for 2021. (M/S/C)

Virtual Annual Member Meeting December 9, 2020 Board Authorization – Tina Sund: Tina gave an overview of the meeting process. Already have two requests to attend the virtual meeting. Motion made to temporarily change Article 1, Section B, Section 9 to "Per the rules and protocols from State and National government regarding COVID 19: The rules for attendance at meetings requires 10 or less in attendance at one time. The United Northern Sportsman annual meeting expected attendance is usually over ten members. Therefore, the 2020 annual membership meeting will be conducted virtually. The date for this annual meeting is December 9th. Our annual meeting is usually held the first Wednesday of December. However, in order to give everyone enough notice of the virtual format it will be moved to the second Wednesday and be held December 9, 2020. All eligible members are welcome to attend this virtual meeting and can access it via the link below" (M/S/C).

NEW BUSINESS:

Winter Use of Shooting Ranges – Bob Kuettel: We have two issues: 1. Do we keep the ranges open in the winter 2. If they decide to use the ranges it is at their own risk. Bob overview of the possible risk of winter use. Discussion followed. Motion made to not plow the ranges, and reduce to one biffy, and leave the garbage cans out on the gave ranges until May 1st though we will maintain a pathway to the retreat and oil tanks (M/S/C).

2021 Annual Club Banquet/Discussion – Tom Wasbotten: Tom gave an overview of the potential issue of whether to host the banquet. We do have a \$300 deposit with AAD Shrine that is left over from 2020. 4/17 is the potential date for the banquet.

Members sick or in distress: Mike Foy, Judy Foy.

Adjournment: Motion made to adjourn at 8:59pm (M/S/C).

Respectfully submitted by Cody Privette, Secretary.

Next meeting is the annual meeting on 12/9 via Zoom.

UNS ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES DECEMBER 9, 2020

Call to Order (Via Zoom): by President Tom Wasbotten @ 7:05 pm. Conservation Pledge.

Roll Call of Officers: Tina Sund, Bob Kuettel, Tom Wasbotten, Judy Foy, Gene Shaw, Vickie Jensen, Duane Lasley, Lance Parthe, Mike Foy, John Bathke, Lance Haavisto, Cody Privette.

Members Present: Sue Bathke, Eric Hansen, Jeff Jarvela, Tom Kulas, Lynn & Doug Compton, Bill Kliever, John Gottschald.

Excused Officers: Dan Smestad.

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

Reading of Minutes: Cody Privette read the minutes from the December 2019 Annual Meeting. Motion to accept minutes as corrected (M/S/C).

Treasurer's Report - Tina Sund: as of 11/30/20 reported a projected profit for the year. Motion to approve the report (M/S/C).

Membership Secretary's Report- Tina Sund: 1,809 current members.

ANNUAL BUSINESS:

Slate of Candidates for Vice President, Treasurer & Three Board Member Positions – Duane Lasley: Current candidates were: Vice President - Lance Parthe, Treasurer - Tina Sund, (3) BOD Positions - John Bathke, Gene Shaw, Jeff Jarvela and Dan Smestad. Nominations were called from the floor 3 times for each position. Duane Lasley moved that nominations be closed, and a unanimous ballot be cast for Lance Parthe for Vice President (M/S/C). Duane Lasley moved that nominations be closed, and a unanimous ballot be cast for Tina Sund for Treasurer (M/S/C).

An Election Committee (consisting of 3 members) was formed by Duane Lasley asking Vickie Jensen and Lance Haavisto to join him. Duane Lasley will share a screen shot of the voting results from Zoom with the Election Committee.

Election of 2021 Officers for Three Year Terms – Nominations Committee: The three elected BOD members are: John Bathke, Jeff Jarvela, and Gene Shaw.

Installation of Newly Elected Officers – Tom Wasbotten: Tom installed the new officers to a 3-year term.

Presentation for Approval Of Board Recommended UNS 2021 Budget – Tina Sund: Tina Sund gave an overview of the proposed 2021 budget. Motion was made to approve the proposed budget (M/S/C).

Adjournment: Motion made to adjourn at 8:00pm (M/S/C).

Respectfully submitted by Cody Privette, Secretary.

The next annual meeting is on Dec 8th, 2021.

CRANBERRY CONFECTION OR CONFUSION?

Article written by Angela Gupta, University of Minnesota's Extension Educator & MNWWN Board Advisor

Love them or hate them, cranberry sales peak right before the holidays as this traditional North American produce is at the end of its harvest. *Vaccinium oxycoccos*, sometimes called bog or swamp cranberry, is native to much of northern North America including all of the lake states. Wisconsin alone produces 62% of the US crop and the US produces 95% of the world's cranberries. The hard, deep red, round fruit that is most likely to appear on your Thanksgiving table is harvested in standing water. [CLICK HERE FOR A VIEW OF IT](#). Swamp cranberries develop in a series of different moisture conditions and often take 4 years before this perennial plant will produce a good crop. If you've ever driven from Minnesota to Chicago on I90 you've passed the cranberry fields around Tomah, WI. Did you know there's another cranberry that might be in your woods?

Highbush cranberry, *Viburnum opulus* variety-we'll-get-to-that-in-a-moment, is a forest understory shrub with opposite, maple-like leaves, conspicuous white flowers and soft bright red fruit that persists all winter. Recently this *Viburnum* (not a true cranberry at all) has been getting the attention of the folks that sort and classify plants. For many years North America's native highbush cranberry, commonly used in jams, jellies and wines, was called *Viburnum trilobum* separating it from European highbush cranberry an invasive species, *Viburnum opulus*. European highbush cranberry is sold as a decorative ornamental plant for its showy white flowers and bright red, soft fruit that persist through the winter and is also edible.

Recently plant taxonomists have decided both the European and American highbush cranberries are one species *Viburnum opulus* but different varieties: *Viburnum opulus* var. *opulus* and *Viburnum opulus* var. *americanum*, respectively. I suspect this is a nod to the similar habitats and physical appearances of these two plants. Both grow in the northern reaches of their respective continents and are commonly found in moist woods. Sadly, native highbush cranberry is listed as 'endangered' in Indiana, 'threatened' in Ohio and 'rare' in Pennsylvania (Maine Extension's cranberry website). Identification between the American and European varieties is tricky.

According to Dave Hanson at the MN Department of Transportation, the best way to tell them apart is to look closely at the base of the leaf, the native has 2-4 stalked glands that are basically rounded on top while the European has 2-4 glands that are concave on the top. Seeing these small differences shouldn't require a hand lens, but it will require a sharp eye. As you wonder your woods this winter, look for this plant and enjoy your cranberry salad with a little extra plant insight. Wishing you a safe and happy holidays!

SWANS IN ICY WATER AREN'T ALWAYS IN TROUBLE

The Department of Natural Resources asks Minnesotans to carefully consider the situation before reporting trumpeter swans or other waterfowl that appear to be trapped in ice or rapidly freezing water. While they may initially appear to be distressed, they most often are not.

Just like humans, animals behave differently when the seasons and temperatures change. It is important to not assume the worst when observing a wildlife situation. It is easy to mistake unusual animal behaviors for an animal in distress. Stop and closely observe before attempting to find help.

“Trumpeter swans are a classic example of this,” said Erica Hoaglund, central region nongame wildlife specialist. “People see them this time of year resting on frozen water or swimming about in small pockets of open water within ice. Observers assume they’re trapped when most of the time they’re not and move on in either a few days or a few weeks. It usually is not the emergency it can first appear to be.”

The DNR provides these reminders to people concerned about the fate of swans or other waterfowl they see in or near water during the early parts of winter.

Often birds that seem trapped in ice or in a shrinking area of open water are fine and not trapped. When the weather is cold, animals move around less, just like people, and observers are often not used to seeing them inactive or alone.

On the rare occasion an animal is actually in distress, it is often physically impossible to reach them safely across thin ice and open, frigid water. Frequently in these situations, the bird or animal has been unable to leave the area for some underlying reason such as illness or injury and it may be impossible to rehabilitate the animal even after its rescue. Do not risk a human life to save a wild animal.

In the case of trumpeter swans in Minnesota, the DNR Nongame Wildlife Program is happy to report that after years of hard work and restoration efforts, the trumpeter swan population in the state is now stable and large enough that natural mortality is not cause for alarm. [Click here for more information on the trumpeter swan.](#)

Animals that die outside in the winter are an important part of the food chain. Their carcasses will provide crucial winter food sources to a wide range of wildlife, including invertebrates, mice and even bald eagles.

Article from MN DNR, 11/14/19



Trumpeter Swans in winter in Alexandria, MN 2017, News Forum Service file photo

UNS TO HOLD VIRTUAL MEETINGS UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE!

Until further notice, because of COVID-19, all UNS meetings are now being held virtually either on Teams or Zoom. All members are invited and encouraged to attend. Email John Bathke, john@b-green.us for details.

2020 UNS ANNUAL MEETING

The UNS Annual Business Meeting was held on Wednesday, December 9th, at 7 pm. The business consisted of approval of the 2021 annual budget and the election of officers for 3 year terms running from 2021-2023. Open positions were Vice President, Treasurer and 3 Board Directors.

The following were elected:

Lance Parthe as Vice President
Tina Sund as Treasurer
John Bathke as a Board Director
Jeff Jarvela as a Board Director
Gene Shaw as a Board Director

Many thanks to Bob Kuettel who served as the Vice President from 2016-2020. And thanks to Dan Smestad who has served on the Board of Directors for many years.

The next annual meeting is scheduled for December 8th, 2021.

E-MAIL ADDRESSES WANTED

Did you know that the emailed version of the newsletter is different? It usually contains an additional article and links to expanded articles found on various websites as well as the link to the UNS website.

We are half way toward our goal of 95% participation in emailing out all our of the communications via email. This allows us to increase the content of our newsletter as well as a more efficient way to communicate with the membership in a timely and eco-friendly way. After all - we are a conservation club!

So the next time you renew your membership, or even tomorrow, please let us know your email address. Emails may be sent to Duane Lasley, duanellasley@gmail.com.

BOOK RECOMMENDATION BY BARB SPEARS

With winter upon us and less time to spend outside in our woods, here is a book to enjoy over a hot beverage. Some of you may be familiar with Aldo Leopold's "A Sand County Almanac, a compilation of essays that is worth re-reading or enjoying for the first time. It can be purchased directly from the Aldo Leopold Foundation.

"A Sand County Almanac achieved prominence around the first Earth Day in 1970 and has been reborn for Earth Day 50. The 2020 edition of this timeless writing meets a new generation of readers with an introduction by famed author and conservationist Barbara Kingsolver.

Through science, history, humor and prose, Leopold uses A Sand County Almanac and its call for a land ethic to communicate the true connection between people and the natural world. The hope: that readers will begin to treat the land with the love and respect that it deserves." -- Aldo Leopold Foundation

UNITED NORTHERN SPORTSMEN'S NEWS

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2021 Board of Directors

President Tom Wasbotten	218-721-4864 763-228-8889
Vice President Lance Parthe	218-349-5555
Secretary Cody Privette	218-260-2932
Treasurer Tina Sund	218-591-3304
Sgt at Arms Duane Lasley	218-310-4273
Membership Tina Sund	218-591-3304
Webmaster Eric Hansen	218-831-8646
Newsletter Editor Susanne Bathke	612-991-5364

Directors:

John Bathke	612-991-5363
Judy Foy	218-591-2391
Mike Foy	218-390-2391
Lance Haavisto	906-235-8483
Jeff Jarvela	218-461-6007
Vickie Jensen	218-591-5619
Gene Shaw	218-348-2191