

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 6

JULY 2022

NUMBER 7

\$12.00

Club Calendar

**Ranges Closed on Mondays,
for Maintenance, Reserved Activities**

Jul. 2-4 Club and Ranges Closed

**Jul. 6 UNS Board Meeting
6:00pm, Clubhouse**

**Aug. 3 UNS Board Meeting
6:00pm, Clubhouse**

Sept, 2-5 Club and Ranges Closed

**Sept. 7 UNS Board Meeting
6:00pm, Clubhouse**

All members are encouraged to attend. Please RSVP Eric at 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

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 Clubhouse Bldg. Please obey the rules or you may lose your shooting privileges.

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 or pictures you would like to share please send to sue@b-green.us. It may be shared, space permitting.

THE FOURTH OF JULY AT UNS

The 4th of July is approaching and we expect many of our members will be wanting to use the campground, picnic area, and boat launch over the 4th weekend. There have been some rules clarifications, so we are reminding our members to look at the main camping rules currently in effect. We will have volunteer staff onsite over that weekend to answer questions and manage traffic. The complete rules with clarifications is available on our website.

Hello from the Board of Directors here at United Northern Sportsmen. We hope everyone is enjoying their summer.

As noted on our website and in previous newsletters, we have made some changes to our rules at the club so please be sure to reference them and contact us with any questions. As an organization we strive to make the best possible experience for all our members while making sure United Northern Sportsmen is set up for success and will continue to be long into the future in our ever changing world.

If you have any questions about our rules, use of the facilities, and policies, please contact the Club through any official avenues such as a board member, officer, or camp host. Please do not rely on unofficial channels such as Facebook groups, message boards, chat boards, etc. Some erroneous and misleading information has been conveyed through these groups which has caused frustration for some. If in doubt please contact a club official. Email addresses are available on our website. On the back page of each issue of the newsletter you will find phone numbers for all officials and board members of the club.

Thanks for your continued support of UNS and we hope everyone has a fantastic Fourth of July.

The UNS Board of Directors June 27, 2022



UNS BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING Minutes June 1, 2022

Call to Order: by President Tom Wasbotten at 6:00 pm. **Conservation Pledge** was recited.

Moment of Silence: Fred Freeman and Bill Kliever

Roll Call of Officers: Tom Wasbotten, Lance Parthe, Bob Kuettel, Tina Sund, Gene Shaw, Jeff Jarvela, Vickie Jensen, Lance Haavisto, John Bathke, Eric Hansen, Keith Darsow, John Jones, Ron Cretens, Maggie Cretens.

Correspondence: Wildwoods contribution. Steven Holt request to use facility.

Agenda Additions & Approval: Question on rules & redoing rifle Range Backstops. Motion to approve the agenda with new additions (M/S/C).

Reading of Minutes: Eric Hansen read the minutes from the May 4th Board of Directors meeting. Motion made to accept the minutes as read (M/S/C).

Treasurer's Report: Tina Sund as of 5/31/22: April Audit was done, Tina requested to do the May audit after meeting. Motion made to approve the financials and pay the bills (M/S/C).

Membership Secretary's Report: Tina Sund as of 5/31/22: Current membership is 1562 with a loss of 38 memberships. Individual Membership renewals: 70 and 13 new, Family Membership renewals: 40 and 5 new. 139 renewals are coming up, 77 second notices.

Other Reports:

Web Master: Eric Hansen updated Range Use Page, Volunteer Hours, Newsletter, Membership Page (uploaded new membership applications), & Home Page, Facebook page was updated.

Facilities Committee: Lance Parthe – picnic tables & docks put out & repaired, Lake Superior College donated 100' of fire hoses, outlet & 3 plumbing leaks in Camp Host building need repair, a better way of patching holes on pistol range using conveyor belt to cover shot out holes was discussed, Ron Cretens and Lance replaced springs on trap thrower. Jon Polcheck planted trees on UNS grounds in honor of members who have passed away. We are planning on getting some plaques for the trees to commemorate the members. Tom Wasbotten asked Lance Parthe about well water test status.

Range and Grounds Calendar - Bob Kuettel & Lance Parthe: We have a range request form from Mike Hart.

Incident Report: Per Lance Parthe Border Patrol incident: they were shooting on a holiday Monday. Letter will be sent to Border Patrol.

Volunteer Awards: Vickie has ordered 100-hour jackets for Gene Bondeson & Tom Kulas, & 200-hour jacket for Ron Cretens.

Communication Committee: John Bathke had nothing to report. . nothing to report. Tom Wasbotten talked about variance from Gnesen for a shed on neighbor's property, it does not affect UNS.

OLD BUSINESS:

Web Site Committee: Per Lance Parthe committee will meet after the meeting.

Volunteer Awards – Vickie Jensen: Committee has met 3 times and are in the final stages of updating the awards program.

Accounting Systems Committee – Bob Kuettel: Committee discussed the details of what they need. Financial audit committee to meet at end of meeting.

Summer Fishing Class for Kids – Tom Wasbotten: Gene Shaw needs to bow out of this event. Maggie Cretens asked what was involved to hold the class. She may have a lead for an organization to help run it. Maggie Cretens & Sara Spindler volunteered to help with the event next year.

Youth Field Day – Tom Wasbotten: There was discussion regarding what was done in the past but it's too late to plan something for this year. We decided to not hold event this year. Maggie Cretens & Sara Spindler agreed to do preliminary planning.

NEW BUSINESS:

Redoing Rifle Range Backstops: A plan was discussed to use a skid steer with grabber to tear down old rubber replace it. We need a dumpster to dispose of the old rubber, \$450 for dumpster. A plan will be formulated.

Question on Rules: Mike Hart had questions on why some of the rules were implemented: specifically how soon your membership can be used (immediately or waiting for membership card to be mailed.) He will talk to Tom Wasbotten regarding rationale for rules. Mike suggested looking into holding a session to get more people trained as firearm safety instructors. Mike volunteered to get information.

Community & Charitable Donations: Tom Wasbotten created this new committee. Maggie Cretens & Sara Spindler will chair it and set up guidelines, etc.

Adopt-A-Highway Cleanup: Gene Shaw thanked John Jones & his crew for their part in cleaning up our section of Hwy 4.

Hermantown Trap Team Donation Request: Tom Wasbotten read request for a donation to purchase additional ammunition. A motion was made to donate \$500 to Hermantown Trap Team (M/S/C) .

Wildwoods Donation Request: A motion was made to donate \$500 (M/S/C).

Closed Executive Session.

Next Meeting Date & Adjournment: Next meeting at the clubhouse Wed., July 6th, 6 pm. Meeting adjourned at 7:48pm (M/S/C).

Respectfully submitted by Eric Hansen, Secretary.

WHEN AND HOW TO HELP WILDLIFE

Spring is finally here, and many species are mating and having babies. What follows inevitably, is well-meaning people posting on social media and contacting wildlife rehabilitators wanting to help wildlife they believe are in distress, orphaned, or injured. Often humans do not understand animal behavior when rearing their young, and those behaviors vary from species to species. In all cases, they are much different than humans.

Species like deer and rabbits will leave their young “hidden” on the landscape and only return once or twice a day to feed them; this allows the young to avoid detection by predators. Some species do not provide care for their young; for example many snakes and turtles. Once they lay the eggs, they leave and do not return. The hatchlings will be on their own from the moment they emerge, but they have everything they need to help them survive. If humans see something they think is concerning, a wait-and-watch approach is best. The chance of survival is much higher when the parents raise their young. Leave the animal where they were found and carefully observe. If after 1-2 days of close observation, you don't see the parents return, then contact a qualified rehabilitator (information is listed below) to get direction on what to do next. If you have confirmed the young animal is injured or if the parents are confirmed dead, then reach out to the wildlife rehabilitator sooner.

In addition to rearing young, more animals are moving around the landscape and finding themselves in difficult circumstances for various reasons. Some are human-caused; some occur in the natural course of life, which can be difficult to witness. You must balance when and if you intervene. You must also assess the risk to yourself and others by trying to help.

HUMANS CAN TAKE SOME PROACTIVE STEPS TO HELP WILDLIFE, SUCH AS:

When possible, slow down on roads and allow animals to cross.

It is unethical to interfere with one animal predating on another; understandably, it is difficult to watch, but it is necessary for the survival of the species that eat other animals, and predation is part of the balance of nature.

Lead is a problem for eagles and other birds when they scavenge on gut piles left behind by hunters or when some types of water birds ingest lead fishing tackle left behind in the water. Using non-lead options will significantly reduce the impact of wildlife lead poisoning. Several excellent alternatives are available.

Fishing gear, in general, can be an issue for wildlife, be sure to clean up any fishing line, nets, or other tackle that wildlife could become entangled in or ingest, and dispose of it in the trash. One should also properly dispose of unused bait to avoid spreading invasive species.

There are so many issues that come with free-roaming cats. They transmit parasites and diseases to other animals, including humans. Each year, they kill millions of songbirds, reptiles, amphibians, and small mammals. It is also not the best option for the cat's health; they can be injured or killed by cars and other animals, resulting in a shorter life span. Catios, enclosed outdoor patios built for cats, are an excellent option for cats to have access to the outdoors, to stalk and fantasize about the wildlife without harming them, reduce disease and parasite transmission, and the cat will have a longer and healthier life.

When a bird is flying around, the reflection of a window looks like the open sky to them, and when they cannot detect the glass and hit the window, commonly referred to as a bird strike, it can cause injury and death to millions more birds each year. We can do many things to reduce bird strikes, with the window coverings we use, decals on the windows, not installing bird feeders too close to the windows, and leaving windows just a little dirty.

It is common to release balloons for different occasions like a celebration or remembrance, but what goes up will come back to earth. Birds are not only caught in the strings, but the balloon itself is mistaken as a source of food, and when it is ingested, it is deadly. Instead, we can plant trees, blow bubbles, or be them. As a result, those animals wander away and die at some later time. They can be consumed by a predator looking for a meal, causing suffering and often death to that non-target species. Again, using mechanical or live traps is a better way to protect wildlife.

Feeding ducks and geese have been popular for years. However, bread, crackers, popcorn, and other human foods do not provide the nutrition necessary for good health, leading to deficiencies that impact their ability to survive. Metabolic bone disease and another condition commonly called “angel wings” both result from the overconsumption of human foods. There are other issues with feeding geese and ducks which include: overcrowding, habituation to humans, and habitat degradation.

Finally, if you observe multiple dead, dying, or sick animals near each other, contact local DNR staff to report what you have seen, as there may be an outbreak of disease, such as the avian flu we witnessed this summer. If you have questions about whether an animal needs human intervention or if you need to find a wildlife rehabilitator, [try these resources](#), found at the bottom of this article.

Even if you don't see a species listed, please reach out; they can often find someone qualified to help. Please remember that you cannot and should not try to rehabilitate wildlife on your own, it is illegal in Minnesota. In addition, you may not be able to keep or transport an animal for greater than 24 hours unless you have the required permits. Finally, remember that wildlife can be dangerous and especially defensive when injured or sick. In addition, animals can carry zoonotic diseases that can be transmitted to humans.

There are important ways we can be helpful to the animals we share our world with; it is just important to know when help is needed. Often the most beneficial thing we can do is look at how human activities impact wildlife and change what we do. The animals are pretty good at taking care of the rest.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO TEACH FIREARMS SAFETY CLASSES.

This article is an appeal to the UNS membership for volunteers. I've asked that this notice be run in several newsletters so that the majority of the 1500 members will see it.

The MN DNR is always looking for volunteers to assist with Youth Firearms Certification. Kids can get all the classroom hours online. However, they also need a day in the field with a DNR certified volunteer instructor. This is where the UNS can provide a valuable service to youth interested in hunting and shooting sports.

I have been in contact with CO David Schottenbauer the DNR Regional Training Officer. The Firearms Safety Instructor class is approximately three hours long. Once completed these instructors will be able to sign off on the firearms certification field day requirement. The commitment by Firearms Safety instructors is to do a couple of classes a year.

I hope to get a list of people willing to commit to being a Firearms Safety Instructor. Once I have a number of committed people, I'll coordinate with CO Schottenbauer to conduct a couple of courses at the UNS club house in October – September 2022.

Anyone willing to attend the training and be a Firearms Safety Instructor please contact Mike Hart at 763-245-7268 by text or voicemail. If you have questions please call, I don't do lengthy texts.

THREE GUN SAFETY BASICS: ALWAYS keep the gun pointed in a safe direction. ALWAYS keep your finger off the trigger until ready to shoot. ALWAYS keep the gun unloaded until ready to use.

THE TASTY SAUGER (SANDER CANADENSIS)

The sauger, found in waterways across Minnesota, is closely related to the popular walleye and is every bit as tasty.

They have a torpedo shaped body and dual dorsal fins, characteristic of the perch family. Though differentiating them from the walleye can be difficult the defining characteristics include dark spots on the leading dorsal fin, irregular dark spots on the body, and the lack of a white tip on the lower tail. The adult measures 12-15 inches. It has a reflective layer in their eyes that aid in night vision.

They thrive in deeper and murkier haunts. They spawn after the walleyes spawn and in slightly deeper water. The females broadcast their eggs over gravel or rock substrates which are then fertilized by males broadcasting milt. The eggs hatch in 1-3 weeks.

Tackle and methods used for walleyes are also good for catching the sauger.

EMAILS WANTED: Remember, the next time you renew your membership, or even tomorrow, let us know your email address so you may receive our enhanced newsletter electronically. Emails may be sent to Tina Sund.

UNITED NORTHERN SPORTSMEN'S NEWS

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