

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 65

MARCH 2020

NUMBER 3

\$12.00

Club Calendar

- March 4** **UNS Board Meeting ****
Sportmen's Retreat
6:00 PM Pot Luck
7:00 PM Meeting
Speaker: Greg Brisky, Agent
UNS Insurance Update
- April 1** **UNS Board Meeting ****
Sportmen's Retreat
6:00 PM Pot Luck
7:00 PM Meeting
- April 25** **UNS Annual Banquet**

**** Members are encouraged to attend!!**

Shooting Hours

A reminder about our shooting times. The ranges are open from 8:00 a.m. to ½ hour before sunset. Range 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.

CAMP HOST POSITION FOR THE 2020 CAMPING SEASON

The United Northern Sportsmen operates a campground at our property on the shores of Island Lake which is staffed by a campground host from Memorial Day through Labor Day. The club is looking for a person to fill the position of Campground Host for the 2020 camping season. This position includes free camping with electrical power, water hookup, waste disposal and an annual combination membership.

If this opportunity is of interest to you, please contact the club president, Tom Wasbotten at 218-721-4864 or 763-228-8889 for complete details.

UNITED NORTHERN SPORTSMEN'S CLUB 2020 ANNUAL BANQUET

Doors open at 5 pm, Dinner served at 6:30 pm

It's banquet time again and the club could use your help!

Our Annual Banquet is just around the corner, and will be held on Saturday April 25. This event is one of our biggest fundraisers which will help support our youth activities. Such as sending kids to Long Lake Youth Conservation Camp, Youth Field Day, & United Northern Youth Fishing Clinic. We also support some of our local Trap & Archery Teams, as well as the St Louis County Sheriff's Rescue Squad, Wildwoods, Saint Louis River Alliance, Town Of Gnesen Community, and the Minnesota Conservation Federation.

Come join us! Bring a friend. We will have a Gun Raffle, Meat Raffle, Silent Auction, and Prize Drawings donated by your local area businesses. Our delicious dinner will be provided by Blackwood's. We would love for you to join us for a fun evening of good food, great prizes, and good people.

The price this year remains at \$25 per person. You can mail your completed registration found at the end of this newsletter along with a check payable to UNS, to Dan Smestad, 4239 Stebner Road, Hermantown, MN 55811, 218-349-8101. Registration must be received by April 11th to be eligible for the Early Bird Drawing. After April 18th the cost will be \$35 per person. Tickets will be picked up on the evening of the banquet at the front door.

United Northern Sportsmen is seeking donations and volunteers for the 2020 annual banquet being held at the Shrine Auditorium - 5152 Miller Trunk Highway. Donations are needed for raffle prizes and silent auction items. UNS is a 501(C)3 nonprofit and any donations collected are tax deductible.

Banquet volunteers are needed to help: Collect donations; Prepare and organize prizes and raffles several days before; Set up the day of; Distribute prizes during; and Clean up after.

To donate or volunteer to help with donations contact: Duane Lasley, duanelasley@gmail.com, 218-310-4273. Other volunteers contact: Eric Hansen, gonefishing0101@hotmail.com, 218-831-8646.

UNITED NORTHERN YOUTH FISHING CLINIC

This year the United Northern Sportsmen will be running a fishing clinic for youth sometime in June. It will be sponsored by Marine General. Traditionally UNS has held a 2 1/2 hour teaching event for kids ages 6 up to 12 in early June taught by a pro angler and called the School of Fish. Students will learn about lakes, finding fish in those lakes and some great ways to catch them. They will also learn to tie a fishing knot and rig and use a slip-bobber setup.

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE FOR SUMMER CAMPS AT LONG LAKE CONSERVATION CENTER

UNS is giving up to four scholarships to send some lucky kids to camp. The programs cover ages 10-16 and take place from June 10th - August 1st. The flyer for this is posted on LongLakeCC.org. If you have any kids or grandkids interested have them email or write a note to Tom Wasbotten, 218-721-4864, twasbotten@outlook.com.

NATURAL CURIOSITIES

We have a small pond next to our house, which is located on the edge of a farm field with no other houses next to it. Every spring for at least the last 10 to 15 years we have had a pair of mallards in the pond. They come as soon as the ice starts to melt in late March or April and hang around until late spring or early summer. Usually the pond dries up in the summer. Could these mallards be the same birds that keep coming back each year? CH, Rogers

Yes—and no, DNR waterfowl expert Steve Cordts tells us. It well could be the same female or her offspring. Mallards can live 10 to 15 years. Female mallards tend to return to the same area each year to nest, and young mallards often nest near where they're hatched. Not so for the guys, though: Minnesota mallards pair each year on their wintering grounds in the southern United States and Mexico, and the male follows the female to her chosen spot in the spring.

Last year I constructed a deer stand using new treated lumber for the legs. This year I found a bear had chewed nearly halfway through some of the legs about 6 feet high. I have other stands nearby constructed with the same materials with no issues. Is there some reason the bear attacked only this stand? CK, Columbus

Sorry to hear about that! Bears are often attracted to unique, unnatural, strong smells—such as oil-based products, electrical tape, and distinctive chemicals, says DNR bear scientist Dave Garshelis. It's likely that the new stand, with fresh wood, had a stronger smell than the others. It's also possible that the new wood contained different chemicals than the older stands. It's not all that typical for bears to chew treated wood, but some still do—unfortunately for you.

On a friend's property in Lindstrom, beavers dropped a 5-1/2-foot circumference poplar tree into the wetlands near the lake's shoreline. Isn't it unusual for beavers to seek out a tree this size when there are numerous smaller trees in the area? DM, Circle Pines

This is not so unusual, says DNR furbearer expert John Erb. Beavers always have to consider trade-offs in what and where they cut. While a large tree may take more time and effort, it also offers a lot of rewards in the form of lots of smaller branches. It makes sense that the beavers chose a tree near water, too. They are close to safety should they need to flee as they're working on the tree. And if their felling skills are well honed, the tree will fall into the water and they can cut and float branches to their pond. In other words, beavers can cut about any size tree they want, and they often do cut very large trees if they decide the rewards outweigh the risks.

We are fortunate to have a pair of pileated woodpeckers as regular visitors to our suet feeders. Hairy woodpeckers are also regulars. We have observed some quite aggressive behavior from the male pileated. He chases the hairy woodpecker from the suet feeder to nearby trees, then climbs up the tree beneath the hairy until it flies. When the hairy comes back to the feeder the pileated appears and chases it away again. What is going on? MH, Duluth

Woodpeckers start to be very territorial in midwinter, so the behavior the pileateds are exhibiting fits the bill—so to speak—says former DNR wildlife educator Jan Welsh. She has watched a similar situation play out at her own feeding station. Sometimes the hairy woodpeckers even harass downy woodpeckers. When that happens, Welsh adds an extra suet feeder or two to lessen the conflict zone. Things calm down later in the spring when breeding season starts to wind down.

With permission from Minnesota Conservation Volunteer, March-April 2020

UNS BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING FEBRUARY 5, 2020

Call to Order: by President Tom Wasbotten at 7:00 pm. Conservation Pledge.

Board members present: Tom Wasbotten, John Bathke, Kyle Berg, Judy Foy, Mike Foy, Lance Hauvisto, Bob Kuettel, Duane Lasley, Lance Parthe, Gene Shaw, Dan Smestad, Tina Sund.

Guest: Chris Blazer, MN DNR Wildlife Manager.

Presentation: by Chris Balzer about forest and wildlife management on MN WMAs and AMAs.

Motion to approve the agenda with additions was moved, seconded and carried (M/S/C).

Motion to approve the minutes with corrections from the January 8th BOD meeting: Motion to accept the minutes as corrected (M/S/C).

Treasurer's Report - Tina Sund: Presented financial reports as of 1/31/2020. Motion made to approve the Treasurer's Report and pay the bills (M/S/C).

Membership Secretary's Report- Tina Sund: 1,661 total members; New member renewals: 28 singles and 8 combos. Renewal notices sent - 73, 21 second/expired notices.

Committee Reports:

Web Master – Eric Hansen: Eric Hansen updated the website and Facebook.

Newsletter Editor – Sue Bathke: Deadline is 2/10.

Incident Report: Shooters were here after shooting hours.

Finance Committee – John Bathke: Monitoring the budget vs actual income and expense and considering strategy for the Fidelity account.

Lance Parthe was installed as a board member.

OLD BUSINESS:

UNS Website Committee – Bob Kuettel: Bob reported that the committee is nearly done with the new website, now working on the membership list.

2020 Ice Fishing Contest – Eric Hansen, Tom Wasbotten, Tina Sund: – Tina reported the preliminary results show this to be the best outcome in at least 12 years, 530 fishermen, 230 vehicles. Snow plowing expense was much higher than previous. Tom thanked the volunteers.

Banquet – April 25: Final organizing meeting will be April 18 at the retreat. Final setup will be 11:00AM on the 25th. Sending out reminder post cards would cost \$455.00.

NEW BUSINESS:

Motion to approve: Isaac Walton League has asked UNS to contribute to their Earth Day celebration, which is youth oriented. Motion to donate \$250.00 (M/S/C).

Winter Camping – Motion to deny: (M/S) – Motion to Table: (C).

President's Comments – Increasing UNS dues was discussed. Board Member responsibilities was passed out.

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

Respectfully submitted by John Bathke.

Next meeting is the March BOD membership meeting on March 4th, 7pm at the Retreat.

EMAIL ADDRESSES WANTED

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. We are half way toward our goal of 95% participation in emailing out all of our communications. 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.

THIS IS FOR THE BIRDS

Pish (noun, verb): A repeating “pssh” sound made by birdwatchers to attract birds. Also, the act of making the sound.

This sound mimics an alarm call and can draw songbirds into visual range, according to bird expert Bob Dunlap. Hobbyist birders may use pishing to attract the likes of chickadees, nuthatches and finches. The common yellowthroat, which breeds statewide in summer, is especially responsive to pishing. Though some say the practice puts stress on the birds, Dunlap says it is accepted “fairly universally” in the birding community. However, he never pishes during DNR fieldwork, when he surveys birds, explaining, “We don’t want to artificially attract birds to us as this would confound our results.”

A robin building a nest outside my kitchen window started picking up wet leaves and other building materials and hanging them on a nearby wire. I’ve never seen this before and I am quite amazed! Was it putting them there to dry? JC, Minneapolis

What you observed is a common robin nesting behavior, says DNR bird behavior expert Lori Naumann. Robins collect and stash nesting materials as they are able, then incorporate them into the nest once they obtain mud to hold it all together. The materials might not always be so close to the nest, Naumann says, so folks might not connect the collection of dead vegetation with nest building when they see it.

With permission from Minnesota Conservation Volunteer, March-April 2020

UNITED NORTHERN SPORTSMEN’S NEWS PO Box 161108, Duluth, MN 55816

www.uns-duluth.com
unsclub@gmail.com

2020 Board of Directors

President Tom Wasbotten	218-721-4864 763-228-8889
Vice President Bob Kuettel	218-393-2000
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
Camp Host	

Directors:

John Bathke	612-991-5363
Kyle Berg	218-491-4634
Judy Foy	218-591-2391
Mike Foy	218-390-2391
Lance Haavisto	906-235-8483
Vickie Jensen	218-591-5619
Lance Parthe	218-349-5555
Gene Shaw	218-348-2191
Dan Smestad	218-349-8101

2020 UNITED NORTHERN SPORTSMEN’S AWARDS BANQUET REGISTRATION FORM

NAME(S) _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE NUMBER _____ EMAIL ADDRESS _____

NUMBER ATTENDING (\$25 PER PERSON) _____ PLEASE PROVIDE NAMES OF ALL ATTENDING.

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