

# 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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MAY 2021

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## Club Calendar

May 1	UNS Camping Season Begins
May 3	Ranges Closed, Maintenance
May 5	UNS Board Meeting 7pm, Held Virtually
May 6	Trap Range, Team 4-7pm
May 10	Ranges Closed, Maintenance
May 13	Trap Range, Team 4-7pm
May 17	Ranges Closed, Maintenance
May 20	Trap Range, Team 4-7pm
May 24	Ranges Closed, Maintenance
May 27	Trap Range, Team 4-7pm
May 31	Ranges Closed, Maintenance
June 2	UNS Board Meeting 7pm, Held Virtually
July 7	UNS Board Meeting 7pm, Held Virtually

### UNS TO HOLD VIRTUAL MEETINGS UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE!

All members are encouraged to attend.

## 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 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](http://www.unitednorthernsportsmen.org)

## UNS 2021 CAMPING SEASON OPENS

The 2021 UNS camping season starts on May 1st and closes on October 15th. Our **Peak Season** runs from the Friday before Memorial Day (This year that is May 28th.) through the Monday of Labor Day (This year that is September 6th.). During the Peak Season Individual or Family Memberships are limited to 14 days of camping.

Your board of directors recently approved a revised version of the UNS Official Club Rules and they go into effect on April 7th. We are in the process of sending out copies to all members. Copies are also available at the clubhouse or from the Camp Host. We ask all members take the time to review the document, understand the regulations, and abide by them. Below we mention some that pertain to camping.

A member intending to camp at UNS must register immediately upon arriving and before setting up camp. When you fill out the camping pass, please identify the members of your family who will be on the property. Day guests must also register immediately on arrival. Keep in mind UNS is a private club and camping is for Members only. **We do not allow any guests to stay overnight.** However, as a courtesy to members who may want to have a guest during the day, daily guest passes are available on a one-day basis (8:00am until 11:00pm). The number allowed is limited to one guest per Individual Membership and two guests per Family Membership, no exceptions. And it is your responsibility in the evening to make sure your day guest(s) are off the club property no later than 11:00pm.

We have a total of 37 camp sites available on a first come first serve basis. No campsite may be held or reserved for another party. About a third of the sites have an electrical hookup and a few have a water hookup. Shower facilities are available on a fee basis. Please only two vehicles (car and/or truck) are allowed per campsite at any time and one wheeled RV. Quiet time is 11:00pm to 8:00am CST. Along the lake- the campsites and picnic areas have been reconfigured and improved.

Finally, please take the opportunity to welcome our new Camp Host, Ron Cretens. Ron is looking forward to helping you make your camping stay a positive experience. We hope you all have a great camping season.

## UNS BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES APRIL 7, 2021

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

**Moment of Silence:** Bob Bourassa and Dan Smestad

**Roll call of officers:** Tina Sund, Tom Wasbotten, John Bathke, Lance Haavisto, Jeff Jarvela, Lance Parthe, Vickie Jensen, Gene Shaw, Duane Lasley, Judy Foy, Mike Foy and Cody Privette.

**Excused Officers:** None **Members and Guests Present:** Sue Bathke, Eric Hansen, Ron Cretens, Bob Kuettel.

**Correspondence:** Gnesen Township Newsletter

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

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

**Treasurer's Report: Tina Sund as of 3/31/21:** United Quarterly property taxes are due. Discussion followed about making 1 annual payment instead of biannual payments. Motion made to make a single annual payment (M/S/C). Motion made to approve the report and pay bills (M/S/C).

**Membership Secretary's Report: Tina Sund as of 3/31/21:** Current membership is 1830 with 65 individual memberships & 25 family memberships and 27 - 2nd notices were sent out.

### Committee Reports:

**Webmaster – Eric Hansen:** The April newsletter was posted and updated range reservations and events on Facebook and website. Discussion followed further about domains..

**Newsletter – Sue Bathke:** Deadline for the newsletter is 4/15. Would like to know your favorite rod and reel for fishing.

**Facilities Committee – Lance Parthe:** 3 Saturdays ago, we were flooded with new members thyt appeared to be first time gun owners with several safety issues. There is still an ongoing problem wuth shooting before 8am. Someone moved target stands and didn't move them back. Ground is soft. A lot of work down by the lake.

**Incident Reports – Lance Parthe:** Discussed above. Tom Wasbotten gave an overview of the response from the member that misused the pistol range.

**Range and Grounds Calendar – Bob Kuettel & Lance Parthe:** Discussion followed about a Google Calendar for range reservations.

**Grants Committee – Gene Shaw:** Nothing new to share..

**Volunteer Committee – Tina Sund:** Peggy and Mike Baumgartner have updated hours and Eric Hansen has 925 hours.

**Tom Wasbotten::** Discussion followed about the need to review the volunteer award sheets.

**Finance Committee – John Bathke:** Committee met. Items are on the agenda below.

### OLD BUSINESS:

**UNS Summer Walleye Fishing Contest/Kids Fishing Class – Gene Shaw:** Gene gave an overview of the possibility of hosting a fishing contest via catch-photo-release with Fish Donkey.

### NEW BUSINESS:

**Youth Outdoor Field Day 2021 – Tom Wasbotten:** Cody Privette will chat with Paul Pederson from MDHA to see what the thoughts are for hosting the event.

**Donation Request Deadline for May Meeting Disbursement – Tom Wabotten:** Tom gave an overview the need to respond to donation requests from local groups. We have several requests: Wildwoods rehab, Two Harbors Trap Team, Lakeview Christian Academy Trap Team. Please ask any interested groups to submit their requests.

**Change in Campsite Layout On The Lakeside – Lance Parthe:** Discussion followed about the proposed layout change to the lakeside camping spots. Motion to approve. Discussion followed (M/S/C).

**Official Opening & Closing Dates for the UNS Campground – Tom Wasbotten:** Gave overview of the need to set opening and closing dates for the campground. Motion to set the campground opening date of the Friday before fishing opener and close October 15th (M/S). Motion that we amend the motion to change the date to 5/1 through 10/15. Amendment (M/S/C). Motion to further amend that someone can camp outside of those dates with BOD approval (M/S). Further amendment (M/S/C). Motion as amended as further amended (M/S/C).

**Rules Committee Request Board Approval of New UNS Club Rules – Tom Wasbotten:** Discussion followed about proposed changes to the current rules. Motion to approve the new rules (M/S/C).

**Members sick or in distress:** Nothing to share.

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

Respectfully submitted by Cody Privette, Secretary.

Next meeting will be held on May 5th at 7pm via Zoom.

## VOLUNTEER NEEDED

The Bong Veterans Historical Center is putting together trips to take two groups of veterans to the BWCA, one on July 12th - 18th and the second one a week later from July 26th – August 1st. The Center has one volunteer to be a co-leader for the trips and is looking for another volunteer to be a co-leader for the trips. If you would be interested and able to be a co-leader, or if you know of anyone else that is interested, contact: Duane Lasley, duanelasley@gmail.com, 218-310-4273.

## WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE ROD AND REEL?

When UNS Board Members were asked, "What rod and reel do you go to the most that you would like to share with Newsletter readers?" Tina Sund was the first to respond and her favorite rod is her Pink - Ugly Stick. Eric Hansen said, "Ugly Stick: so far it has not broken like my Fenwick rod did!" For Tom Wasbotten it is his St. Croix Rod and an Abu Garcia Spinning Reel. Echo ion XL 7wt fly rod and Echo ion reel is the favorite of Lance Haavisto. Gene Shaw says his favorite walleye rod & reel combo is a 6 foot Cardinal 2 rod and Shimamo reel. According to Jeff Jarvela his, "favorite rod & reel, St. Croix rod with an Abu Garcia spinning reel (first "real reel" I bought when I was a kid)." Duane Lasley reports that his favorite is Cabela's IM6, 6' ultralight rod, Gander spinning reel w 4# line. John Bathke's favorite is an 80 year old 7' split bamboo #1 wt fly rod and reel.

## WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO FISH FOR IN MAY?

General Season Opener for Northeastern Minnesota:

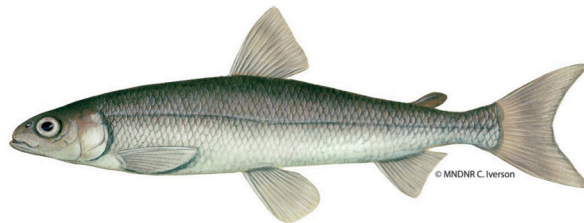
4/17/21-9/30/21	<a href="#">Stream Trout</a> (* check regulations for limits)
5/15/21-10/31/21	Stream Trout in lakes (*), walleye & sauger (6 combined), northern pike (2 with size restriction)
5/15/21-2/27/22	Smallmouth and largemouth bass (6 combined)
6/5/21-12/1/21	Muskies (1, minimum 54")
Continuous Season	Crappie and sunfish (See guidelines below), rock bass (30), white bass (30), perch (20 daily, 40 possess), bullhead (100), whitefish and smelt (no limit).

Sunfish anglers will need to closely check the 2021 Minnesota Fishing Regulations booklet and signs at water accesses for new sunfish limits that are now in effect on 94 waters.

The new regulations only modify daily limits on the affected waterbodies. Anglers can only keep the prescribed number of fish per day from the water but can return the next day for another limit as long as they don't exceed the statewide inland water possession limit of 20 sunfish per angler.

The new sunfish regulations only include inland waters of Minnesota. Specifically, 44 waters will have a new daily limit of 5 sunfish, 31 will have a limit of 10 sunfish, 17 will have a limit of 5 sunfish and 5 crappie, and 2 will have a limit of 10 sunfish and 5 crappies. In addition to the new waters, there are 57 waters that previously had reduced limits for sunfish and these regulations remain in effect. Check out [helpful guides](#) on catching sunfish, bass and other fish. Of course now you can determine what lures or bait you want to try (there are six basic types of artificial lures but many variations to choose from) To learn more about each, download our guide. [PDF](#) And you will need a place to catch these whily fish. [Find a place to fish](#) on the DNR website which has maps for 4,500 fishing lakes, trout streams, fishing piers, urban ponds, canoe landings and more.

Spending time with someone who already fishes is the easiest way to learn or remember to fish. Likewise, spending time while fishing is not only relaxing but is also a great way to share some of your knowledge. For additional resources check out [learn to fish opportunities](#).



## SMELT ON THE NORTH SHORE

Many Minnesotans remember the heyday of the smelt in the 1960s and 70s, when Lake Superior's smelt population peaked and thousands of netters could haul home buckets of fish. Although still popular among a few avid folks, this spring activity is no longer the big carnival-like event it once was. Smelt numbers have declined significantly from peak abundance in the 1970s because of predation by an increasing lake trout population and the establishment of Pacific salmon, interactions with lake herring, and the usual decline that is typical after the initial boom of an invading exotic species. With Lake Superior restored to a more natural state, we are unlikely to experience a resurgence of smelt to the levels that anglers recall from the 1960s and 70s. There is still a smelt run in most years, but it is minor compared to the smelt runs of the past.

Smelt generally enter streams in mid to late April when the water in the tributaries warms into the upper 40 degree F range. Smelt are light sensitive and run in shallow water at night, so most smelting takes place at night, when the fish are moving into the streams. Smelt can rarely jump over the first set of rapids upstream from the mouth, which is why the best netting is usually near the lake. The equipment is simple: a pair of hip boots or waders, a long-handled net, and a bucket for the netted fish. [Press here for more about smelt](#).

For a really great story about this year's smelt run read the Northland Outdoors article [Smelt run draws netters to Duluth for tasty spring tradition](#) written by Jeff Myers.

## MINNESOTA DNR REMINDER TO PREVENT SPRING CONFLICTS WITH BEARS

As bears emerge from hibernation, their metabolism gradually ramps up and they will begin looking for food at a time when berries and green vegetation are scarce. To avoid season-long problems, take the time now to remove or secure anything that could attract a bear such as birdseed, garbage, livestock feed or compost. The best way to avoid problems with bears is to not attract them in the first place. Once a bear finds a food source, it will return repeatedly. Bears prefer natural foods and are especially attracted to calorie-dense food sources. They have an incredible sense of smell, are opportunistic and are easily attracted to foods or food sources provided by humans (including things like dog food, birdseed and grease). [See DNR tips.](#)

Black bears are the only bear species that live in the wild in Minnesota. Bears are more common in the forested region of northern Minnesota, but can live anywhere in the state if they find an area of suitable habitat. They usually are shy and flee when encountered. Never approach or try to pet a bear. Injury to people is rare, but bears are potentially dangerous because of their size, strength and speed.

People should be cautious around bears and give them space. If bear problems persist after cleaning up food sources, contact your DNR area wildlife office for advice. For the name of the local wildlife manager, contact the DNR Information Center at (651) 296-6157 or (888) 646-6367, or find [wildlife area office](#) contact information on the DNR website.

## PHENOLOGY or WHAT IS GOING ON IN MAY IN THE NORTHLAND

Turtles are coming out of hibernation as are the bears.

The last Juncos came through the North Shore last Wednesday migrating through to Canada. Birds tend to migrate at night. Check out [this link](#) for the bird migration.

Tamaracks are beginning to bud out as well as the Mountain Ash.

The Lupine are beginning to leaf out and leeks are beginning to show up in the forest.

English translations of full moon names date back a few hundred years to Native Americans living in what is now the northern and eastern United States. Those tribes kept track of the seasons by giving distinctive names to each recurring full moon. In May it is a full Flower Moon. Since the Lunar month is roughly 29.5 days on average, the dates of the full moon shift from year to year. There were some variations in moon names between groups, but, in general, the same ones were used throughout the Algonquin tribes from New England to Lake Superior. European settlers followed their own customs and created some of their own names.

Venture outside at 6:13am on Wednesday, May 26th to catch peak illumination of the full Flower Moon.

**EMAILS WANTED:** Remember, the next time you renew your membership, or even tomorrow, please let us know your email address so you may receive our enhanced newsletter electronically sooner. Emails may be sent to Duane Lasley, [duanellasley@gmail.com](mailto:duanellasley@gmail.com).

**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 or photos please send to [sue@b-green.us](mailto:sue@b-green.us). It may be shared space permitting.

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### UNITED NORTHERN SPORTSMEN'S NEWS

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#### 2021 Board of Directors

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