



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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2016 Youth Outdoor field Day

Our 9th Annual Youth Outdoor Field Day went off without a hitch again this year (except for some problems with the laser shot) and we are looking forward to our tenth annual. We had 69 youths attend and two lucky boys and two lucky girls went home with new guns. The laser shot system was loaned to us from the MN DNR and we had problems with it. If anyone knows where we could buy a used one, or rent one for a day, please give me a call. (218-722-2711) We can't justify buying a new one for around \$8,000 and only use it one time a year. However it would be nice as that seems to be one of the favorite stations each year. Also, if anyone would like to make comments (Pro or con) on how to better this event, or change something, please contact me at the above number or email me. You can go to our website and leave an email there and it will be sure to find me (that is if Eric has done his homework right). Thank you to all of the UNS and MDHA volunteers for a job well done. We couldn't have done it without you. We are checking into the possibility of having wireless speakers at each station but we don't know if it is economically feasible.

Fall Fund-raiser just around the corner

Tickets should be in the mail in a week or so and we ask all to try their hardest to sell them for us or buy them yourselves. (They are only \$1.00.)

Club Calendar

- Sept. 1** Crow season opens
Bear season opens
- Sept. 3** Early Canada goose season opens
- Sept. 5** Labor Day 2016
- Sept. 7** UNS Board Meeting
Sportsman's Retreat
6:00 PM Pot Luck
7:00 PM Board Meeting
Work Party prior to
- Sept. 8** Application deadline for
Antlerless deer/ Special Hunts
- Sept. 14** UNS Membership Meeting
Sportsman's Retreat
6:00 PM Pot Luck
7:00 PM Membership Meeting
- Sept. 17** Deer Archery season, grouse,
grey partridge, wabbit and
Squirrel seasons open

UNS – MDHA Youth Outdoor Field Day

As Ken stated in the previous article; the YOFD went off without a hitch at all. Four lucky youngsters, 2 boys and 2 girls went home with new guns just in time for the upcoming hunting seasons. We had 68 youths go through the 8 stations and I'm sure they all had fun and learned a lot from the instructors. I would like to thank all of the volunteers for a job well done and hope to see everyone back again next year. Thanks again to

WDIO television and Dan Romano for their job well done.

(Club Notes Continued)

Ass'n (MDHA) members can't make it, so we could use a couple additional helpers. Registration: 35 kids signed up, MDHA has at least 30 signed up. Duane Lasley picked up additional supplies.

NEW BUSINESS:

UNS Club Facilities Use Rules: #11: board recommendation that electricity is to be paid before the power is turned on for camp sites. Motion made by Duane Lasley 2nd by John Bathke, carried. Bob Kuettel made a motion to allow Gary Holter to stay an extra 2 weeks camping since he cannot get back into his house yet. Discussion followed that Gary could earn extra camping nights in exchange for volunteer work per club rules.

Minnesota Conservation Federation (MCF): John Bathke made motion to pay \$274.31 + mileage for Joe and Sandy Roberts to attend the conference, 2nd by Duane Lasley, carried with 2 abstaining

St Louis Cty Rescue Fund: Motion by Sandy Roberts to donate \$250.00, 2nd by John Bathke, carried.

Friends of the National rifle Ass'n (FNRA) donation: Joe Roberts made motion to donate \$1250 and to request the Henry Golden Boy, 2nd by Duane Lasley, discussion carried

Additional security cameras costs: John Bathke made a motion to spend \$1000 for add'l security cameras to cover UNS grounds and, electrify the rifle and pistol ranges, 2nd by Duane Lasley, carried with one nay vote.

Fall fund raisers & Sight-in: Tina Sund will chair the Fall Fund Raiser, Bob Kuettel will chair the Fall Sight-in days

2017 Banquet: We need someone to check out dates

2018 UNS Ice Fishing Contest: Dan Woollett recommended Jan 22 (he will be available on that date). Eric will check availability on the DNR web site.

Used equipment listed on web site: Joe Roberts says a member asked about listing used equipment on UNS Web Site. (It will be discussed at board meeting)

Correspondence: was shared

Attendance Drawing: Mike Foy won the \$20.00

Progressive Drawing: Charlie Rounds was not present, therefore did not win \$80.00.

Members sick or in distress: none reported.

Adjournment: motion was made by John Bathke 2nd by Mike Drager at 8:30pm; carried.

Respectfully submitted by Eric Hansen, Secretary.

Minnesota's wolf population remains stable

Results from the latest wolf population survey show no significant change in Minnesota's wolf population during the past four winters, according to the Department of Natural Resources.

The latest survey results estimate that within Minnesota's wolf range there were 439 wolf packs and 2,278 wolves last winter, compared to 374 packs and 2,221 wolves the year before. There has been no biologically or statistically significant change in the size of the statewide mid-winter wolf population over the past four years.

"The consistent wolf population surveys over the last several years are further evidence of the health and stability of Minnesota's wolf population," said Dan Stark, large carnivore specialist for the DNR.

The population survey is conducted in mid-winter near the low point of the annual population cycle. Immediately following birth of pups each spring, the wolf population typically doubles, though many pups do not survive to the following winter.

Minnesota's wolf population remains above the state's minimum goal of at least 1,600 wolves and is above the federal recovery goal of 1,251 to 1,400.

Although the population estimate was not significantly different from last year, survey results suggest wolf packs used less area on average than the previous year (62 versus 73 square miles), resulting in an increase in the estimated number of packs. This pattern is consistent with the increase in deer numbers observed in many parts of wolf range.

According to John Erb, DNR wolf research scientist, when prey numbers change, wolves must eventually re-adjust to the new conditions.

"In recent years we've observed a decline in prey that translated into larger wolf pack territories, and the reverse is now to be expected if deer numbers continue to increase," Erb said.

The survey estimated an average of 4.4 wolves per pack, down from an average pack size of 5.1 wolves per pack in last year's survey. The slight drop in average pack size from last winter could be a result of many factors, although pack size is not as correlated with prey density as is territory size. The late start and early end to winter snow cover reduced the amount of time available for wolf pack counts, which could contribute to a lower estimate.

"Regardless of the explanation, over the past 30 years, average mid-winter pack size has not shown much variability, ranging from 5.6 to 4.3," Erb said. "Counts are assumed to represent minimum estimates given the challenges with detecting all members of a pack together at the same time."

The DNR's goal for wolf management, as outlined in the state's wolf management plan, is to ensure the long-term survival of wolves in Minnesota while addressing wolf-human conflicts. Wolves in Minnesota returned to the federal list of threatened species as a result of a Washington, D.C. federal district court ruling in December 2014.

Visit the DNR website page on the [gray wolves](#) to find the full report, an FAQ and an overview of wolf management in the state, including the wolf management plan.

Club Notes Aug 10, 2016

Call to order: by President Tom Wasbotten @ 7:00 pm. Conservation Pledge.

Roll call of officers: Tom Wasbotten, Bob Kuettel, Eric Hansen, Joe Roberts, Sandy Roberts, Tina Sund, John Bathke, Mike Drager, Judy Foy, Mike Foy, Gary Holter, Bob Klein, David Shrader, Dan Smestad, Duane Lasley.

Agenda additions: Motion to approve the agenda by John Bathke 2nd by Duane Lasley, carried.

Reading of Minutes: Eric Hansen read minutes from the 7.13.16 Membership meeting. Motion to accept minutes as corrected by Bob Kuettel 2nd by John Bathke carried. Synopsis of Board of Directors minutes from 8.3.16 was read.

Treasurer's report: Tina Sund, Jim Lemmerman made a motion to accept the report and pay our bills, 2nd by John Bathke, carried.

Membership secretary's report: Sandy Roberts – current membership is 1563. 46 2nd notices were sent out, deposit was \$5760.

Committee reports:

Web master – Eric Hansen: made updates to range reservations and events on the web site and on Face Book

Incident reports – Mike Foy reported there was an incident but it will be discussed at the Board meeting

Retreat maintenance – Bob Kuettel met with Keith Anderson about repainting the UNS sign: he is

making progress; Gopher1 has been called to mark the utilities for installing the new posts. We will need a work party for installing them

Grants committee - Mike Drager spoke with Duane Madison who is finishing 'landscape' work on Large Bore range, Mike will bring fill for planting grass seed. Mike met with Denny Lemay & Eric Linder about grants from NRA and read info regarding NRA grants across the UNS. No one is getting 100% funding, most projects were funded at about 1/3.

Volunteer awards – Dan Smestad, volunteer boards were up to date @ 18:45 then late entries came in: Howard Farmer 267 hrs, Tom Wasbotten 503 hrs, Dave Shrader 758 hrs

Brass report – Dave Shrader had a few sales totaling approx \$35

Facilities calendar – Bob Kuettel reported another late reservation: (General Security) and read the list of reservations.

Campground issues – Joe Roberts, nothing to report

OLD BUSINESS:

Range paving: completed. Thank you, Mike Drager for writing the grant for the work.

Summer picnic: Aug 6. Sandy Roberts reports 131 showed up, beautiful weather.

Fence Post insurance claim: Tom Wasbotten reports check came in for \$1838.38 and was deposited.

Const & by-laws committee: Bob Kuettel, committee will be meeting on Wed and will email board when discussion of issues is complete.

Youth Field Day: (August 13) Joe Roberts reports all systems are "GO", 2 Minnesota Deer Hunter's

(Continued on Page 3)

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