



UNITED NORTHERN

Sportsmen'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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February Speaker

The speaker for the February 9th Membership Meeting has been confirmed and I was asked to run the article from January's Sportsmen's News again so here it is.

A number of members have had questions concerning PolyMet and their plans for the Iron Range. Well Eric Hansen has arranged to have a speaker from PolyMet at our February meeting. PolyMet is poised to begin mining in Minnesota's Duluth Complex – which contains one of the world's largest undeveloped non-ferrous metal deposits. PolyMet will mine and process metals used in daily life, including: **copper** - construction, plumbing and electric wiring, **Nickel** - stainless steel and rechargeable batteries, **Cobalt** - household magnets and hybrid vehicles, **Platinum & palladium** - catalytic converters that reduce automobile pollution and **gold** - jewelry, dental and medical applications, computers and electronics. Hopefully we will have a good turnout at our meeting at Gander Mountain and you will all get your questions answered. Remember the date: February 9th at 7:00 PM at Gander Mountain

58th Annual Ice Fishing Contest

This paper went to print prior to the Ice Fishing Contest so the results will be in the next newsletter. I'm sure the word will be

out as to who won the big money though so just ask someone who was there for the names. Thanks for your understanding

Club Calendar

- Feb. 2..... UNS Board Meeting
Gander Mountain
7:00 PM
- Feb. 9..... UNS Membership Meeting
Gander Mountain
Polymet Rep. for speaker
7:00 PM
- Feb. 14..... HAPPY VALENTINES DAY!
- Feb. 16..... Boat, Sports & Travel Show
DECC (2/16 – 2/20)
- Feb. 19..... Take a Kid Ice Fishing Weekend
(2/19-2/20)
- Feb. 21..... President's Day
- Feb. 27..... Walleye, Sauger, Pike and Bass
Season ends Inland waters
- Feb. 28..... Mink, Muskrat, Rabbit and
Squirrel season closes

Problems

This was the month we were to begin a kind of dialog about Conservation and its relations with global warming, mining, and politics. And maybe later on but first, what a winter, eh? Each winter brings its own variations on the cold/snow theme – this one has already spawned the most snow-shoveling complaints in memory, and it's only mid-January as I write. Something else unique – if you've been in the outdoors since deer season and if there are lots of evergreens in your neck of the woods, you know what I mean. Never has there been so much heavy snow loading down and staying on the evergreens for such a long time. For those who like to go snow-shoeing or skiing in the winter woods, it's nearly impossible to do without getting a neckful or a faceful at every other step. And now the dreaded expression Cabin Fever has already come up. Cabin Fever is one of those vague terms used to portray a type of madness that everybody knows about, and everybody thinks he/she knows precisely what to do about, but which nobody can clearly define. And that brings us to another perennial theme which focuses our attention every time, gun control. Are you ready for some straight talk now?

Friends, we got a problem. With this latest instance in Tucson of an apparent incessant, untamed madness which ends with innocent people getting shot and killed. We got a problem. The American Public will demand action on this one, and rightly so. Our challenge will be to find, again (and soon), the patience and resources to successfully cope with the attacks already begun, again, on our gun rights. Letters to the editor in the Local Daily have been all negative. The Brady Campaign's local contingent quickly got their usual shopworn nonsense into the Paper – nothing new there but on 1-17 a letter from Bob Tammen of Soudan was published with the editor's caption: HUNTERS HAVE NO NEED FOR 30-ROUND MAGAZINES. Here is Tammen's entire letter: "I started hunting more than 50 years ago. As a duck hunter, I accepted the law that limited me to three rounds in my shotgun. What kind of madness has infected Americans who believe they are entitled

to a 30-round magazine when there's a possibility of shooting humans while willingly limiting themselves to three rounds for shooting ducks?"

See what Tammen has done with those few public words? He has given an editor the opportunity to print an outrageously inaccurate remark about hunters in general. He has presented himself as a stable, experienced, gun-owning, good guy citizen and hunter while insinuating that there are other American gun-owning hunters for whom none of those attributes apply – and who in fact might be quite mad and implicitly dangerous, besides. In short, he has walked right into the Brady/Million camp and by adopting their philosophy (blame the gun, not the criminal) and their tactics (vilify law-abiding gun owners), he has abandoned us and has become one of them. Good riddance. But, he is not the only one, by a long shot. Better get ready.

About 3-4 years ago I attended a Polymet presentation at Hartley sponsored by the local Ikes, and the room was packed. The Polymet people displayed and explained all about an advanced closed system – the smelting process was purported to be environmentally secure. Posing no threat to the surrounding area. That's all I can remember, and now it's your turn. Think Wednesday, Feb. 9th, 7 PM, Gander Mountain. UNS Monthly Meeting. Polymet will be there to present their mining project, and answer your questions. That's not a very big room at Gander so space will probably be limited. We'll not mince words – your auld scribbler is working up some reports on the state of affairs in global mining and I gotta tell ya, what I'm finding is scaring hell out of me. It's important that we have a good turnout at Gander on Feb. 9th – see you there?

Next Month: Solstice

Minnesota deer harvest climbs almost 7 percent in 2010

deal hunting weather during the opening weekend of Minnesota's firearms deer season helped hunters harvest 207,000 deer during the 2010 season, according to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

This is an increase of almost 7 percent from the 2009 harvest of 194,186 and the 13th largest harvest on record. Minnesota's deer harvests have moderated in recent years because the deer herd is at or near population goals across much of Minnesota. Due to varying local population differences, some areas of the state may have experienced a lower harvest rate.

"We didn't see a dramatic change in harvest this year because half of our deer permit areas were in the lottery designation, which allows for the harvest of only one deer annually," said Lou Cornicelli, DNR big game program coordinator.

Firearms hunters harvested 176,200 deer while archery and muzzleloader hunters harvested 21,500 and 9,300 deer, respectively. Archery hunters harvested 4 percent more deer in 2010. The muzzleloader harvest increased 12 percent from 2009.

Good weather during the opening weekend of firearms deer season likely resulted in hunters remaining in the field longer, which increased their chances of harvesting a deer. Also, most crops had been harvested, which reduced the amount of standing cover available to deer.

Once final population estimates are completed this spring, DNR will evaluate them against established population goals to determine the antlerless permit areas for 2011.

"Hunters should pay close attention to the hunting synopsis, which comes out in late July, to see if they need to apply for a lottery either-sex permit," Cornicelli said.

The final deer harvest number is calculated using information provided by hunters when they register their deer. Historical harvest information is available online at mndnr.gov/deer.

For the 2011 season, the deadline for the either-sex permit application will be Thursday, Sept. 8. Archery deer hunting will begin on Saturday, Sept. 17. The statewide firearms deer hunting season will open on Saturday, Nov. 5, while muzzleloader season opens on Saturday, Nov. 26.

DNR, NWTF mentored youth turkey applications due Monday, Feb. 14

First-time youth turkey hunters ages 12 to 17 have the chance to go afield this spring and learn from an experienced National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF) volunteer.

Applications, maps and general information for the wild turkey hunt are available online at www.mndnr.gov/youthturkey. Application deadline is midnight on Monday, Feb. 14. Participants will be selected through a random lottery.

"Mentored hunts are an excellent way to match a youth and their parent with an expert hunter to learn a life-long skill," said Mike Kurre, mentoring program coordinator for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR). "Not only do these hunts provide an opportunity for mentors to pass on their knowledge, they are quality family time afield."

This is the ninth consecutive year that the DNR and the NWTF have cooperated to provide opportunities for first-time youth turkey hunters. More than 1,000 youth have been introduced to this unique hunting experience since spring youth turkey hunts began in 2002.

Hunts will occur on Saturday, April 16 and Sunday, April 17, which is the first weekend of the regular wild turkey season. Nearly all youth will hunt on private land, thanks to the generosity of private landowners and the NWTF volunteers who obtained permissions.

To be eligible, a youth hunter must be age 12 to 17 on or before Saturday, April 16; have a valid firearms safety certificate; and be accompanied by a parent or guardian. The program is for first-time turkey hunters only. Any youth who has ever purchased or been selected by lottery for a Minnesota turkey license of any type is not eligible.

Hunters and their mentors will be assigned a NWTF volunteer guide, who must accompany both the youth and parent/guardian throughout the entire hunt.

Questions: 1-888-646-6367
