

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.

Volume 69

July 2024

Number 7

\$12.00

Club Calendar

Check First as Ranges May Be Closed for Maintenance, Reserved Activities & Holidays

July 13

Map & Compass

10AM – 4PM, Ages 11-17 and adults

July 20

Hybrid Firearms Safety Field Day

10AM – 4PM, Ages 11-17

July 27

St. Louis County Sheriff's Volunteer Rescue Squad

August 3

UNS Members Picnic 11AM – 4PM

Ranges are Closed during picnic.

August 17

Hybrid Firearms Safety Field Day

10 AM- 4 PM, ages 11-17

August 30-Sept 2

Labor Day Holiday Weekend

Ranges Closed at Sunset on 30th.

Thank you, Gary Olson & Wanda Taylor, for holding the **July 13th Map & Compass class** which was open to kids 11 years old up to adults. This class taught you basic skills to make sure you will always be able to navigate your way wherever you are, and not be confused.

St. Louis County Sheriff's Volunteer Rescue Squad to use the UNS waterfront area for a training exercise is scheduled to be held this **Saturday, July 27, 2023.**

The **UNS Picnic** will be held on Saturday, August 3, 2024. Make a weekend out of it and come camp. Camping during the picnic will not count towards your allotted camping days.

We will be sparking up the grill and have games for young and old alike. Pack up the lawn chairs; grab your kids, and if you are brave enough, the neighbor kids too! Head to the lake for a fun Saturday picnic! This event is free to members. [Registration required.](#)

July 20 Hybrid Firearms Safety Field Day
CLASS was FULL.

August 17 Hybrid Firearms Safety Field Day
CLASS IS FULL

A few notes for August at the club

There is going to be a string of flags set at the edge of the lakeside to help keep the geese off the grass. Please be respectful of it. That means stepping over it at the docks and taking it down and placing it back up at the boat launch. HOPEFULLY this will deter the geese and keep mess they make no longer a problem at the lakeside campsites.

ALSO, sometime in August the DNR has asked to use the UNS facilities on the lakeside to tag geese. Unfortunately, we do not know exactly when this will be.

The board has decided to not publish the monthly meeting minutes in the newsletter going forward. If you want to see the minutes you can get them on the website. **PLEASE** make sure we have your correct email information so you can receive the newsletter every month. Going forward starting in 2025 we are no longer going to do the mailed newsletters due to the high cost of postage. If you do not have email, please let Tina Sund know so we can work with you in this matter. I look forward to any suggestions you would like to see in the newsletter. Nancy Poppenberg

If you live in northern Minnesota, you cannot help but notice the increasing numbers of balsam tree that have died. According to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources in 2019 there were 201,700 acres in the Arrowhead region that were affected by the Spruce budworm.

The spruce budworm is a native forest insect that can defoliate and kill large areas of balsam fir and spruce trees, but balsam trees are the most susceptible.

St. Louis County Sheriffs office of Emergency Management has received a \$890,000 grant for the Community Wildfire Defense Grant, (also referred to as the CWDG) This grant is designed to increase wildfire awareness, reduce wildfire fuels, and help communities to be more wildfire resilient for years to come.

According to Gloria Erickson, who is the CWDF project coordinator for the St. Louis County Gnesen Township in Duluth MN, Gnesen Township is in the top 5 areas in the state for severe wildfires to occur and Northern Minnesota is in the top 2 area for wildfires in the nation. Those are alarming statistics to say the least.

In spite of all the rainfall we had this year the devastation from the spruce budworm killing masses of trees it is still a significant possibility for wildfires. The trees are standing, but dead making them like standing matchsticks.

The grant money is going to be used for the following:

Assessment and Planning

Conduct community Wildfire planning meetings, develop community action plans, create groups to implement action plans, do Level 2 Firewise Home Risk Evaluations

Education

Organize and host Wildfire Resiliency Events, Conduct Firewise Practice Demonstrations to continue education to property owners and communities.

Mitigation

Conduct a minimum of 3 public fuels projects that coincide with Wildfire Resiliency Workshops where up to 45 acres will be treated. (15 acres per planning area), Conduct 20 haul away/mitigation events (up to \$4,500.00 per event), 180 acres treated for hazardous fuel reduction on private lands (60 acres per planning area). Priority given to elderly, low income, and disabled landowners. A cost/share program will be available to other landowners including an in-kind labor match.

There is going to be a Firewise Demonstration in Gnesen township on **Saturday July 26 on the Andler Road**. The time has not yet been set, but I will try to have it on the UNS website as soon as it is known. Gloria Erickson will be there to answer questions, hand out information, as well as explain the process of how and what to do with dead trees on your property and in help getting them removed.

This is not something that pertains to all club members, but it is very real and serious for many people in not only Gnesen township but all of northern Minnesota. Getting the word out to people not only informs them of protecting their properties but can actually save homes and lives. You may even learn something new about forest fires. I was amazed at the fact that embers from a fire can travel a mile and start a fire, who would have thought that could happen.

PROJECTS AT THE CLUB

The rifle range will be closed for a couple of days in August around the 18th. The old rubber matting is going to be removed and new matting will be installed. It would be **GREATLY** appreciated if some members could take a few hours on the days to help as it is a big undertaking that is long overdue and very much needed. Any amount of time that you can help will make the project go that much quicker. If you are able to help, please contact Mike Hart to let him know.

Another exciting addition: in the near future if you are an archery enthusiast be on the lookout for a newly improved archery area. It was brought to the attention of the board that the archery range is in desperate need of updating and when looked at easily agreed. There are not many if any places to practice shooting your bow unless it's in your own yard, so hopefully this will get you up to the club to try something new. As soon as it is completed it will be posted in the newsletter.

DID YOU KNOW

We had a very generous donation from a club member for people (adults as well as kids) who are up camping or even up to the lake for a day. The donation was 4 fishing poles with lures for anyone who would like to go fishing on one of the docks or on the lake for the day. If you are interested just find Chris Mattila (our new campground host) to sign them out for the day, and better yet there is no cost to give it a try. OK there may be a cost if you pick up minnows or leeches to use for bait, but who doesn't like a fresh fish dinner by the lake. Don't forget to get a net, something the club may have to work on. Give it a try and good luck.

If anyone is interested in buying brass for reloading, the club has a lot of it. There are various calibers available, and they are presorted. The cost is minimal, just \$2.00 a pound.

And last but not least,

Is there a licensed plumber anywhere in our membership or does anyone know of one. We have a project that is going to be taking place, but we need a little guidance and want to make sure it is finished properly. If there is one out there, please contact Mike Hart to get the details.

All members are encouraged to attend meetings. They are held the first Wednesday of each month at the clubhouse at 6:00PM.

RSVP Eric at gonefishing0101@hotmail.com

If the meeting is via Zoom, a link will be provided when you RSVP.

RANGE USE CALENDAR: May be found on our website – www.unitednorthernsportsmen.org

Shooting/Range Hours: 8AM – 30 minutes before sunset. Hours also posted on ranges & Clubhouse bulletin board. All ranges are closed on Mondays. Please obey the rules or lose your shooting privileges.

NEWSLETTER SCHEDULE: A monthly newsletter is emailed before month end. A printed copy is mailed quarterly at the beginning of each quarter. Articles are due by the 15th of the previous month. If you have an article or photos you would like to share, please send to: unsclub@gmail.com. It will be shared, space permitting.

EMAILS WANTED

Remember to send a current EMAIL ADDRESS when renewing your membership. By doing so you will receive the newsletter faster every month via email.

Emails may be sent to: unsclub@gmail.com

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