

# 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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## Club Calendar

- April 7**      **UNS Board Meeting**  
7pm, Held Virtually
- May 5**        **UNS Board Meeting**  
7pm, Held Virtually
- June 2**        **UNS Board Meeting**  
7pm, Held Virtually

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

All members are invited and encouraged to attend. For details email John Bathke at [john@b-green.us](mailto:john@b-green.us) for details.

## **UNS RULES FOR USE OF CLUB FACILITIES ARE BEING UPDATED**

The UNS Board of Directors is expected to approve a series of rule changes that will go into effect soon after the April board meeting. They include changes to the general rules as well as updated rules for the shooting ranges, campground, boat launch and shoreline areas. All current members, prospective new members, member's guests, and any other persons on UNS grounds will be asked to abide by these new rules.

All current members will receive a copy which will supersede any rules currently in effect. Please keep in mind that the United Northern Sportsmen is a private members only organization and the grounds are private property. The new rules are designed to insure the safety and enjoyment of all members and their guests and to help maintain the quality of our facilities.

We hope that everyone on our grounds will be respectful and polite to campground staff, range officers, and waterfront personnel. Remember these individuals are club members and volunteers. Further information will be provided in the May and June UNS club newsletter.

## **UPDATE ON LAKE SIDE CAMPING**

Along with significant changes to our club rules, we have reconfigured the campsites in the area along the lake shore. Additional sites will be available this year. These changes are yet to be finalized and further information will be available before the fishing opener.

## **SHOOTING HOURS**

Range opening and 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.

## **RANGE USE CALENDAR**

may be found on our Website:  
[www.unitednorthernsportsmen.org](http://www.unitednorthernsportsmen.org)

## **E-MAIL ADDRESSES STILL WANTED**

We are now more than half way toward our goal of 95% participation in emailing 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. After all - we are a conservation club!

So 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](mailto:duanellasley@gmail.com).



## UNS BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES MARCH 3, 2021

**Call to order (Via Zoom):** by President Tom Wasbotten at 7:04 pm., Conservation Pledge.

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

**Members Present:** Sue Bathke, Eric Hansen, Ron Cretens.

**Excused Officers:** Lance Haavista

**Introduction of New Members:** NA

**Correspondence:** Gnesen Township Newsletter

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

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

**Treasurer's Report: Tina Sund as of 2/28/21:** United Health Group sent a \$930 donation on behalf of Tina Sund and Vickie Jensen for volunteer hours. Quarterly taxes due in April. Motion made to approve the report and pay bills (M/S/C).

**Membership Secretary's Report: Tina Sund as of 2/28/21:** Current membership is 1824 with 23 individual memberships & 14 family memberships and 20 - 2nd notices were sent out.

### Committee Reports:

**Webmaster – Eric Hansen:** Updated Facebook and website with range reservations and newsletter. Eric gave an overview of the domain registration and web hosting for the website as well as the costs. Discussion followed about other domains to register.

**Newsletter – Sue Bathke:** 3/15 is the deadline for April's newsletter. Each BOD member was asked to submit favorite fish.

**Incident Reports – Lance Parthe:** We've had a couple of issues with a shooter before 8am on the pistol range. A member has been up about 8 times with an entire class without paying the reservation or paying guest fees. Discussion followed. Motion made to draft a letter to the member (M/S/C).

**Facilities Committee – Lance Parthe:** No issues so far. **Tina Sund:** We should begin to plan to reopen for spring.

**Range and Grounds Calendar – Bob Kuettel & Lance Parthe:** Nothing to share.

**Grants Committee – Gene Shaw:** Discussion followed about YOFD grants and shooting range improvements.

**Volunteer Committee – Tina Sund:** Howard Farmer 1200+ Vickie Jensen 300+

**Finance Committee – John Bathke:** Committee has met.

**Communications Committee – John Bathke:** Rules subcommittee has met and continues to make good progress.

### OLD BUSINESS:

**Mechanical Trap Thrower – Lance Haavisto:** Discussion followed about selling the old thrower and buy something that's easier to use. Discussion followed about the age of the thrower. John Bathke suggested that we apply for a grant for a new trap thrower. Lance Haavisto and Gene Shaw will work together on a grant.

### NEW BUSINESS:

**UNS Summer Walleye Fishing Contest/Kids Fishing Class – Tom Wasbotten:** Discussion followed about hosting the event this year. Will need to find an event chair for the contest. Discussion followed about a catch-photo-release contest. Gene Shaw will report back at April meeting.

**High School Trap Team Request – Tom Wasbotten:** Tom talked about the request from Lakeview Christian Academy for a donation and the use of the trap range for team practice. Discussion followed about memberships for the athletes and their families. Motion made to allow the Lakeview Christian Academy to use our trap range on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4-7pm on 4/13-5/27 as long as their coaches and any involved adults maintain current membership. (M/S/C)

**Long Range Planning – Lance Haavisto:** Lance talked of the need to create a long range plan for upgrades and projects.

**DNR Sponsored Firearm Safety Field Training – Tom Wasbotten:** Discussion followed about the lack of field training for youth firearms safety training. John Bathke will look into the club potentially hosting a field training class.

**Members sick or in distress:** Dick Montgomery passed away. Dan Smestad

**Adjournment:** Motion made to adjourn at 8:52pm (M/S/C).

Respectfully submitted by Cody Privette, Secretary.

Next meeting will be held on April 7th 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.

## ONLINE LICENSE PURCHASING REMINDER

Anyone buying a license online from the Minnesota DNR — especially licenses with application deadlines — should be aware they may need to give themselves some extra time to verify their name in the electronic licensing system.

The system requires a customer to enter their first and last name identically to what they have in the licensing system. For example, an “Elizabeth” listed in the DNR system would need to enter the full name rather than simply “Beth.” People can buy DNR licenses online at [mndnr.gov/buyalicense](http://mndnr.gov/buyalicense).

## WHAT FISH IS YOUR FAVORITE?

When UNS Board Members were asked, “Do you have a favorite fish you would like to share with Newsletter readers?” Duane Lasley and Lance Haavisto both said - Lake Trout! Cody Privette says, “The favorite fish for me is two parts, Walleye is the best eat, Crappie is the most fun to catch!” Tom Wasbotten immediately said that it would be Walleye. Lance Parthe’s favorite is a salt water fish called a Queen Angel. New Board Member Jeff Jarvela said, “My favorite fish would be a brook trout (caught on a fly rod if I can manage it).” For Gene Shaw it is Small Mouth Bass. Tina Sund said, “Favorite fish to fish is Crappie however, if it is to eat, it is Salmon.” John Bathke likes Brook Trout. It reminds him of all the years of traipsing along the North Shore with his fly rod. Eric Hansen likes Walleye!! Sue Bathke thought of how much fun it is catching Bass and how good they taste.

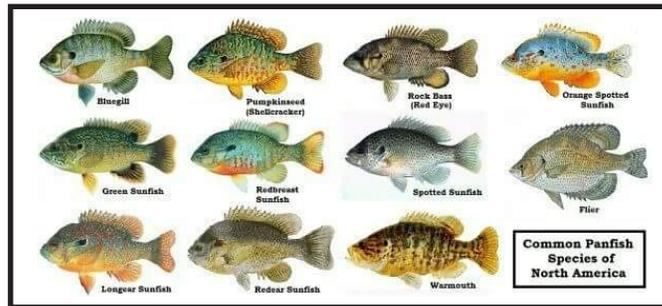
## WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO FISH FOR IN APRIL?

General Season Opener for Northeastern Minnesota:

4/17/21-9/30/21	<a href="#">Stream Trout</a> (* check regulations for limits)
6/16/20-4/14/21	Lake sturgeon, shovelnose sturgeon (catch and release only)
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).

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](#).



## SUNFISH REGULATIONS IN EFFECT ON NEARLY 100 WATERS

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 lower limits on specific waters as part of a Minnesota Department of Natural Resources initiative to protect and improve sunfish sizes. These changes are in response to angler-driven concerns over the declining sizes of sunfish in Minnesota.

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 five sunfish, 31 will have a limit of 10 sunfish, 17 will have a limit of five sunfish and five crappie, and two will have a limit of 10 sunfish and five crappies. In addition to the new waters, there are 57 waters that previously had reduced limits for sunfish and these regulations remain in effect.

## THE SUNFISH MYTH

We can never catch too many—or so we thought. Minnesota anglers are learning that in order to grow bigger sunfish, we will need to keep fewer of them. See <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/mcvmagazine/issues/2019/may-jun/sunfish.html>.

It's a balmy spring day with warm sunshine on a clandestine small lake in central Minnesota. From the inside of my boat, I pitch a tiny pink jig and bobber to the edge of a promising-looking patch of olive-green hardstem bulrush. The rig hits the water with a small splash and I see shadows stir nearby. The bobber dances twice, then darts straight down under the gleaming water surface and angles away from me. I set the hook with a jerk of my rod and a whirling dervish spins in powerful tight circles, arcing and bouncing the rod with frenzied tugs.

Slowly the fish tires and I draw it near. Soon, in bright afternoon sunshine, a knob-headed male bluegill rests in my wetted hand, its plump proportions overtaking my palm and digits. Beautiful iridescent blue, green, and purple on the gill cover and a bright orange breast mimic the spectacular coloration of a watercolor summer sunset sky. I know, as an area supervisor for the Department of Natural Resources Fisheries, that individual bluegills of this size could once be found across the fish's range in Minnesota. Today these behemoths are found in but a handful of waters. For more of this article [press here](#).

*Written by Scott Mackenthun, published by The Minnesota Conservation Magazine, May-June 2019*

## DNR SEEKING PUBLIC COMMENT THROUGH APRIL 11 ON PROPOSED WATERFOWL REGULATIONS

People have through Sunday, April 11, to submit comments on the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources' proposed waterfowl hunting regulations and seasons. Comments may be submitted by completing an online comment form through Sunday, April 11.

The DNR is proposing the following regulatory changes and seasons:

- Increasing the Canada goose bag limit to five birds per day for the entire season;

- Extending legal shooting hours to sunset for the entire season, eliminating the 4 p.m. early season closure;

- Implementing a five-day early teal season (Sept. 4 - Sept. 8) as an experimental regulation for up to three years;

- Allowing statewide over-water goose hunting during the early September season; and

- Establishing season dates through the 2024 season for the north, central and south waterfowl hunting zones, as follows:

  - North zone: Keeping a 60-day season with no split. The 2021 season dates would be Saturday, Sept. 25th, to Tuesday, Nov. 23rd.

  - Central zone: Keeping a 60-day season with a five-day split. The 2021 season dates would be Saturday, Sept. 25th, to Sunday, Oct. 3rd, and Saturday, Oct. 9th, to Sunday, Nov. 28th.

  - South zone: Implementing a 60-day season with a five-day split rather than the 12-day split implemented the past nine years. The 2021 season dates would be Saturday, Sept. 25th, to Sunday, Oct. 3rd, and Saturday, Oct. 9th, to Sunday, Nov. 28th.

The DNR discussed the proposals at a virtual town hall meeting from 6-8 p.m. on Thursday, April 1st. Proposal details are available on DNR's waterfowl management page for review.

The DNR developed the waterfowl regulation proposals after public engagement efforts during the past few months, which included an online questionnaire, direct staff outreach and a hunter attitude survey.

Input received during the meeting will be considered, but people participating in the town hall are also encouraged to submit their complete comments online.

The public comment period for these proposed changes concludes, Sunday, April 11. The DNR will consider all input received and finalize regulations and season dates in early summer. Changes to hunting regulations may go in place as early as fall 2021.

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

phe·nol·o·gy (noun) The study of cyclic and seasonal natural phenomena.

Some Canada geese stay for the winter, but when you look to the sky you see flock after flock of these big honkers coming north from parts south. Woodcock (*Scolopax minor*) are thumping in the woods.

Everybody knows Mosquitoes (*Culex*) are the real Minnesota state bird. Mosquito eggs hide in the soil during the winter, but start hatching around early April. Wood Ticks (*Dermacentor variabilis*) also begin to emerge from their winter hide-outs about the same time.

Quaking Aspen (*Populus tremuloides*) begin to green up in April. Catkins — bright, green shocks that develop at the ends of quaking aspen branches — emerge. The Sap is flowing in trees.

Flowering Dutchman's Breeches (*Dicentra cucullaria*): These white and pink wildflowers derive their name from their resemblance to pairs of pants hanging upside-down and can be found in shady wooded areas. Flowering White Trout Lily (*Erythronium albidum*) has drooping flowers and is found in colonies in shady, wooded areas.

Venture outside on the night of Monday, April 26th to catch a glimpse of April's full Pink Moon. This full Moon—the first supermoon this year—will be visible after sunset and reach peak illumination at 11:33 P.M. EDT.



Join the Raptor Center for a special 45 minute online program to learn about raptors and the environment directly from the experts - live owls, hawks, and falcons! In this free, virtual program, we bring you close up (closer than you could get in person) to at least three different raptor species. Programs are on Wednesday, April 7th at 10:30; Thursday, April 8th at 1 pm; and Friday, April 9th at 1 pm. [TO SIGN UP PRESS HERE.](#)

### DNR EAGLE CAM

We (the DNR) have two cute, fuzzy eaglets in the nest! The first baby eagle hatched on Friday, March 26 around 1:25 p.m. The second baby eagle hatched on Sunday March 28 around 3:20 p.m. [Tune in](#) and watch them grow!

**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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