

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.

VOLUME 66

JANUARY 2022

NUMBER 1

\$12.00

Club Calendar

**Ranges Closed on Mondays,
for Maintenance, Reserved Activities**

**Jan. 5 UNS Board Meeting
6:00pm, Zoom Meeting**

**Jan. 30 UNS Ice Fishing Contest
12:30 - 3:30pm**

**Feb. 2 UNS Board Meeting
6:00pm, Zoom Meeting**

**Mar. 2 UNS Board Meeting
6:00pm, Zoom Meeting**

All members are encouraged to attend. Please RSVP Eric at gonefishing0101@hotmail.com. If the meeting is via Zoom a connection will be provided when you RSVP.



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

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 please send to sue@b-green.us. It may be shared space permitting.

68TH ANNUAL ICE FISHING CONTEST

United Northern Sportsmen Club invites you to join us for the 68th Annual Ice Fishing Contest at the Sportsmen Retreat, 7229 Rice Lake Road, on Island Lake; Sunday, January 30, 2022 from 12:30 - 3:30 pm.

Our Gate Prize is \$1000, and you will not need to be present to win. In addition to the Gate Prize, there will be prizes for the largest fish caught:

1st Place \$1000 2nd Place \$500 3rd Place \$250
4th Place \$125 5th Place \$75

For the youngsters, age fifteen and under a \$50 prize, and trophy. There will be additional prize drawings during the contest for those fishing the contest.

What a wonderful opportunity for some winter fun! As always, we hope for the best possible weather. So, come join the festivities. Shelters are allowed. Everyone on the ice MUST have their participation ticket in possession. Participants are allowed up to two holes. All qualifying fish must be caught within the designated area of the UNS Ice Fishing Contest, during the event hours of 12:30 - 3:30 pm. on January 30, 2022 and caught by the person registering the fish. All Minnesota fishing rules and regulations apply.

Our event sponsors this year are: Marine General, Minno-ette, Fisherman's Corner, Chalstroms, Outdoor Advantage, Northwest Outlet, and B&B Market. B&B concessions will be here for good food and drinks.

Your hard work is what makes our club the great conservation organization that it is today, and will continue to be. Check us out on Facebook and at www.unitednorthernsportsmen.org. All events and club activities are posted there.

For additional tickets contact Deanna Dodge (218) 721-3979 or pddodge2014@hotmail.com.



UNS BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES DECEMBER 1, 2021

Call to order (Via Zoom): by President Tom Wasbotten at 6:00 pm. Conservation Pledge.

Roll Call of Elected Officers: Tina Sund, Tom Wasbotten, Lance Haavisto, Lance Parthe, John Bathke, Gene Shaw, Vickie Jensen, Jeff Jarvela, Cody Privette.

Members Present: Sue Bathke, Maggie Cretens, Ron Cretens, Eric Hansen, Bob Kuettel, Sarah Spindler Taylor.

Excused Officers: Duane Lasley

Correspondence: Campground Permit, Dave Hollapa Memorial, Property Tax Proposal, letter about membership nonrenewal.

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

Reading of Minutes: Motion to approve the November BOD meeting minutes (M/S/C).

Treasurer's Report: Tina Sund as of 11/30/21: Motion made to approve the Treasurer's report and pay bills (M/S/C).

Membership Secretary's Report: Tina Sund as of 11/30/21: Current membership is 1673 with 31 individual memberships and 14 family memberships renewed, and 22 2nd notices were sent out. Discussion followed about a concern of a member regarding a lifetime membership. Motion made to state that we do not have a policy to reach lifetime membership status aside from via volunteer hours (M/S/C).

Committee Reports:

Webmaster – Eric Hansen: Updated the web with range reservations and activities and home page with the fishing contest.

Facilities Committee – Lance Parthe: Somebody left the target shack open. The ranges are being used very often. No maintenance issues.

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

Incident Report – Lance Parthe: Lance gave an overview of a call from a group from Birch Isle Rd. The group has an issue with campers from UNS.

Grants Committee – Gene Shaw: Not much to share.

Volunteer Awards Committee – Tina Sund: Gene Bondeson 100+, Mike Hart 400+, Ron Cretens 500+, Vickie Jensen 500+, Tom Kulas 300+ volunteer hours.

Communications Committee – John Bathke: Nothing to share, haven't met for awhile.

OLD BUSINESS:

Fall Sight-In/ Fall Fundraiser Final Reports – Bob Kuettel/Tina Sund: Bob gave an overview of the event. We had great volunteer help. Fall Fundraiser went well, total profit \$5800 and \$1200+ for Sight-In. A great event.

Ice Fishing Contest (1/30/22) Committee Update – Tina Sund: Tickets are in the mail. Posters need to be reprinted. Eric Hansen: Permit request has been sent in. Gene Shaw: Fisherman's Corner will be added as a sponsor of the event. We will have advertisements in the newspaper and TV.

Nominations Committee Update and Call for Nominations from the Floor – John Bathke: John presented the open positions and slate of nominees so far, from the Nominating Committee (consisting of Lance Haavisto, Lance Parthe, Jeff Jarvela and John Bathke (chair).

<u>Position</u>	<u>Nominee(s)</u>
President	Tom Wasbotten
Secretary	Eric Hansen
Sergeant-at-Arms	Bob Kuettel
3 Directors, 3-Year terms	Vickie Jensen, Duane Lasley, Cody Privette, Ron Cretens, Tom Kulas, Keith Darsow
2 Directors, 1-Year terms	Maggie Cretens, Sarah Spindler (Taylor), John Jones

John called for additional nominations from the floor 3 times.

Board Review and Approve Finance Committee Recommended 2022 Club Budget – Tina Sund: Motion to approve the 2022 Budget. Tina explained the budget and the possibility of COVID cancellations affecting our budget. Discussion followed about changes to some of our fundraisers, Membership Dues, and budget items (M/S/C).

NEW BUSINESS:

Firearms Safety Instructor – Cody Privette: Discussion followed about DNR firearms safety course. John Bathke discussed the process. Information has been shared with the BOD. Lance Parthe will lead the process.

Dave Holappa Donation On Behalf of Butch Curran – Tom Wasbotten: Dave Holappa donated \$50 in honor of Butch Curran. We will send a thank you letter.

Donation Request From The St Louis River Alliance – Tom Wasbotten: Tom suggested that we donate \$500 this year. Motion made to donate the \$500 (M/S/C).

2022 Annual Club Banquet – Tom Wasbotten: Discussion about whether we will host the 2022 Banquet.

Adjournment: Motion made to adjourn at 7:47 pm (M/S/C).

Respectfully submitted by Cody Privette, Secretary.

Next meeting will be the December Member Annual meeting on 12/8/21 at 6:00 pm via zoom

Great Lakes fish and wildlife populations would get a boost under a bill introduced in the U.S. Senate.

Supporters say the Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act will provide critical resources to conserve and restore fish and wildlife populations across the region.

This legislation would provide assistance to Great Lakes fish and wildlife agencies to encourage cooperative conservation, restoration and management — including invasive-species efforts — by reauthorizing \$6 million annually through 2027. The program offers grants through the federal agency focusing on research, restoration and conservation of fish and wildlife and their habitats in the Great Lakes basin.

The bill also authorizes the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to partner with other federal agencies, states and tribes to develop and execute proposals for the restoration of fish and wildlife resources in the Great Lakes Basin. The bill was co-sponsored by U.S. Sens. Amy Klobuchar, D-Minn.; Rob Portman, R-Ohio; Debbie Stabenow, D-Mich.; and Todd Young, R-Ind.

Written by John Myers, 11/4/21, Duluth News Tribune

Minnesota regulators on Monday said they have added another 305 streams and lakes to the state's list of officially polluted waterways, bringing the total to 2,904 — including more waterways tainted by the PFAS (Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl substances) family of so-called forever chemicals.

This is the first time the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (PCA) has included greater Minnesota waterways for PFAS and other forever chemicals that have been linked to multiple health problems in humans, including cancer.

The PCA has added Wild Rice Lake and Fish Lake just north of Duluth for PFAS contamination as well as Winona Lake in Alexandria and the St. Croix River from the Taylors Falls Dam through Lake St. Croix. They join several Twin Cities lakes and streams already listed for PFAS pollution.

The News Tribune first reported in 2010 that fish in Wild Rice Lake just north of the Duluth airport carried PFAS chemicals. Earlier this year, Wisconsin and Minnesota issued fish consumption advisories for smelt caught in Lake Superior, urging people to limit their meals of smelt to just once per month due to high levels of PFAS. Researchers aren't sure why the smelt are carrying PFAS or where it's coming from. [Read the complete article.](#)

Written by John Myers, 11/8/21, Duluth News Tribune

Minnesota lake ice shrinking with warmer winters.

According to newly released data from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and Department of Natural Resources, the state has lost an average of 10 to 14 days of lake ice over the past 50 years — a change officials say is hurting local economies, the environment and the Minnesota way of life. Some northern Minnesota lakes have seen steeper declines, including Lake Bemidji, which has seen nearly 19 days of ice lost since 1967.

Warmer lake waters leads to more toxic algal blooms in lakes, higher chances of invasive species and declines in populations of lake trout and walleye.

Nearly two fewer weeks of ice coverage on Minnesota lakes also means a shorter season for ice fishing, cross-country skiing and other outdoor activities, impacting the millions of dollars spent on winter recreation statewide each year.

Minnesota lags in its efforts to cut greenhouse gas emissions and remains nowhere near its goal to get emissions under 35 million tons by 2050. The last two years for which data is available show emissions increasing in 2017 and 2018. Ann Mulholland, chapter director of The Nature Conservancy, said solutions like planting trees, cover cropping and preservation of peatlands, prairies and forests can help pull carbon from the air while helping the state adapt to warmer temperatures. Those solutions can offset 20 million metric tons of carbon in Minnesota, which she said would be equivalent to taking 5.5 million cars off the roads and shutting down seven coal-fired power plants.

Funding from the federal government is an opportunity to act on improving the state's environment. The DNR and the MN PCA are also hoping for a robust capital infrastructure bill from lawmakers at the state Capitol this legislative session after a new economic forecast released earlier this week is projecting a massive \$7.7 billion surplus in the current state budget.

"We all hope that our children and grandchildren and beyond will be able to continue to catch a walleye through the ice," said Michelle Morey of Women Anglers of Minnesota.

By MOHAMED IBRAHIM Associated Press, December 10, 2021

Mohamed Ibrahim is a corps member for the Associated Press/Report for America Statehouse News Initiative. Report for America is a nonprofit national service program that places journalists in local newsrooms to report on undercovered issues.

MR. ICE FISHING GETS HIS LAKE SUPERIOR WALLEYE

A 23-inch walleye on Superior Bay made the bucket list for ice-fishing guru Dave Genz.

Ice-fishing guru Dave Genz of St. Cloud used a battery-assisted fat-tire bike to ride out onto the ice of Superior Bay in the Twin Ports harbor on Wednesday, Dec. 22, 2021.

Considering that Dave Genz has been involved with most major advancements in ice fishing over the last 40 years, it probably shouldn't have been a surprise to see him pedaling a battery-assisted, fat-tire bicycle out to our fishing spot last week.

"It sure beats walking," said Genz, 74, as he stepped off the bike and onto the ice of Superior Bay in the Twin Ports harbor, about a half-mile ride off Park Point.

He even has a little hitch so he can tow his Clam Fish Trap shelter, and all his gear, behind the bike.

Will the fat-tire bike become the next big deal in ice fishing? Maybe not. But if Dave Genz is riding one, don't bet against it.

Genz was joining us for the afternoon bite on the bay on a weekday just before Christmas. There was plenty of ice for walking, and riding, ranging from 5 to 10 inches where we fished. And the walleyes have been biting, mostly early and late in the day, for about two weeks now.

Dave Genz got a nice walleye caught on Wednesday, Dec. 22, 2021, on Superior Bay in the Twin Ports harbor. It was Genz' first-ever ice fishing walleye caught in the Lake Superior system. He's now caught walleyes through the ice in every Great Lakes system.

Throngs of headlamp-clad anglers have been dragging sleds of gear out in the dark on most mornings. And many have been rewarded with a few of these migratory fish that are making their way out of Lake Superior, through the harbor, on their way to spawn in the St. Louis River below the Fond du Lac dam, probably in April.

Our group of three — including Luke Markus of Osceloa, Wisconsin and Jarrid Houston of South Range — caught several walleyes in the 12- to 16-inch class and one around 20 inches in the morning fishing in 6-8 feet of water.

Genz and his daughter, Kathy Roberts, joined us later hoping to scratch off one more item from his lifelong ice-fishing bucket list. He was hoping he could say he had caught a walleye in every Great Lakes system, and the only one he had left unchecked was Lake Superior, ironically the one closest to his home near St. Cloud.

"I've fished up here (Lake Superior) a lot, but always for trout and salmon," Genz said.

Even if you don't know Dave Genz, you probably know the name. It's literally stamped on the side of thousands of portable fish shacks and depth finders and a host of other ice-fishing gear. Some say the history of ice fishing is essentially divided into BG and AG, Before Genz and After Genz.

It was Genz who made the portable, flip-up shelter one of the most-used tools in ice fishing. And then he just kept adding more ideas, and more products, that helped take ice fishing from the dark and cold ages to the modern era — comfortable, warm, dry and successful.

It all started with the Fish Trap shack.

Genz and his wife, Patsy, started making Fish Traps in their garage in 1981. Now they are made by the Clam Outdoors Corp. and are the most popular ice-fishing shelter in the world.

"The biggest thing is that it allows people to move around to find where the fish are biting," Genz said while jigging last week. "Back when my dad and uncle used to fish on Mille Lacs, they'd drill two holes with a hand auger and that's where they fished."

Now, power augers allow anglers to drill dozens of holes effortlessly, and portable shelters, propane heaters and high-tech depth and fish-finding electronics keep getting better. Genz has been an ambassador for ice fishing in general and for the company now called Clam Outdoors, specifically, for more than 40 years now.

"When I started I literally walked from hole to hole showing people my flip-over shelter and showing them my Vexilar (depth fish finder) and showing them their lure on the Vexilar and showing them the fish on the screen. ... I did that all the way from Minnesota to New York and back," Genz said. "They had to see it work. That's how we got people to buy the stuff. ... That's when they started catching more fish, too."

It's the portability of the gear that allows Genz to use his tried-and-true ice-fishing system of moving, almost constantly, until he finds fish that are willing to bite. That often means fishing multiple spots on any single lake or river, or maybe even multiple lakes, in a single day. [Click here to read](#) of this entire article online.

Written by John Myers, 12/31/21, Duluth News Tribune

UNS ANNUAL MEETING Minutes December 8th, 2021

The UNS Annual Business Meeting was held on Wednesday, December 8th, at 7 pm. The business consisted of approval of the 2022 annual budget and the election of officers for terms running from 2022-2024. Open positions were President, Secretary, Sergeant at Arms, 3 Board Directors for 3 Years, and 2 Board Directors for 1-Year terms.

The following were elected:

Tom Wasbotten as President

Eric Hansen as Secretary

Bob Kuettel as Sergeant at Arms

Ron Cretens, Keith Darsow, and Vickie Jensen as Directors for 3 year terms

Maggie Cretens and John Jones as Directors for 1 year terms

The next annual meeting is scheduled for December 14th, 2022.



Evening Grosbeak

Blue Jay



Backyard Bird

Yards certified as wildlife habitat through the National Wildlife Federation's certification program (<https://www.nwf.org/Garden-for-Wildlife/Certify>) support a wider variety of bird species compared with more traditional yard landscaping (e.g., lawn-dominated yards.) This suggests that landscape management for wildlife can contribute to region-wide bird diversity. The study also considered public interest levels based on Google searches and bird sightings and found that yards supported more popular species compared with parks.

"This study shows that when people landscape with wildlife in mind, householders can contribute to conservation right in their own back yards," said Lerman, who is with the Forest Service's Northern Research Station. "And our yards often support some of our most beloved backyard birds."

EMAILS WANTED: Remember, the next time you renew your membership, or even tomorrow, let us know your email address so you may receive our enhanced newsletter electronically. Emails may be sent to Tina Sund, cms0789@gmail.com.

UNITED NORTHERN SPORTSMEN'S NEWS

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2022 Board of Directors

President Tom Wasbotten	218-721-4864 763-228-8889
Lance Parthe	218-349-5555
Secretary Eric Hansen	218-831-8646
Treasurer Tina Sund	218-591-3304
Sgt at Arms Bob Kuettel	218-393-2000
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Membership Tina Sund	218-591-3304
Webmaster Eric Hansen	218-831-8646
Newsletter Editor Susanne Bathke	612-991-5364
Camp Host Ron Cretens	218-349-8510

Directors

John Bathke	612-991-5363
Maggie Cretens	218-349-6399
Ron Cretens	218-349-8510
Keith Darsow	218-390-4557
Lance Haavisto	906-235-8483
Jeff Jarvela	218-461-6007
Vickie Jensen	218-591-5619
John Jones	218-576-3740
Gene Shaw	218-348-2191