

Sandi Pillsbury Gredzens has been recognized as Artist of 2020 by the International Association of Who's Who

Sandi Pillsbury Gredzens of Two Harbors, Minnesota is honored by the International Association of Who's Who as Artist of 2020 for her exemplary contributions within the fields of Art and Education.

With over forty years practicing artistry, thirty plus years of which as a teacher, Ms. Sandi Pillsbury is a highly qualified and experienced art professional. In her years of painting, Ms. Pillsbury has produced beautiful masterpieces in the forms of oil, acrylic, alkyd and watercolors. More recently, she has rediscovered a love of painting "en Plein air," from the French meaning "painting in the outdoors", which allows her to paint in the midst of nature.

Initially, Ms. Pillsbury was set to embark on a theatre major when a task was set by her art teacher during high school which opened her eyes to a new-found talent of art. This pivotal moment in her youth would act as the catalyst for her future career direction and subsequent successes.

With a new path in mind, Ms. Pillsbury went on to achieve an Associate of Arts Degree from Stephens College in Columbia, MO. Further to this accomplishment, Ms. Pillsbury went on to study at the University of California-Santa Cruz for her Bachelor of Fine Arts degree before going on to obtain a Master of Education Degree from Hamline University in St. Paul, MN. Ms. Pillsbury considers her mentor Hazel Belvo to be influential in reaching her current success and

also took inspiration from artists including George Morrison, Elizabeth Erickson and Mary Pettis.

In a pinnacle moment of her career, Ms. Pillsbury opened her own art studio, North Shore Serenity Studio, located in Two Harbors, Minnesota, where as well as creating her own masterpieces, she teaches private classes as well as group workshops. When considering the perfect name for her studio, Ms. Pillsbury kept both her work and audience in mind as she sought a name which reflected both the feel and style of her work, hoping to create a sense of tranquility.

Ms. Pillsbury's portfolio includes pieces such as the "Falling Water" series, the "Flower series" and the "Sky/Clouds" series. Each collection allows Ms. Pillsbury to use her love of painting nature to represent feelings or events that she is experiencing in her life. The esteemed artist always aims for her work to reflect the magic of nature and enable her audience "to go deeper than just the surface of the painting", with a message to look further and appreciate the beauty and magnificence of our natural world.

As a renowned artist, a monumental highlight in her career included being invited to New York City to exhibit her work as part of a private show by the Agora Gallery. Ms. Pillsbury also had the honor to paint in Giverny, France as part of Monet's garden, fulfilling a lifelong dream.

Alongside her achievements in the art world, Ms. Pillsbury is also looking to develop a career in radio with her own talk show, discussing art and delivering interviews with numerous professional artists. The show also allows her to draw upon other aspects of her creativity, most notably her previous performing background in theatre.

Outside of her artistic accolades, Ms. Pillsbury served as President of the Grand Marais Art Colony Board of Directors, is currently the President of the Two Harbors Art Club, Voyageur Artists and served on the Arts Board of the Northern Lake County. Proud to be an "Artist-in-Residence" in Silver Bay, Ms. Pillsbury has enjoyed volunteering in the "Masterpiece Art Program", where she is able to teach and inspire children in the third grade to gain a true appreciation for the world of art.

In addition, Ms. Pillsbury is one of the curators of the annual Lake Superior 20/20 Studio and Art Tour which is held annually in the last weekend of September. After careful consideration, the 2020 tour was cancelled due to the current COVID-19 pandemic. She is looking forward to reuniting with the rest of the artistic community in the future, once it is safe to make the tour happen.

For more information of the annual Lake Superior 20/20 Studio and Art Tour, please visit: www.lakesuperior2020.com

Silver Bay Veterans Home begin COVID Vaccinations

Silver Bay, Minn. – On Wednesday, Dec. 30, the Minnesota Veterans Home - Silver Bay will begin to administer the COVID-19 vaccine to Residents and staff.

The Minnesota Veterans Homes are using the Moderna vaccine that was shipped directly to our pharmacy. The vaccine is being administered by clinical leaders at each location. The Minneapolis Veterans Home was the first location to receive the vaccine beginning today, Tuesday, Dec. 29.

In addition to the Silver Bay Veterans Home, the Fergus Falls Veterans Home will begin its vaccinations this week; the Luverne Veterans Home will begin next week. All Residents and staff will receive their first dose by Friday, January 8. The second dose of the two-injection series will be provided four weeks from now.

Both Residents and staff are strongly encouraged to receive the vaccine. More than 95% of Residents have agreed to receive the vaccine and many staff have said they are looking forward to receiving the vaccine.

"Staff understand the importance of the vaccine in keeping our Residents and colleagues safe and healthy," said Douglas Hughes, Deputy Commissioner - Veterans Healthcare, MDVA. "The vaccine will help us take a big step toward ending this pandemic."

The vaccinations come after 10 months of responding to the coronavirus pandemic, which required the Silver Bay Veterans Home to adopt strict infection control procedures, restrict visitors and curtail group activities.

While the Silver Bay Veterans Home saw a spike in COVID-19 cases in October, the Home currently has four positive cases among 62 Residents and 144 staff.

Wolf Conservation Continues to be a DNR Priority

January 4, 2021

Although federal Endangered Species Act protections for wolves end on Jan. 4, Minnesota laws have and will continue to protect wolves and ensure the responsible stewardship of this important wildlife species.

Minnesota has the largest wolf population in the lower 48 states and is home to an estimated 2,700 wolves across nearly 40,000 square miles of northern and central Minnesota. Through the efforts of federal, state and tribal partners, the wolf population is well established in all parts of its suitable range.

"Our wolf population is a reflection of all the management efforts of federal, state and tribal partners, and includes a strong monitoring program here in Minnesota that enables us to make sound decisions," said Dave Olfelt, Department of Natural Resources Fish and Wildlife Division director.

Olfelt said changes in the wolf's legal status have occurred multiple times since 2007, but the future of Minnesota's wolf population is secure and the DNR commitment to active and effective wolf management will continue.

"Because of the success of wolf conservation in Minnesota and the fact that wolves and humans share the same landscape, there is also the potential for conflict," Olfelt said. "Management balances a robust wolf population with effective tools for addressing conflicts with livestock and pets."

On Jan. 4, per existing state law, Minnesota will recognize two management zones. Zone A, the northeastern part of the state, has more protections for wolves, while Zone B, which represents the southern two-thirds of the state, has more flexibility for people to manage wolves to protect livestock and pets.

In the core range (Zone A), state law allows owners of livestock, guard animals, or domestic animals to shoot or destroy wolves that pose an immediate threat to their ani-

mals, on property they own or lease, in accordance with local statutes. "Immediate threat" means the owner observed a wolf in the act of stalking, attacking, or killing livestock, a guard animal, or a domestic pet under the supervision of the owner.

In all cases, a person shooting or destroying a wolf under these provisions must protect all evidence, and report the taking to a DNR conservation officer within 48 hours. The wolf carcass must be surrendered to the conservation officer.

In the southern two-thirds of the state (Zone B), a person may shoot a wolf at any time to protect livestock, domestic animals or domestic pets on land they own, lease, or manage. The "immediate threat" circumstance does not apply. The owner must notify a DNR conservation officer within 48 hours of taking the wolf and must surrender the wolf carcass to the conservation officer. People in Zone B also may employ a state certified wolf predator controller to trap wolves on or within one mile of land they own, lease or manage.

State statute also allows harassment of wolves that are within 500 yards of people, buildings, livestock or domestic pets to discourage wolves from contacting people and domestic animals. Wolves cannot be attracted or searched out for purposes of harassment and harassment cannot result in physical harm to the wolf(ves).

Similar to federal regulations, state statute allows anyone to take a wolf to defend human life. Any wolves taken in the course of defending human life must be reported to a DNR conservation officer within 48 hours, and evidence must be protected. These details are available on the DNR wolf management page.

The DNR intends to complete its wolf plan update process before considering any adjustments to wolf management in Minnesota.