

Wisconsin Youth Conservation Congress Update

April 2020

YCC Delegates and Mentors,

Keep your head up. Be kinder than usual and stay positive. We are all in this together. During this uncertain time, communication is more important than ever. Routinely check in with friends, family, teachers, mentors, and those in your everyday circles.

Between schoolwork, social connections, and family time, make it a priority to get outside. Time spent outdoors is good for your body, physically and mentally. If you can't get out to the woods or on a nature trail, look for new signs of spring in your own neighborhood. You can also help your parents or a neighbor rake their yard, trim fruit trees or clean up fall and winter landscape debris. Your help can really brighten someone's day.

Get outside. Take a walk, breathe fresh air and try to keep everything in perspective.

~Kyle, YCC Coordinator

Please take note of the following reminders and notices:

- While our scheduled YCC activities have been put on hold, know that we are working to plan future activities as soon as we are all able to get together again.
- Please keep track of your time spent participating in WCC meetings, mentored outings, YCC promotions, and conservation related activities. Keeping track of your hours is important to the WCC. Please log them online: <https://forms.gle/2NsLvLPD33wQXmao9>

Picture Perfect!

This month send in pictures of you spending time outdoors on Earth Day @50

Each month we will ask you to share outdoor pictures.

Please text pictures to Kyle Zenz at 715-299-0925 or email:

Kyle.Zenz@Wisconsin.gov

We will select a photograph to be featured in next month's YCC newsletter



Visit the [WCC Facebook site](#) to see what's new

Outdoor Adventures!



WCC delegate, Lowell Wright, his daughter, Gabby and son Gavin (YCC delegate) enjoyed the pheasant season



Tommy, Vilas Co. delegate keeps busy by making musky lures



Sam, Racine Co. delegate has been enjoying daily hikes with her dog

REQUEST FOR PICTURES

We are looking to grow our photo database for the YCC. As we prepare displays, documents, videos and publications we are in need of more photos.

Please share photos featuring:

- YCC events and activities
- Mentored hunting experiences
- Archery, trap or fishing competitions
- Successful fishing, hunting and trapping experience
- Unique outdoor experiences



Wisconsin Youth Conservation Contacts

YCC Oversight Committee Chair: Trent Tonn. (262) 534-1962 / ttonn@basd.k12.wi.us

YCC Oversight Committee Vice Chair: Rob Bohmann (262) 498-4605 / rob.bohmann@att.net

YCC Oversight Committee Secretary: Tashina Peplinski (262) 483-2483 / tashina@startistries.com

YCC Coordinator: Kyle Zenz (715) 299-0925 / kyle.zenz@wisconsin.gov

WCC Liaison: Kari Lee-Zimmermann (608) 266-0580 / Kari.LeeZimmermann@Wisconsin.gov

NEW YOUTH LOGO



We are excited to present the new logo for the YCC.
Thanks to all of you who voted for your favorite design.

UPCOMING CDAC MEETINGS

Each county in Wisconsin has a County Deer Advisory Council (CDAC) to provide input and recommendations to the Wisconsin



Department of Natural

Resources on deer management within their county.

Between March 30 and April 9, each county will host a call-in meeting talking about harvest goals for 2020. Anyone interested in listening to their county's call can join the meeting by phone from the comfort of home. You can also look up call-in details and start times by county.

Presentations by DNR wildlife biologists normally given in-person at these meetings will be available at dnr.wi.gov, keyword "CDAC" by March 27.

The agenda for each county meeting will include the development of antlerless harvest goals and season framework recommendations for the 2020 deer season to achieve each county's deer population objective. Options under discussion include the antlerless deer harvest quota and various season framework options such as offering the holiday hunt or extended archery/crossbow seasons. All council call-in meetings are open to the public. Due to the facilitation limitations of call-in meetings, public comments will not be taken on the call. Instead, anyone wishing to provide feedback will be asked to do so using the online public input form available on the DNR website from April 16-29.

After meetings conclude, meeting summaries with preliminary recommendations will also be posted on the DNR website.

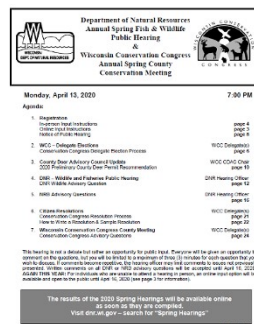
A second round of meetings will take place in May, during which council members will review public comments and make final recommendations for the 2020 deer season. No meetings will be held in person for as long as the public health emergency lasts. The decision to host May's meetings in-person or by phone will be made closer to the date.

For more information about CDAC please visit:

<https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/hunt/cdac.html>

2020 SPRING HEARING - ONLINE

This year the in-person spring hearing meetings have been cancelled. The public will continue to have the opportunity to provide input on the natural resources advisory questions from the DNR, Natural Resources Board (NRB), and WCC through the online input option.



The online input option will go live at 7 p.m. on April 13 and will remain open for three days (72 hours).

Learn more about the online option:

https://dnr.wi.gov/About/WCC/Documents/spring_hearing/2020/2020SpringHearingOnlineInputFAQ_UPDATED.pdf

We encourage all YCC delegates to become informed about the questions and participate in the online hearing. Your voices count.

Please review the 2020 hearing questions:

https://dnr.wi.gov/About/WCC/Documents/spring_hearing/2020/2020_Spring_Questionnaire.pdf

ANNUAL CONSERVATION CONGRESS CONVENTION

[Green Lake Conference Center, Green Lake](#)

Thursday, May 14th through Saturday, May 16th*

***At this point the convention has not yet been cancelled.** Options to reschedule the convention are being considered. Stay tuned! We will provide you with updated information as soon as we can. Thanks for your patience!

MILWAUKEE JOURNAL SPORT SHOW & WI CONSERVATION CONGRESS

Special THANK YOU!

On behalf of the WCC and YCC, we would like to extend a huge THANK YOU to the Outdoor Heritage Education Center (OHEC) and Mark LaBarbera for the very gracious offer to join OHEC in their booth area with the Touch of the Wild trailer at the Milwaukee Journal Sports Show this past weekend. We were able to assemble OHEC, WCC and YCC volunteers to support the event by raising funds for YCC and sharing the Touch of the Wild experience. THANK YOU to OHEC volunteers Dawn Ziolecki, Frank and Don Byrne and Howard W. for helping with this event.

It Takes a Village...

A THANK YOU to the following WCC and YCC members that worked at the Sport Show: Josh Hennlich; Ethan Brehmer; Tashina Peplinski; Justin Loehrke; Trent Tonn; Samantha Hammler; Evan Richmond; Kyle Zenz; Mark LaBarbera; Scott Gunderson; Reed Kabelowsky; Steve Klock; Harold Drake; Gavin Wright; Barbara Dahlgren; Rob Bohmann and his daughter Sara.

Outreach and Public Relations Opportunity

Through the partnership and relationship WCC has with OHEC, the Friends of WCC were able to hold six gun raffles during the 5-day event that gave away guns or cash. It also gave the WCC and YCC an impressive opportunity to engage with citizens and educate them about the work we do! ***This was a significant Outreach and Public Relations opportunity!*** We couldn't have accomplished what we did without the help of our WCC and YCC delegates that chipped in to help man the booth and raffles.

Fundraising

Overall, this 5-day event generated about \$4000 for the YCC which will help us get programs up and running for our youth delegates while demonstrating the power of outreach and fundraising to support our cause!

We encourage you as WCC and YCC delegates to participate in events like this to broaden our outreach and partnerships. This event is a huge Outreach milestone for the WCC and YCC and we look forward to the continued momentum!

Regards,
Larry Bonde, Chair
Terri Roehrig
Outreach and Public Relations Coordinator



Harold Drake talks to YCC delegates, Evan & Sam



YCC delegate, Sam teaches kids about Wisconsin wildlife



Trent Tonn (center) pictured with both of his YCC mentees, Sam and Evan.



Kyle Zenz, Trent Tonn & Evan



Dan Small (center) pictured with YCC delegates Evan & Sam



Mark LaBarbera pictured with the first raffle winner



Rob Bohmann and Reed Kabelowsky pictured with one of the raffle winners



Rob Bohmann and Scott Gunderson presenting raffle winner with \$500 cash

A LIFETIME OF MENTORING *by WCC delegate, Jim Heffner, Oneida County*

The other day a fellow asked me how long you have been a mentor. I said a long, long time. I will be 81 years old in May 2020.

Thanks to my parents and grandparents, who loved conservation and resources, such as hunting, fishing and trapping. They loved being outdoors and enjoying what God gave us.

My father started taking me hunting when I was around six years old. I took a Red Ryder BB gun, but I was allowed no BBs. He told me when I could show him how to properly handle a firearm in the field that he would allow me to get a license and carry a gun. I started hunting at age 12 (1951). He started me bait casting with artificial baits at age 7 (1946). I caught my first fish when I was three years old. I caught my first game fish when I was 9. I caught a very large catfish on a fly rod when I was 13.

Some of my younger friends were following me around and always asking questions. We would talk baseball, hunting, and fishing. I was teaching and instructing friends way before the DNR had its hunters' safety program which began in 1967. I was also teaching my friends angler skills about that time.

I was mentoring children at various intersections when on the Safety Patrol. I got some of the toughest intersections and I think this was because I could direct traffic well. This I learned by watching my father, who was a police officer. Directing traffic helped me in the Navy because I ended up on a flight line directing airplanes. I also mentored younger people while in the Navy and later I became a crew chief for the flight leader of the Blue Angels Flight Demonstration Team.

I was employed almost 25 years as a Deputy Sheriff for Green County Sheriff's Department. I retired as a Patrol Sergeant. During my employment with the Sheriff's Department I was a training officer, range officer, taught accident reconstruction and crime scene sketching. During the time I was with the Sheriff's Department, I was a Little League baseball coach and taught youth in T-ball, Midget League, Little League, and Traveling Teeners which consisted of approximately 20 years.

In February 2020 I received a letter from an old friend of mine thanking me for all the time I spent with him teaching him hunting and fishing skills. He stated it was in 1956 when he was 12 years old when I started working with him.

My wife and I are Youth Directors of Headwaters Chapter 12 Muskies, Inc. and teach Kids Fishing Tips in the summer. In the past six years we have had over 2,000 attendees at our seminars. However, one young man stands out from the crowd in learning about fishing. In December 2019, Tommy Burr, another 12-year-old, became a WCC Youth Delegate of whom I am proud to be a Youth Mentor.

I was instrumental in getting my granddaughter, Courtney Froemming, to become a Washington County Youth Delegate. She served from 2013 – 2016. I served as a mentor to Ethan Snyder, youth delegate for Oneida County from 2016 – 2019.

I thank God, my parents, my grandparents, all the youngsters and adults, all the DNR people who I have met and worked with all my life who have allowed me the opportunity to touch their lives.



*Current YCC delegate, Tommy Burr
with Mentor, Jim Heffner*



*Ethan Snyder, YCC delegate from
2016-2019*



*Jim pictured with granddaughter,
Courtney Froemming, YCC delegate from
2013-2016*

YCC Upcoming Opportunities

APRIL

- April 13 - WCC Statewide Spring Hearings - [online input only](#)
- April 22 - Earth Day, celebrating 50 years
- Dates vary by county - County Deer Advisory Council (CDAC) Meeting. Call in meeting information: https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/hunt/documents/cdac/2020FirstCDACMeetings_WisLine.pdf

MAY

- May 2 - Fishing opener in Wisconsin. *Please always check regulations first. Season dates are often specific to the species of fish as well as the water body
- May 14-16 - WCC State Convention, Green Lake Wisconsin. - stay tuned for updates!

JUNE

- June 6-7 Free Fishing Weekend in Wisconsin

JULY

AUGUST

- 12 - 15 Future Trappers of Wisconsin: Basic Trapping Camp at Trees for Tomorrow
- 13-16 Trout Unlimited Youth Fishing Camp

YOUTH TURKEY HUNT — APRIL 11-12

Wisconsin's annual Spring Turkey Youth Hunt is designed to give young hunters the opportunity to hunt and gain valuable experience without competing against adults. The youth hunt is open to resident and non-resident hunters under age 16 who possess a valid spring turkey license, stamp, and harvest authorization. Youth hunters must be accompanied by an adult age 18 or older. All youth hunters must have successfully completed Hunter Education unless they are participating under the Mentored Hunting Program. Youth hunters can use a harvest authorization for any time period, but they are limited to the turkey management zone for which their authorization was issued. All other spring turkey hunting regulations apply. <https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/hunt/youth.html>

EARTH DAY - APRIL 22

Celebrate the 50th Earth Day by getting outdoors. Many Earth Day activities have been postponed, but that doesn't mean you can't participate in your own way. Pick up trash in your neighborhood or on a trail, help a neighbor rake their lawn, build and put up bluebird houses, find ways to reduce single-use plastics, or simply take a walk or hike and truly notice and appreciate the natural world around you.

Some DNR events are still being planned. <https://dnr.wi.gov/Calendar/workplayearthday/> *Events prior to April 24th have been cancelled. Check the website for up to date information.

APRIL IS VOLUNTEER MONTH

Think of all of the volunteers who make our lives possible and more enjoyable. All of the Wisconsin Conservation Congress delegates and mentors are volunteers who believe in sharing their voices to help responsibly manage Wisconsin's natural resources for present and future generations.

Please thank your mentor for sharing their time and talents with you. Volunteers deserve our appreciation this month and every month!

THANK
YOU



WCC District 8 met for their spring meeting on March 2. Pictured are WCC Chair, Larry Bonde, YCC Oversight Committee Secretary, Tashina Peplinski, YCC delegate, Gavin Ford, and YCC delegate, Blake Gates.



Learn more about what is going on in the Conservation Congress by reading the Conservation Chronicle Fall 2019 edition

<https://dnr.wi.gov/About/WCC/Documents/Chronicle/Fall2019CC.pdf>