

Wisconsin Youth Conservation Congress Update

March 2020

YCC Delegates and Mentors,

I think we all can appreciate a great treasure hunt. Melting snow across our state often reveals more than just bare ground. This time of year a natural treasure hunt awaits you: discovering white-tailed deer antler sheds. Deer generally shed their antlers between December and March of each year. How many of you have stumbled across an antler shed? How many of you actively search for them? Shed hunters all have their own tips and time-tested advice for finding great sheds. Some recommend looking in areas where deer rest and feed. Others report great success walking fence lines where deer cross or searching through cedar swamps. What about you? Do you have advice for shed hunting or do you have a picture to share of a great shed you discovered? I would love to include a photo of your treasure in next month's newsletter.

Go play outside, you never know what you might find! ~Kyle, YCC Coordinator

Please take note of the following reminders and notices:

- All youth have received an email from Kari with information about the upcoming YCC Oversight Committee meeting in Stevens Point on March 21st.
Please RSVP to Kyle regarding your attendance.
- 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 us pictures of antler sheds you have found. Include yourself in the photo.

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!



Vilas County delegate, Tommy spent time on Lake Poygan with his dad, who successfully harvested this 64.1", 75.8 # Sturgeon



Racine delegate, Sam visited a Bison farm on her way to an FFA Conference in Stevens Point.

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 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





YCC SPOTLIGHT

Layne, pictured with his first musky, caught while fishing with his mentor, Larry Damman.

“ Besides being Layne's YCC mentor I'm also his High School Fishing team coach. Because I'm not a teacher, Layne is my go to guy with team members when forms need to be distributed and raffle tickets collected etc. He is an especially skilled bass fisherman. His ability to flip muskie plugs bass style under docks impressed me. I didn't think muskie gear was capable of that.

Like most active youth these days, finding time for his mentor is hard. We managed to tag along on a DNR fish survey on the Chippewa Flowage and observe the tribal biologist prepare walleye eggs for their hatchery. He got the wrong impression about the ease of muskie fishing on our first outing. This was corrected after seeing just one fish for a 3 day tournament in the cold October rain.



Larry pictured with the Musky caught on the fishing trip with Layne.

Hope we'll get to do more stuff between his fly fishing and elk hunting trips out west. Maybe he should be my mentor.”
-Larry Damman

Featured YCC Delegate

Name: Layne Olson

Shell Lake High School, Junior

County: Washburn

WCC Mentor: Larry Damman

Years involved in the YCC: 1

What is one of your most memorable outdoor experiences?

Catching my first musky with my YCC mentor (Larry).

Share something specific you have learned from your mentor.

My mentor has taught me the importance of keeping a good balance between harvesting and stocking fish in our local waters.

Aside from your interest in the outdoors/hunting, are there other school activities or personal activities that you enjoy participating in?

I enjoy participating in my schools ice fishing club, baseball team, and soccer team.

What are your plans following high school graduation?

After graduating from high school I plan on attending Montana State University in Bozeman MT. I am hoping to go to school there and study in the field of Wildlife Biology or Marine Biology.

What would you say to encourage someone to join the YCC?

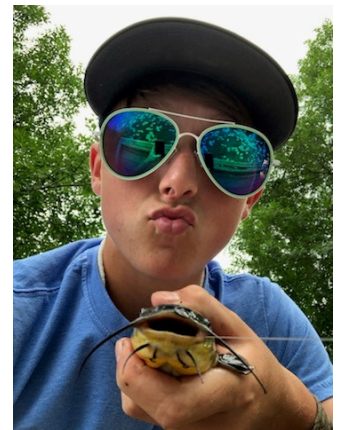
Being involved in the YCC helps you understand your local ecology and how you can help it. The YCC also gets you involved in all sorts of hands on projects to make your environment and wildlife's environment better. YCC is a lot of fun, and if you love being outdoors it is a great way to get more involved!



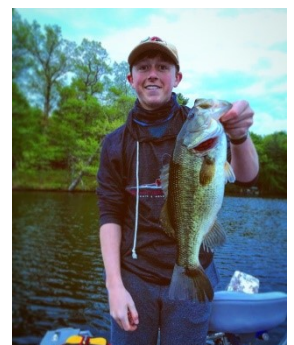
Layne, enjoying a day on the ice.



Layne found a great collection of Elk sheds while on a hunting trip in Montana



Pucker up!



Layne's Wisconsin fishing adventures. A nice representation of different species.

YCC OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEETING

All YCC delegates and parents are invited to attend the YCC Oversight Committee meeting on Saturday, March 21st at UW-Stevens Point starting at 9:30 a.m.



After lunch, Jessica Tomaszewski, Academic and Career Advisor (and a WCC delegate) will give a behind the scenes tour of the UWSP campus and the College of Natural Resources, where there will be discussion about majors, careers, research opportunities, student organizations and outreach centers that the university provides. Then YCC delegates will be given a tour of the university's Herpetology Society's vivarium, where the youth will be able to learn about and handle some of the reptiles and amphibians of Wisconsin. They may also be visiting the university's fish research laboratory.

Please talk with your mentor and/or parents to arrange transportation. Additional details and map: <https://dnr.wi.gov/About/WCC/Documents/Agenda/2020/YCC032120.pdf>

RSVP to Kyle by March 18th if you plan to attend.

SPRING HEARINGS

On Monday, April 13, there will be 72 public hearings, one in each county starting at 7:00 p.m. where citizens have an opportunity to provide their input and testimony to the Department of Natural Resources and the Wisconsin Conservation Congress (WCC) on advisory questions relating to fish and wildlife management in Wisconsin.

Find your location:

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

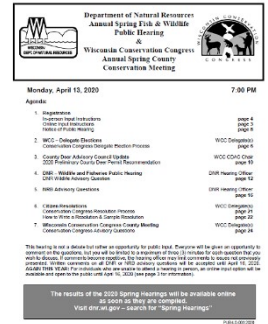
2020 hearing questions:

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

Is this your first time attending a spring hearing?

Learn more: https://dnr.wi.gov/About/WCC/Documents/spring_hearing/FirstTimeGuidelinesEnglish.pdf

We encourage all YCC delegates to attend and bring a guest. Invite your parents, teachers or friends to join you.



ANNUAL CONSERVATION CONGRESS CONVENTION

[Green Lake Conference Center, Green Lake](#)
Thursday, May 14th through Saturday, May 16th.

This is the one time of year when WCC delegates from all 72 counties come together. This year's convention site is located on 900 acres with shoreline along Green Lake. The property includes paved and forested trails, lookout towers, recreational activities, and all you can eat ice-cream in the dining hall!

All YCC delegates are invited to attend this convention. Specific YCC focused activities are being planned in addition to attending some general Conservation Congress meetings. This convention will help you learn more about the work of the Conservation Congress, meet new YCC delegates, learn about trout habitat, participate in a hands-on field day with DNR staff, and more!

Please talk to your mentor about attending the convention. Additional information regarding payment, registration, lodging, and meals will be emailed soon.

LEARN TO TURKEY HUNT

Learn to hunt programs combine classroom instruction and field work before a novice goes hunting with an experienced hunter. This is a great way to try turkey hunting for the first time!

Find class locations and dates: <https://dnr.wi.gov/education/outdoorSkills/lth.html#UpcomingLearntoHunt>

LEARN TO HUNT BEAR APPLICATION

Beginning in 2005, the Wisconsin DNR began offering Learn to Hunt Bear opportunities. The Learn to Hunt Bear Program (LTHB) is an opportunity to expose novice hunters to the hunting experience and recruit new hunters into the sport. The Conservation Congress is one of the statewide conservation organizations that are specifically issued a bear harvest tag through the LTHB Bear Program.

Each spring the Conservation Congress accepts applications from novice hunters interested in participating in the LTHB Bear Program. Applicants must fill out and submit an application along with a brief essay describing why they would like to be considered to receive the bear harvest tag and why they would like the opportunity to hunt bear.

For additional information and application form visit: <https://dnr.wi.gov/about/wcc/hunt.html>

Applications must be postmarked by Wednesday, April 22, 2020.

YCC Upcoming Opportunities

MARCH

- WCC Spring District Meetings - dates vary by district: [click here to find dates and locations](#)
- 21st - YCC Oversight Committee Meeting at UW-Stevens Point
- Join a [Scholastic Shooting Sports](#) team at your school or check with local sporting clubs to see if they offer opportunities for high school teams.
- Dates vary by county - County Deer Advisory Council (CDAC) Meeting

APRIL

- April 13 - WCC Statewide Spring Hearings
- April 15-30 (approximately) - Sturgeon Guard volunteers needed <https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/fishing/sturgeon/sturgeonguard.html>
- April 22 - Earth Day, celebrating 50 years
- Dates vary by county - County Deer Advisory Council (CDAC) Meeting

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. YCC events being planned include: hands on trout habitat restoration with the DNR, trap shooting, and more - stay tuned!
- May 20-21 - [Midwest Outdoor Heritage Education Expo](#), MacKenzie Center, Poynette. This event welcomes volunteers.

JUNE

- June 6-7 Free Fishing Weekend in Wisconsin

JULY

AUGUST

- 12 - 15 Future Trappers of Wisconsin: Basic Trapping Camp at Trees for Tomorrow.

ONGOING

- Statewide opportunity: volunteer to help with conservation workdays at State Natural Areas. <https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/lands/naturalareas/volunteer.html>

WORK, PLAY EARTH DAY

Celebrate the 50th Earth Day by getting outdoors and volunteering. Work day events will be held

at many State Parks. Volunteer work and activities will vary by location. To find an event near you, check out:

<https://dnr.wi.gov/Calendar/workplayearthday/>



WCC SPRING DISTRICT MEETINGS

Youth are invited to attend the WCC Spring District Meetings. These meetings take place across the state in March. View the link to determine the meeting date and location for your district. Please talk with your mentor and/or parents to arrange transportation.

<https://dnr.wi.gov/About/WCC/Documents/Agenda/2020/2020Springmtgschedule.pdf>

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. Upcoming meetings are individually scheduled by each county in March and April.

We encourage all YCC delegates to attend the meeting in their county. Please review this document before attending: <https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/hunt/documents/cdacpublic.pdf>

For more information about CDAC please visit:

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

County
Deer
Advisory
Councils



LOOKING FOR TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES?

Hunter safety classes are currently being offered across the state throughout the next few months. Check out the link to find a training near you.

<https://gowild.wi.gov/customers/safetyedclass>



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>

