

Wisconsin Youth Conservation Congress Update

May 2020

YCC Delegates and Mentors,

The rhythm of spring is a constant cycle we can all appreciate, maybe now more than ever. Nature is a steady presence in uncertain times. We can count on spring flowers blooming, turkeys strutting, weather warming, and my favorite - morel mushrooms popping! How many of you hunt for this elusive mushroom? Morel hunting has been my spring constant since I was a child, and is one of my favorite springtime activities. If you are a morel hunter, or if you accidentally stumble across morel mushrooms this spring, please share a photo. I would love to see the bounties gathered across the state.

Get outside. Take a walk, breathe fresh air and enjoy spring.

~Kyle, YCC Coordinator

Please take note of the following reminders and notices:

- While our scheduled YCC activities have been put on hold, please 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:

Fishing

Each month we ask you to share outdoor pictures.

Please text pictures to Kyle Zenz at 715-299-0925 or email: Kyle.Zenz@Wisconsin.gov

Watch for your photos next month



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



Outdoor Adventures!



Gavin, Jefferson Co. delegate with his turkey harvested during the youth hunt.



Gavin (right) with his sister, Gabby during the youth turkey hunt.



Avery, Green Co. delegate blending in to his surroundings during turkey season.



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

Outdoor Adventures!



Devin, Marathon Co. with a 33" steelhead caught near Green Bay.



Sam, Racine Co. found a skull while out hiking with her dog.



Tommy, Vilas Co. collecting bait worms on a rainy morning.

2020 SPRING HEARING UPDATE

Over 60,000 responses were collected for the spring hearing questions. This was the first year that all questions were collected on line. Due to the large number of responses submitted, the results have not been posted yet. Stay tuned for the 2020 results.
<https://dnr.wi.gov/About/WCC/springhearing.html>



ANNUAL CONSERVATION CONGRESS CONVENTION

Monday, August 17 - Wednesday, August 19

The WCC convention has been rescheduled for August 17-19. It will be held at the same location: [Green Lake Conference Center, Green Lake](#). This property is located on 900 acres and 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, participate in a hands-on field day with DNR staff, and more!

We are currently working to reschedule our hands on field day, and trap shooting activity. We will update you as soon as we have a tentative schedule.

We will also be reaching out to see if you plan to attend the convention and your lodging needs. Stay tuned!

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.

Online feedback was provided April 16-29. The final CDAC meetings will take place May 4-7 via conference call. The dates, times and call in numbers for each county can be found at: <https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/hunt/documents/cdac/2020FinalCDACMeetings.pdf>

For more information about CDAC please visit: <https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/hunt/cdac.html>



YCC Senior Spotlight

Congrats to our 2020 seniors!
Best wishes for your future.



Rowen Donaghue

Sawyer County

Everyone has their own preference, but I plan on attending a 4-year college next fall. Based on my love for the outdoors and other interests, I chose UW Stevens Point. I would like to major in Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences and/or Marine Biology. This type of work interests me because of how and where I was raised. Being raised in the “up north” type of setting has sparked my interest in the outdoors and natural resources fields. Being outdoors, hunting, and fishing have all taught me different lessons that I will carry throughout the rest of my life.

My advice to new delegates or kids that are unsure about pursuing interest in the conservation field is to just give it a try. When I was debating on joining a year ago now, the only thought holding me back was if it was something I would really be interested in. But by trying it out and just giving it a chance, I realized how much more there actually was within conservation. Looking back at it now, I’m glad I made the decision to join. It’s a great way to make new friends and learn more about the conservation within Wisconsin.

Something that’s on my “outdoor” bucket list is to expand my knowledge in fly fishing. Whether it’s trout fishing in nearby lakes and rivers or learning to tie my own flies, it’s something I’ve always been interested in but never made the time to learn more about. With that being said, I’m hoping my future plans and ambitions at UW Stevens Point will help open me up to those new experiences.

Seniors not pictured:

Isabella Lonetti, Pierce County

Bode Guthrie, Oneida County

Bailey Broullire, Florence County

Cyrus Hill, Milwaukee County



Devin Hall

Marathon County

After high school I plan to attend UW-Stevens Point to pursue a degree in Forestry management. With this degree I plan on seeking a career as a forester.

My advice for current members is to stay active in the YCC the best you can, and to really listen in on the different meetings, and hearings because a lot of interesting/useful information can be attained. Along with that try to promote the YCC to classmates and to simply spread the word that such a organization exists.

Something for my outdoor bucket list for in the next 5 years would be to go on a mule deer hunt out west.



Hunter Bault

Ozaukee County

Next year I will be attending Northern Michigan University to major in Pre Med to eventually become a Psychiatrist.

My advice to all future conservation advocates is to seize every opportunity that is presented to you. As the saying goes “you miss 100% of the shots you don’t take,” and that is just as relevant in the world of conservation. The more you throw yourself into, the more you experience. Eventually you’ll build up a knowledge base to help the world around you.

Hopefully in the near future I’ll get the opportunity to kayak around the Pictured Rocks in Lake Superior!



John Dienger

Chippewa County

After high school I plan to attend UW Madison, I am currently undecided.

New YCC delegates should remember to keep an open mind and have fun! The conservation congress is a very unique organization that is a pleasure to be a part of!

At some point in the next 5 years I would like to catch a northern bigger than 36 inches, my record.

YCC Upcoming Opportunities

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. <https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/fishing/seasons/index.html>
- May 9 - International Migratory Bird Day. Have you noticed the return of new bird species?

JUNE

- June 6-7 Free Fishing Weekend in Wisconsin

JULY

- July is Lake Appreciation month. Learn more and find ways to get involved: <https://www.nalms.org/lakes-appreciation-month/>

AUGUST

- 12 - 15 Future Trappers of Wisconsin: Basic Trapping Camp at Trees for Tomorrow
- 13-16 Trout Unlimited Youth Fishing Camp
- 17-19 WCC Convention, Green Lake Conference Center

VIRTUAL FIELD TRIPS

All YCC delegates are members of the Natural Resources Foundation. You should have received information in the mail.



Each year the Foundation plans amazing field trips around the state. Unfortunately some of their field trips have already been canceled, and registration has been put on hold.

Check out the new addition of virtual field trips the Foundation has been posting each Friday: <https://www.wisconservation.org/virtual-field-trips/>

LAKES POSTER CONTEST

Students in grades 1-12 are invited to submit artwork reflecting on how important lakes are to all of us. The theme is: "Diverse Lakes, Landscapes, and People"



Details and guidelines can be found at: <https://www.nalms.org/lakes-appreciation-month/poster-contest/>

Deadline for electronic submission is Friday, May 15th.

ONLINE LICENSES

Purchase fishing and hunting licenses on line at:

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



WHAT LIVES IN YOUR WOODS?

Are you curious about what walks through your woods while you aren't looking? Snapshot Wisconsin is a volunteer-based project which utilizes a statewide network of trail cameras to monitor wildlife year-round.



Volunteer to host a trail camera on your property, or adopt a camera already in place on public land. The project provides important data for wildlife management. It is also a unique opportunity for individuals, families, and students to get involved in monitoring the state's valuable natural resources. No experience is necessary, and all training and equipment are provided. Volunteers must be able to participate for at least one year and check the camera at least once every three months.

<https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/research/projects/snapshot/>

HELP IDENTIFY WILDLIFE

Photos collected by Snapshot Wisconsin cameras are hosted on Zooniverse, a crowdsourcing website for citizen science projects. Thousands of volunteers worldwide participate on Zooniverse by identifying wildlife captured in Snapshot Wisconsin photos. You can help Snapshot WI identify animals:

<https://www.zooniverse.org/projects/zooniverse/snapshot-wisconsin>



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>