

Wisconsin Youth Conservation Congress Update



Photo by Sam, YCC delegate from Racine Co.

June 2021

YCC delegates and mentors,

Most of you have finished school and are diving in to your summer routine. There are so many things to look forward to in summer. I am especially excited to be planning an in-person event for the YCC. We will be holding a YCC Summer Program near Hayward focusing on trout. We will work with DNR fisheries biologists, Trout Unlimited, and local experts to explore the aquatic population of the Namekagon River. I hope you all consider attending this program!

Summer always disappears before we know it. Get out there and make the most of it! Don't forget to enter our YCC virtual fishing contest - we can't wait to see what you catch!

Take care! ~Kyle Zenz, YCC Coordinator

Outdoor Adventures!



Ben, YCC delegate from Sauk Co. enjoying a day out fishing.



Tommy, YCC delegate from Vilas Co. has been helping his mentor, Jim Heffner (and Carol) teach families about fishing at a local campground.



Jacob, YCC delegate from Dane Co. is our first YCC delegate to enter a fish in our virtual contest.



Avery, YCC delegate from Green Co. didn't land the big one while out fishing, but enjoyed time well spent on the water.



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 YCC DELEGATES

We are excited to welcome new delegates to the YCC:

Liam, Marathon County

Allie, Dane County

Ava, Racine County

Jackson, Sawyer County

Outdoor Adventures!



Madison, YCC delegate from La Crosse Co. participated in elk calf collaring. This picture shows an elk calf with a sleeve over its head and eyes to minimize stress while the biologists took measurements, tagged and collared it.



Gabby, YCC delegate from Jefferson Co. shoots in the Kettle Moraine trap conference. She earned 2nd team All Conference this year. Her JV squad for Beaver Dam won conference.



Gavin, YCC delegate from Jefferson Co. finished the regular season in the WI High School Clay League, and finished 2nd in the conference and in the top 10 of the state.



Brooke, YCC delegate from Dodge Co. shoots for the Horicon Youth team. She earned 2nd team All Conference for the Kettle Moraine trap conference.

Learn About Wisconsin Wildlife

NOT YOUR TYPICAL WILDLIFE...

Wartyback, monkeyface, three ridge, giant floater and pink heelsplitter. These are just a few of the native mussel species reported to DNR's [Wisconsin Mussel Monitoring Program](#) in 2020.

Twenty-four of Wisconsin's 50 native mussel species are endangered, threatened or special concern, so the record-setting effort by volunteers in 2020 to document native freshwater mussels is very important and appreciated.

[Open up this edition of The Clam Chronicle to see these and other pearls:](#)

- **Learn about mussel diversity in Wisconsin's most water-rich counties.**
- **See University of Wisconsin System students** from Green Bay, Platteville and Stevens Point **get their feet wet in mussel monitoring** and advance scientific understanding of mussel biodiversity in local waters.
- **Read about a chilly fall rescue effort** for native mussels and see how you can help salvage mussels this summer.

THANK YOU MENTORS!

We appreciate the support, advice and opportunities you provide for our Youth Conservation Congress delegates. The collective knowledge held within WCC delegates is immeasurable and we can't thank you enough for helping to pass it on to the YCC.

Thank you to all of our current YCC mentors:

District	County	Mentor
D1	Bayfield	Rob Lombard
D1	Douglas	Alan Horvath
D1	Price	Mike Wade
D1	Sawyer	Frank Pratt
D1	Washburn	Larry Damman
D2	Chippewa	Don Dukerschein
D2	St. Croix	Claude Bovi
D3	Marathon	Tom Bartz
D3	Vilas	Jim Heffner
D5	Buffalo	Terri Roehrig
D5	Vernon	Jason Leis
D5	Vernon	Tim Morgan
D6	Clark	Tara Rueth
D6	Monroe	Maurice Amundson
D7	Dodge	Harold Drake
D8	Calumet	Keith Propson
D8	Manitowoc	Brad Martinson
D8	Washington	Tashina Peplinski
D9	Sauk	Mitch Baker
D10	Dane	Mary Ellen O'Brien
D10	Dane	Paul Reith
D10	Green	Scott Lettman
D10	Jefferson	Lowell Wright
D11	Milwaukee	Brian Haydin
D11	Racine	Trent Tonn
D11	Waukesha	Jeff Hintz



YCC Mentors in picture: Trent, Scott, Tara, Terri

YCC Oversight Committee pictured:

Trent, Scott, Kevin, Jessica, Reed, Tara



Tashina & Gavin



Lowell, Gabby & Gavin



Don



Evan, Harold & Sam



Larry



Avery & Scott



Frank & Logan



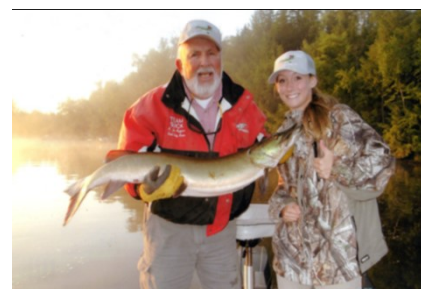
Jeff



Mitch



Sam, Trent & Gavin



Jim and granddaughter

As the YCC grows, **we need more WCC delegates to serve as mentors.** All individual delegates within the WCC bring a unique set of skills, knowledge and a personal conviction of why they serve on the WCC. You don't have to be a teacher, a youth development professional or have any formal training to be a mentor. Contact Kyle Zenz to learn more about the YCC mentor program.

YCC SUMMER PROGRAM- Trout Ecology

Friday, August 6th -Sunday,
August 8th.
Namekagon River,
near Hayward



All YCC delegates are invited!

The YCC Oversight Committee is planning a summer YCC gathering. The weekend will be spent learning about trout ecology, surveying the aquatic population of the river, and of course we will spend time fishing, paddling, learning about lures/bait and enjoying the Namekagon river.

We will all be camping on property near the Namekagon River. There is a house on the property and a bathroom is available. Tents and sleeping bags can be made available if needed. YCC delegates under 12 will be required have a parent present during the entire program.

Watch your email for additional details to be provided soon.

Join us for the YCC virtual program, Wednesday, July 14th from 7:30-8:30.

This is an opportunity for YCC delegates, parents, and mentors to discuss the summer program agenda, activities, logistics, food, accommodations, and more. There will be discussion and time for questions/answers.

TENTATIVE AGENDA

YCC Summer Program: Trout Ecology & Fishing

Friday, August 6th

Late morning: Arrive and set up tents/explore property.

10:00: Electro fish shocking survey on the Namekagon River.

Late afternoon: Macro invertebrate survey in the Namekagon River.

Evening: Dinner at Seely Sawmill Saloon.

Information (video/presentation) about the Wild & Scenic designation of the Namekagon river. Fly tying demonstration and hands on practice/design.

Saturday, August 7th

Morning to mid afternoon: Canoeing/kayaking the Namekagon with learning stations.

Late afternoon: Time for fishing. Learn from Trout Unlimited volunteers, instruction about poles, bait, lures, etc. Learn about cleaning and preparing fish for a meal.

Evening: Learn about the Namekagon watershed, lure making, free time.

Sunday, August 8th

Morning: Fishing, hiking, art opportunities, lure making, fly tying, etc.

Afternoon: Clean up and head home.

YCC VIRTUAL SUMMER FISHING CONTEST

The YCC committee and Friends Into Spooner Hatchery(FISH) invite all YCC delegates to join in a summer fishing contest using the Fishdonkey app. The contest is an opportunity to share your summer vacation catch photos with your fellow delegates. There are various species, combo and wild card categories but don't get too hung up on the competition part. Any kind or size of fish, caught anywhere could be recognized. Even if you catch nothing at all you can follow the leader boards to see how the rest of the gang is doing.

This contest runs from:

Friday, June 5th through Monday, September 6th (Labor day).

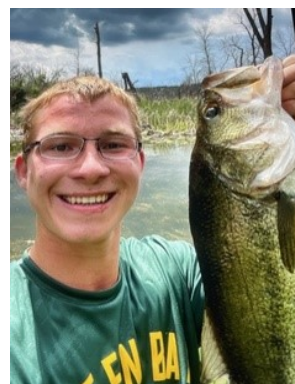
You can sign up anytime until the end of the contest.

To join contest:

1. Download the FishDonkey app. fishdonkey.com/app
2. Tap: Fish in a Tournament
3. Join: YCC



FISH is sponsoring this event. Its absolutely free for you to join. Read more about the specific contest details. To learn more about FISH check out our web site at: www.spoonerhatchery.com



Jacob, YCC delegate from Dane Co. was the first to register a fish for our summer tournament.

We hope to see more of you join the leaderboard!

We encourage all YCC delegates to join this tournament. It is a YCC-only event.

YCC Upcoming Opportunities

JUNE

- 5th & 6th - Free fishing weekend in Wisconsin
- 22nd - Natural Resource Board meeting <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/about/NRB/agenda.html>

JULY

- 14th- YCC virtual gathering - Learn about plans for our summer trout program in Hayward.
- July is Lake Appreciation month. Learn more and find ways to get involved: <https://www.nalms.org/lakes-appreciation-month/>

AUGUST

- 6-8- YCC summer program. Hayward, WI. Learn about the Namekagon River, aquatic surveys, trout fishing, watershed ecology, and more!
- 10th - Natural Resource Board meeting <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/about/NRB/agenda.html>
- 28th - Waterfowl Hunters Expo, Oshkosh. Opportunities to volunteer at the Expo and at the Touch of the Wild trailers. <https://waterfowlhuntersexpo.com/>

SEPTEMBER

- 8th- YCC virtual gathering. Topic to be determined and zoom link will be shared by email.

THE ANNUAL SECCHI DIP-IN

How many of you have used a secchi disk? This simple device is a monitoring tool for determining lake transparency.

The concept of the Dip-In is simple: individuals in volunteer monitoring programs take a transparency measurement on one day during the month of July. Individuals may be monitoring lakes, reservoirs, estuaries, rivers, or streams. These transparency values are used to assess the transparency of volunteer-monitored lakes in the United States and Canada.

Learn more about what it takes to volunteer for the annual secchi dip in: www.nalms.org/secchidipin/



YCC VIRTUAL GATHERING - YCC Summer Program Information



Wednesday, July 14th, 7:30-8:30pm

Join us by zoom to learn more about the plans for our Trout & Namekagon River summer program. This is an opportunity for YCC delegates, parents, and mentors to discuss the agenda, activities, logistics, food, accommodations, and more. There will be discussion and time for questions/answers.

YOUTH ARCHERY CAMP

Raised at Full Draw (Bowhunting camps) is a non-profit organization designed to promote archery, hunting and outdoor education. The goal of these camps is to pass knowledge and techniques on to the next generation, and allow them an opportunity to learn in a safe hands on environment. Youth camps are for ages 12-17. Learn more about camp: www.raisedatfulldraw.com

The Wisconsin camp will be held in Shawano: July 29—August 1st.

Two, \$125.00 scholarships will be awarded to YCC delegates who apply for the camp. **Please contact Mark Conrads:** 715-853-6671 / msljcon@gmail.com for more information regarding the camp & scholarships.

YOUTH TRAPPING CAMP

A youth trapping camp will be held this summer through the Future Trappers of Wisconsin. The Friends of the WCC will be supporting YCC delegates who wish to attend this camp at Trees for Tomorrow in Eagle River (July 28-30). The Friends of the YCC have pledged to reimburse up to \$100 for each YCC delegate who attends the camp. (Reimbursement will occur following completion of the camp) This would be a great opportunity to learn more about trapping and spend time with your YCC friends.

Registration is limited, and filling up fast. If you are interested in reserving your spot for this camp, please contact Dick McCarthy at 920-277-5650 or richarddamccarthy@yahoo.com

Please let YCC Coordinator, Kyle Zenz know if you plan to attend either camp, so we can assist you with scholarship options.