

# Wisconsin Youth Conservation Congress Update



## February 2022

YCC delegates and mentors,

Our YCC ice fishing event on Lake Petenwell was held on a beautiful, sunny, brisk January day. The group was successful in getting some bites, some keepers, and a few smaller fish. It was a perfect winter day to spend on the ice with good company.

Ice fishing is definitely a popular winter activity in our state, and many anglers target specific species with unique lures, bait and techniques. One prized fish in Wisconsin, that requires a completely different harvesting technique is sturgeon. The sturgeon fishing season starts on February 12th and takes ice fishing to the next level due to the large fish size and spearing techniques used.

Learn more about sturgeon fishing on the Lake Winnebago system: <https://widnr.widen.net/s/klmmhhvrjz/sturgeonspearingregs2022>

~Kyle Zenz, YCC Coordinator

## Outdoor Adventures



Bode, YCC delegate from Rusk Co. was excited to catch and release this musky.



Madison, YCC delegate from La Crosse Co. enjoyed time spent hiking with her dog along the bluffs of the Mississippi River.



Caleb, YCC delegate from St. Croix Co. caught and released a 12" rainbow trout.



Destiny, YCC delegate from Douglas Co. spent time in Texas and participated in her first hog hunt.



### Wisconsin Youth Conservation Contacts

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YCC Oversight Committee Vice Chair: Reed Kabelowsky (920) 242-3144 / [r.kabelowsky@sbcglobal.net](mailto:r.kabelowsky@sbcglobal.net)

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

# Welcome

We are excited to welcome new delegates to the YCC:

Madison, Brown County  
John, Portage County  
Zachary, Langlade County



## Outdoor Adventures



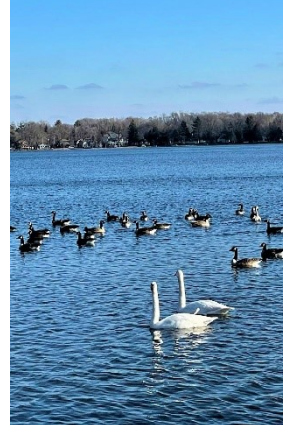
YCC delegate, Jacob from Dane Co. spends a lot of time fishing in all seasons. He is pictured with a 15.5" bass.



Gabby & Gavin are delegates from Jefferson Co. They both enjoyed hunting rabbits together. It was Gabby's first successful rabbit hunt.



Tommy, YCC delegate from Vilas Co. caught this 12.5" crappie while fishing a charity event.



YCC alumni, Sam photographed this pair of Trumpeter swans near her home in Racine Co.

## SHARE YOUR VOICE - SUBMIT A CITIZEN RESOLUTION

An important part of serving as a YCC delegate is learning about the process by which Wisconsin's natural resource policy is determined. Participating in the Wisconsin Spring Hearings is one avenue for citizens to share their voice. Writing and submitting a citizen resolution is another opportunity to act as a conservation advocate.

Do you have any new ideas related to conservation you would like to see be implemented in Wisconsin, or any current regulations that you feel should be modified?

Authoring a citizen resolution is your chance to bring up a new idea or concern. Please talk with your mentor and other WCC delegates in your county about guidance for drafting a resolution. The process of submitting a resolution is fairly straightforward, however, it is important to think through your concern, and include all necessary criteria for submitting a resolution (see details on right).

Please reach out to your mentor or YCC Coordinator, Kyle Zenz if you have specific questions about citizen resolutions or the Spring Hearings in general.

Learn about resolutions written in 2021: [https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/about/wcc/2021\\_Resolutions](https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/about/wcc/2021_Resolutions)

**All information relating to spring hearings can be found online: <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/about/wcc/springhearing>**  
**The website will soon be updated with more information and an electronic resolution link will posted.**

### What are the criteria for a resolution to be accepted?

1. The concern must be of statewide impact.
2. The concern must be practical, achievable and reasonable.
3. The resolution must have a clear title.
4. The resolution must clearly define the concern.
5. Current state statutes and laws must be considered, with reasonable cause for change being presented.
6. The resolution must clearly suggest a solution to the concern and a description of further action desired.
7. Resolutions must be 2000 characters or less.
8. The author's name, mailing address, county, telephone number are required with the resolution. Email address is helpful, but not required. For 2022, a signature will not be required.
9. An individual may introduce no more than two resolutions.



2022  
Youth Conservation Congress  
Ice Fishing Event  
Petenwell Lake  
January 15



Conservation Warden, Seybert with YCC delegates



Shawn with a walleye



Logan and mentor, Frank



Trevor and Olivia setting a tip up



Sarah and her dad, John



Payton caught the first walleye of the day



All YCC participants, mentors, parents, and guests



Charlie and John with a walleye



Ava, waiting patiently for a bite



Ari caught a crappie



Olivia enjoying the day



Olivia enjoys spending time fishing in all seasons

**YCC SPOTLIGHT**

— **Featured YCC Delegate** —

**Name:** Olivia Halbach  
**County:** Calumet  
**School:** Hilbert High School, Senior  
**WCC Mentor:** Keith Propson  
**Years involved in the YCC:** 1.5

**What is one of your most memorable outdoor experiences?** One of my most memorable outdoor experiences was

Thanksgiving 2019, I shot my biggest buck while in the stand with my mom. We got it all on video. The buck was 10pts.

**Share something specific you have learned from your mentor or an experience you shared together**

In August 2021 my mentor Keith and I went to the Collins Marsh to band ducks. It was really neat to see the ducks up close and learn about the information the DNR was collecting about them.

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

In school I play volleyball and softball. I also play in the concert, variety, jazz and pep bands at school. I also sing in the choir. Outside of school I play for the Chilton City band.

**What are your plans following high school graduation?**

I will be attending UW Stevens Point where I will major in Fish and Water Resources.

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

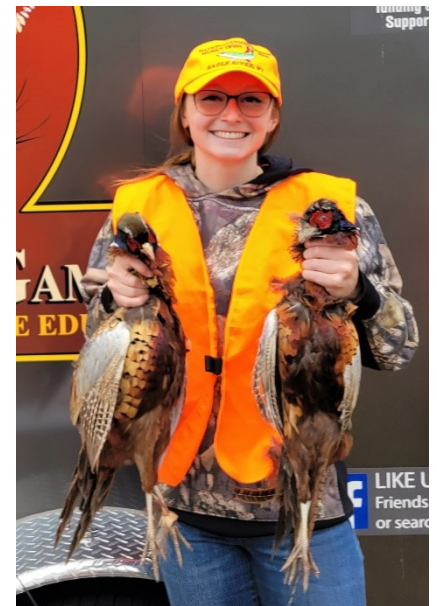
Even if you don't plan on doing something in the natural resources field, to just join anyway. You will meet so many new people and have so much fun learning all about new things.

**Is there anything else you would like to share about yourself or your YCC involvement?**

I have enjoyed this program so much and wish I had joined earlier. I have met so many people and made many new friends.



2019 deer hunting season



YCC & Friends of Poynette Game Farm learn to hunt pheasant program



YCC summer program on the Namekagon River



24" Walleye catch

“ I have never been so excited about the future of conservation with all the YCC delegates and especially Olivia. She found out about the YCC and jumped right in at the opportunities that are available. While our field experiences have been limited she took advantage of as many of the field days, classes and events she could. Olivia is very motivated and I am always impressed at the many pictures she shares of herself and her family on their outdoor adventures. When we chat she loves to share what she has done, what is next on her agenda, what she has learned and her future goals. Congrats Olivia! ”

~Keith Propson, Mentor to Olivia



Duck banding at Collins Marsh

## TREE FELLING COURSE AT UW-STEVENSON POINT

Join UW-Stevens Point Forestry undergraduate students and industry professionals in a 3-day, field intensive chainsaw training. As part of this course, you will work directly with more than 10 industry professionals to gain the knowledge, skills, and experience needed to safely fell a tree. Through guided field training you will learn how to safely cut-down, de-limb, and buck a tree while earning an industry recognized certificate and college credit. Specifically, you will learn directional felling, hinge cutting, and chainsaw safety while earning 1 credit in FOR396 from UWSP and Tree Felling certification from UWSP and Husqvarna. All costs are covered by program sponsors.



**Who can apply?** High school junior and senior students. Application Deadline: March 1, 2022

When: March 25-27, 2022

Where: Treehaven, Tomahawk, Wis.\*

\*Housing will not be available. All participating students will be responsible for their own housing and transportation to and from Treehaven.

Learn more and apply: <https://www.uwsp.edu/cnr-ap/WFC/Pages/WFC/WorkshopsandTrainings/ScienceofTreeFelling.aspx>

## YCC VIRTUAL GATHERINGS

The YCC meets virtually each month to learn about a variety of topics related to natural resources. This an opportunity to learn from peers and professionals.



**Do you have any ideas for monthly topics?**

- Do you have a skill to share?
- Can you film a video highlighting your skill?
- Could you create a virtual field trip of a unique Wisconsin landscape or location?
- Do you know a professional who could share their expertise with the YCC?
- Is there a special topic you would like to learn more about?

Please email your thoughts and ideas to Kyle Zenz: [kyle.zenz@wisconsin.gov](mailto:kyle.zenz@wisconsin.gov)

## YCC VIRTUAL ICE FISHING CONTEST

The YCC committee and Friends Into Spooner Hatchery (FISH) invite all YCC delegates to join in an ice fishing contest using the Fishdonkey app. 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 everyone else is doing.



This contest runs from December 1st - April 1st. You can sign up anytime during the contest period. Download the FishDonkey App on your phone or smart device. (You do not need cell reception to record fish – they can be recorded on the app and uploaded when you have wifi or cell reception). You must take a photo of the fish AND a selfie with the fish for the entry to be valid. This photo needs to be taken with the FishDonkey app camera feature. Search for the contest: YCC Ice <https://tourney.fishdonkey.com/#/tournament-info/8222/details>

# YCC Upcoming Opportunities

## FEBRUARY

- 9th - YCC Virtual Gathering 7:30-8:30pm. Learn all about Maple Syrup, including forest management, collection methods, and processing.

## MARCH

- 5th - YCC Oversight Committee Meeting, UW-Stevens Point.
- 9th - YCC virtual gathering. Topic to be determined.

## APRIL

- 11th - Spring hearings will be held online beginning at 7:00pm and remain open through 7:00 pm on April 14, 2022. <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/about/wcc/springhearing>
- 13th - YCC Virtual Gathering 7:30-8:30pm. Learn more about Snapshot Wisconsin and how you can host a camera on your property, or volunteer to monitor a camera on state property.

### SAVE THE DATE:

May 12-14 - WCC State Convention, Wisconsin Dells

## EDUCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS

Have you started searching for scholarship opportunities? There are scholarships available for almost all programs or disciplines. Local scholarships are a great place to start. Talk to your mentor, teachers or guidance counselors. Often scholarships are available from local conservation organizations and sporting clubs.

If you know of any conservation related scholarships for high school seniors, please share the information.



-----Available now-----

### Wisconsin Trappers Association

#### Michael Abrahamson Memorial Scholarship

The W.T.A. is looking for a student who is successful in life, who has developed a strong sense of discipline, an ability to lead and motivate others, and possess a well rounded character. They must be selfless of their time and talent to others. These are some of the characteristics Michael Abrahamson exhibited. Applicant must be pursuing a career in a wildlife-related science, such as biology, botany, natural resources, etc. and not a physical science like chemistry or physics. <https://wistrap.org/scholarships>

## YCC VIRTUAL GATHERING - Maple Syrup Production and Forest Management Considerations



Wednesday, February 9th 7:30-8:30pm



Learn about all aspects of maple syrup production including forest management, climate considerations, sap harvest timelines, methods of syrup processing, and how to make maple syrup from trees in your own backyard or woodlot.

Our presenter is Jeremy Solin, Extension Maple Syrup Project Manager.

Watch your email for a zoom link.

## WOOD DUCK BOXES

The month of February is a great time to start thinking about building or installing a wood duck box.



The Wisconsin Outdoor News is featuring a “Wood Duck Challenge” For this “challenge” the WI Outdoor News asks youth to build and install a wood duck box, and take a photograph with the box. Photos will be shared in the WI Outdoor News, and prizes are available. Learn more: <https://www.outdoornews.com/wood-duck-challenge/>.

**If you are interested in constructing a wood duck box and don't have materials or equipment, please reach out to YCC Coordinator, Kyle Zenz.** She can help you get in contact with WCC delegates, local conservation clubs, high school tech education teachers, and others who might have wood to donate or tools to help construct the boxes.

There are also options to buy a kit or a completed box. The Wisconsin Waterfowl Association sells kits and boxes: <https://www.wisducks.org/product-category/wood-duck-boxes/>