

Wisconsin Youth Conservation Congress Update

June 2023

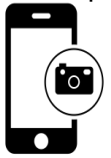
YCC delegates and mentors,

The YCC Oversight Committee recently met to finalize plans for the YCC Summer Program. This is a weekend you won't want to miss! There will be opportunities to work with DNR biologists to band geese, explore caves, learn about bats, volunteer with Trout Unlimited to install in-stream trout habitat structures, fish on Lake Winnebago, sit around the campfire, and make new friends! Watch your email for additional details and a registration form.

Do you have any friends, family or neighbors who might be interested in joining the YCC? We are always looking to grow and expand the YCC to all 72 counties in Wisconsin. Consider sharing information about the YCC, and your personal experiences with local organizations in your county (Conservation clubs, Rotary Club, Lions Club, 4-H, Scouts, youth groups and more!). Power point presentations and handouts are available to enhance the discussion. Reach out to your local WCC delegates for assistance and let me know if I can help in any way.

~Kyle Zenz, YCC Coordinator

We want to feature YCC delegates in our monthly newsletters. Email or text outdoor pictures of yourself to: kyle.zenz@wisconsin.gov or 715.299.0925



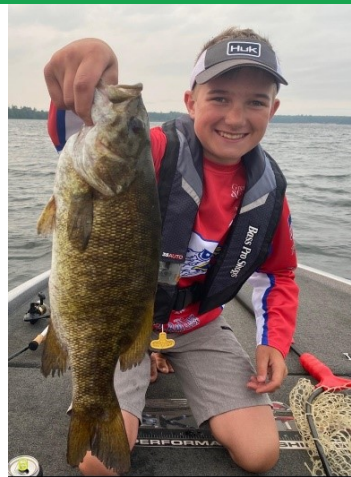
Visit the [WCC Facebook site](#) to see what's new



YCC Delegates in Action



Avery, YCC Alumni took time from his busy schedule to enjoy a day of fishing.



Tommy, YCC delegate from Vilas Co. participated in a high school bass fishing tournament. He finished 2nd overall.



Brody, YCC delegate from Racine Co. has been spending a lot of time fishing this summer.



Charlie, YCC delegate from Ozaukee Co. helped sort pheasant chicks at the State Game Farm at Poynette. Charlie and his mentor Tashina Peplinski also got a behind the scenes tour.



Wisconsin Youth Conservation Contacts

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

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

YCC Oversight Committee Secretary: Frank Pratt (715) 699-3974 / fpratt32@gmail.com

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

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

Welcome

We are excited to welcome new delegates to the YCC:

Jake, Brown Co.
Ethan, Bayfield Co.
Owen, Bayfield Co.
Evan, Fond Du Lac Co.



RECOGNITION



YCC alumni, Avery recently graduated from Blackhawk Technical College with a degree earned for Electrical Distribution for Lineman and Underground. He just accepted a position with We Energies. Congrats!



Madison, YCC delegate from Brown Co. completed the WI Hunter Safety course. Her mom also joined the class, and they both graduated together. Madison's mentors, Keith Propson and Nicole Gates were instructors for the class.

Search for a Hunter Safety Class near you:
<https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/Education/OutdoorSkills/safetyEducation>



Reed Kabelowsky, YCC Committee member received the WCC's David A. Ladd Delegate of the Year award. Congratulations to Reed for all of the time and effort he puts towards the WCC & YCC, and especially for taking the lead planning the Youth Zone at the [Waterfowl Hunters Expo](#).

GOOSE BANDING



Racine Co. YCC delegates: Kane, Ava, McKenna, and Shawn helped DNR staff band over 250 geese.



McKenna holds a goose while a DNR biologist places an identification band on its leg.



Ava smiles while holding a goose ready for banding.

GIFTS TO THE YCC

The YCC is incredibly grateful for the generous monetary gifts donated by Wisconsin conservation organizations and individuals. These organizations listed below have recently invested in the future of the YCC:

[Wisconsin Conservation & Education Foundation](#)

[Blackhawk Musky Club, Inc. Janesville](#) (In memory of Jim Heffner)

Carol Heffner (gifts from friends and family in memory of Jim Heffner)

[Outdoors Inc. of New Holstein](#)

Calumet Co. Conservation Alliance

[Taking Wing Stewardship Inc.](#)

[Viking Bow & Gun Club Inc.](#)

[The Clarks Mills Sportsmans](#)

[Lincoln County Sports Club](#)



Financial gifts help provide opportunities for YCC delegates to participate in mentored hunting programs, engage with resource professionals to learn about habitat conservation, join peers and mentors for group fishing outings, engage in volunteer service projects and much more!

VIRTUAL FISHING CONTEST

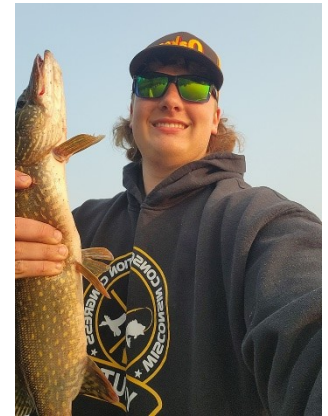


YCC Committee member, Larry Damman shows how easy it is to catch Walleye AND enter in the FishDonkey contest.

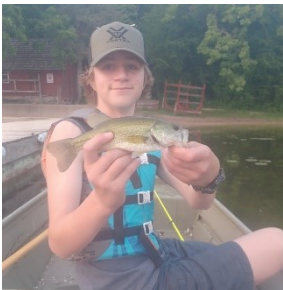
“Get out fishing this summer and while you are at it - enter your fish in the YCC contest!”



Olivia, Chippewa Co.



Shawn, Racine Co.



Brody, Racine Co.

All YCC delegates are invited to join a summer fishing contest using the Fishdonkey app.

Any kind or size of fish, caught anywhere could be recognized.

This contest runs from Saturday, May 6 through November 1st. You can join anytime throughout the contest.

Categories: Stringer of 5 for following species: (bass, bluegill/sunfish, crappie, inland trout, northern pike, perch, walleye/sauger) **and wildcard (ANY other fish).**

- Download the FishDonkey app: fishdonkey.com/app
- Tap: Fish in a Tournament, Join: YCC

Please read all rules. All fish must be entered through the FishDonkey app. **A photo of the fish (on a measuring board/tape) AND a photo of you holding the fish are required for the caught fish to be verified.**



Tommy, Vilas Co.

YCC CAREER DAY - SANDHILL WILDLIFE AREA



Ryan Haffele, DNR Area Supervisor shared information about his career path, history about Sandhill, options for careers in the DNR, and the structure of the DNR.



A covered wagon was pulled by a Friends of Sandhill volunteer. We learned about all aspects of Sandhill on this tour.



Touring Sandhill by wagon was a great way to discuss careers and all of the support needed to run a state DNR property.



Sandhill educator, Quinn Brownell taught a short lesson about mammals and talked with the group about educational themes, and career tips as an environmental educator.



Wildlife research is on-going at Sandhill. Radio telemetry is one way biologists and researchers can track population movement. Quinn shows Emma how to locate a collared deer.



YCC delegate, Shawn uses the radio telemetry receiver and antenna to locate a grouse. He was able to hear a signal and determine the direction of the grouse.



YCC delegates are pictured at the top of the bison viewing tower. There is a herd of bison at Sandhill.



Water control is a management tool used at Sandhill to enhance habitat for waterfowl. Quinn showed the group how water can be raised and lowered between flowages.



Sandhill is a beautiful property, and it was great to be able to have an open-air, guided tour. YCC delegates and mentors learned a lot throughout the day.

ELK SURVEY



Emma is pictured with an elk calf. The DNR biologists place cloth over the calf's eyes to minimize stress.

Emma, YCC delegate from Chippewa County volunteered to help with a DNR elk calf survey in Jackson County. She explains the process of searching for a calf and how the biologists know a calf has been born: *“A way to tell if the cow had a calf is when they move away from the herd and there are two location points close to each other. What made this experience cool was when they used radio telemetry to find the cow (mom) from her last location points. After the biologist found the cow she was watching her body language. A sign that there was a calf in the area is when the mom runs off and then looks back. A sign that there isn't a calf is when the mom runs off and doesn't look back. To find the elk calf, people all had to line up in a wide line and walk in a certain area to locate the calf. If there wasn't a lot of vegetation and brush, people could spread out. If there was lots of brush, people had to be close enough to see their neighbor's boots. What also made this experience cool was when I was able to get close to the calf. It was an unreal experience!”*



Volunteers gather for a photo with DNR staff in Jackson County. Volunteers are utilized to help DNR biologists locate elk calves. Emma is pictured with her dad (center, right).

WISCONSIN NATURAL RESOURCES MAGAZINE—SUMMER 2023

The latest issue highlights organizations, people and resources helping to ensure Wisconsin's natural resources are available and accessible to everyone. Read about groups such as Cycling Without Age, Midwest Crappie Hunters and Wisconsin Women in Conservation who are each taking steps to work toward this goal.

Find your adventure at several state properties celebrating milestone anniversaries this year, and keep summer safety top-of-mind with tips on sunscreen and dealing with ticks. Gather around the grill and learn outdoor cooking skills from award-winning Wisconsin chef Luke Zahm.

In the Kids Corner, groovy kids can try tie-dyeing with the help of all-natural dyes made from kitchen scraps and backyard finds.

Plus, learn how land managers are fighting to protect sharp-tailed grouse and read up on three great state properties for birdwatching.

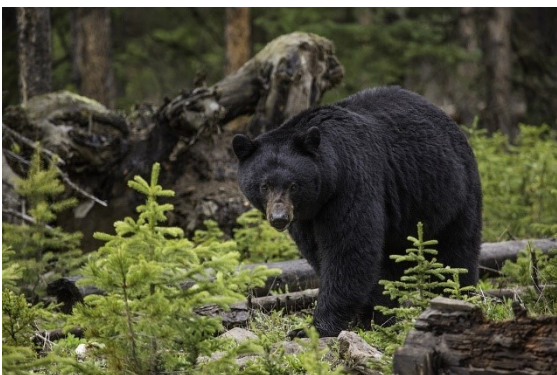
Find these stories and so much more in the summer issue of [Wisconsin Natural Resources magazine](https://www.wisconsin.gov/naturalresources/magazine).



LEARN TO HUNT BEAR WEBINAR

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will host an educational hunting [webinar](#) for people interested in learning how to hunt black bears in Wisconsin on Wednesday, July 12. The webinar will be recorded and can be viewed on YouTube any time using the same link

The webinar will include information on bear biology and management, [bear hunting rules and regulations](#), and the most common techniques used to hunt bear in Wisconsin.



“Wisconsin has a strong bear hunting tradition, and the opportunity generates a lot of interest from hunters,” said Bob Nack, DNR Recruitment, Retention and Reactivation Team Supervisor. “Due to the high level of interest and permit wait times, many hunters don't get the chance to gain a lot of bear hunting experience. This webinar will provide a basic understanding of what it takes to hunt Wisconsin black bears.”

Following a presentation by DNR staff, the audience will have opportunities to ask questions that panelists will answer at the end of the program. The webinar will be recorded and available online.

[Learn more about various hunting season dates, rules and regulations, harvest quotas and more on the DNR website.](#)

YCC Upcoming Opportunities

JUNE

- 3rd-4th - Free fishing weekend in Wisconsin.
- June 22, YCC career day field trip, [Sandhill Wildlife Area](#), Babcock, WI.

JULY

- 12th - YCC virtual gathering, 7:30-8:30 pm. Discuss plans for the YCC Summer Program.

AUGUST

- August 10-13, YCC Summer Program, Calumet Co.
- August 26, Volunteer at the Youth Zone - [Waterfowl Hunter's Expo](#), Oshkosh.

SEPTEMBER

- 13th - YCC virtual gathering, 7:30-8:30 pm. Topic to be determined.

OCTOBER

- 11th - YCC virtual gathering, 7:30-8:30 pm. Topic to be determined.
- October 21, YCC Oversight Committee meeting. YCC mentored hunt program.

MENTORED WATERFOWL HUNT

Saturday, October 21
Sandhill Wildlife Area, Babcock

All YCC delegates are invited to participate in a mentored waterfowl hunt. New and experienced hunters are encouraged to attend. Even if you aren't interested in hunting, you are welcome to participate.



Overnight accommodations are available in the dorm building at Sandhill.

Save the date! Additional information will be provided.

YCC VIRTUAL GATHERING - Wednesday, July 12, 7:30-8:30pm



Learn about details and plans for the YCC Summer Program. This program is for all YCC delegates and alumni. It will be held in Calumet County, August 10-13.

Watch your email for details and a zoom link.

YCC SUMMER PROGRAM

Thursday, August 10th -
Sunday, August 13.

The YCC Summer Program will be held in Calumet County. YCC delegates will be camping at Calumet County Park on Lake Winnebago.

Activities and lessons will include

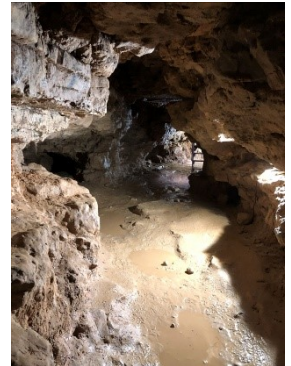
- cave exploration & geology
- bat ecology
- survival skills
- duck banding with DNR staff
- Trout Unlimited habitat improvement volunteer project - hands-on, Onion River.
- fishing
- trap shooting, archery
- and much more!

Plan to arrive Thursday evening, and depart Sunday at noon. YCC delegates under 12 will need to have a guardian stay with them. Parents or relatives are welcome to attend with YCC delegates, but space is limited.

If you have a friend interested in attending, please encourage them to join the YCC. This is a YCC-only event.

Stay tuned for additional information, details and an itinerary.

Program fees have been graciously donated by local conservation organizations.



We will explore caves at Ledgeview Nature



Plan for early morning duck banding



Trout Unlimited has invited the YCC to help with in-stream habitat work on the Onion River