

# Wisconsin Youth Conservation Congress Update

September 2021

YCC delegates and mentors,

September is always a busy month with back to school activities, time with friends and an abundance of outdoor opportunities. This is also the time of year where we start planning for upcoming YCC learning activities and events. We strive to provide opportunities for youth delegates to explore all sides of conservation.

This month, during the YCC virtual gathering (Wednesday, September 8th from 7:30-8:30) we will talk about individual opportunities for YCC delegates to focus on a specific conservation skill or topic that they are interested in exploring. Please join us to learn more!

Get out there and enjoy the cool mornings and warm afternoons that make September my favorite month!  
~Kyle Zenz, YCC Coordinator

## Outdoor Adventures!



Caleb, YCC delegate from St. Croix Co. has been working on training his English Setter, Gunner to point for quail and pheasants.



Tommy, YCC delegate from Vilas Co. took a family trip to Montana and enjoyed fishing for trout in the rivers and streams.



Blake, YCC delegate from Calumet Co. is a Junior Hunter Safety Instructor. In this photo, he is showing students how to safely use a tree stand for hunting.



Gavin, YCC delegate from Jefferson Co. enjoyed an early start to the day by hunting Mourning Doves.



### Wisconsin Youth Conservation Contacts

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

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

YCC Oversight Committee Secretary: Tashina Peplinski (262) 483-2483 / [tashina@startistries.com](mailto:tashina@startistries.com)

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

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

## Outdoor Adventures!



Outdoor Heritage Education Center's Touch of the Wild Trailer was at the Waterfowl Hunter's Expo. Pictured are a few of the WCC & YCC delegates who helped out for the day. L to R: Lowell Wright, Jefferson Co., Gavin, Jefferson Co., Madison, La Crosse Co., Justin Loehrke, Winnebago Co., Jeff Hintz, Waukesha Co.

Reed Kabelowsky, Manitowoc Co., and Harold Drake, Dodge Co. also volunteered at the TOW trailer during the Hunters Waterfowl Expo.



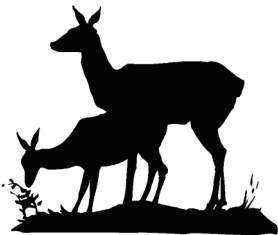
YCC Alumni, Samantha took a beautiful picture of ducks on Lake Joanis in Schmeckle Reserve at UW-Stevens Point. She enjoyed exploring the reserve prior to starting her first week of classes at UWSP.

## NATURAL RESOURCE FOUNDATION OF WISCONSIN - FALL FIELD TRIPS

New field trips have been added for August through October including Tiffany Bottoms Train Ride, Banding Ducks Hands-On, Paddle Horicon Marsh, Geology of the Baraboo Hills, and more! Browse trip descriptions: <https://www.wisconservation.org/> (search Autumn Field Trips) All YCC delegates are members of the Natural Resource Foundation. Please contact Kyle for the proper code to register for trips online.

**Natural Resources  
FOUNDATION**  
of Wisconsin

## CITIZEN SCIENCE



The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources is asking the public to participate in Operation Deer Watch, an annual citizen-science survey that collects information on Wisconsin's white-tailed deer and gives residents an engaging opportunity to assist with deer herd management efforts.

Participants can report their deer sightings through an easy-to-use online form. The data collected provide insights into the reproductive status of Wisconsin's deer herd and help shape deer management for the state. Now through Sept. 30, participants are asked to record all bucks, does and fawns seen during the day.

**Read more:** <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/newsroom/release/47631>

**Watch the video:** <https://dnrmedia.wi.gov/main/Play/54c4b4e08be148cebd32f07aaa8bb1181d>

## OPPORTUNITY TO VOLUNTEER AT STATE NATURAL AREAS

Help care for some of our state's most pristine public lands, [State Natural Areas](#) (SNA). Encourage native plants and animals to thrive by cutting brush, controlling invasive species, collecting seeds, monitoring rare species and preparing fire breaks.

Throughout the year there are opportunities across the state to volunteer your time and labor to help State Natural Areas. Check out the workday table: <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Lands/NaturalAreas/volunteer.html>

Please call the contact listed on the website to ask about work conditions and volunteer requirements. You may need to attend the work day with a parent/guardian or mentor. Make sure to tell the coordinator that you are part of the YCC!

Upcoming opportunities exist in the following counties: Adams, Pepin, Iowa, Walworth, Columbia, Kenosha, Green, & Dane.





## Duck Banding Opportunities



Olivia, YCC delegate from Calumet Co. enjoyed an early morning duck banding experience.



Caleb, YCC delegate from St. Croix Co. helped band ducks in Dunn County.



Miles, YCC delegate from Monroe Co. helped band ducks at Sandhill Wildlife Area.



Gavin & Gabby, delegates from Jefferson Co. Can you see the ducks camouflaged against their shirts?!



Pictured left to right: YCC delegate Sarah's dad, Ava from Racine Co., Jeff Hintz, WCC delegate from Waukesha Co., Sarah from Racine Co., and Trent Tonn, WCC delegate from Racine Co.



Caleb pictured releasing a duck after the band was secured.



This photo shows Gabby & Gavin standing in front of the net used in the duck banding process.

## In the Field - A Duck Banding Story by YCC Delegate, Ava from Racine County

I volunteered for duck banding one evening with the WDNR, and found it to be an enjoyable and informative learning experience. Attending this outing at Richard Bong in Racine county was an excellent way to get both bands on experience with wildlife, and information regarding the characteristics, habitat, and migration of ducks native to my area.

Once at the park, a group of volunteers and DNR wardens stood and waited for a net -- set up earlier that day -- to launch over a stretch of grass where a flock of ducks fed on corn that had been laid there earlier in the week to lure ducks so we could band them. The purpose, we learned, of the net-launch and subsequent banding was so that the DNR could monitor their travel habits via a numeric code associated with each of the bands. Once the net was launched, we all walked there so we could assist the DNR members while they banded the ducks. We would hold and stroke them while the DNR members prepared the bands, then put them on the legs of the ducks. The bands had information regarding the age, species and sex of the ducks; and as we held the ducks for the wardens banding them, they told us about how they could determine those factors based on their tail-feathers.

At the experience I attended, there was approximately 50 ducks; a mix of mallard and wood ducks with wood ducks accounting for the majority of those banded on that night. Once the ducks had been given their number, we released them onto the marsh and went to retrieve another from beneath the net and repeat the cycle, until all of them had been banded. Handling the ducks and learning about all the factors that influenced their lives was, in my opinion, an excellent way to learn more about waterfowl in my area!



## Wisconsin Youth Conservationist Award

Congratulations to YCC delegate, **Samantha Hammiller!** Sam was named as the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation 2021 Youth Conservationist of the Year.

### *Sam's nomination narrative:*

Filled with energy and positive enthusiasm for all things outdoors, Samantha Hammiller is the consummate volunteer.

Burlington school teacher Trent Tonn recognized her leadership potential early on and mentored her throughout her high school years and recruited Sam to serve as delegate to the Wisconsin Youth Conservation Congress.

Sam's accomplishments include being a youth ambassador for conservation. She reaches out to individuals and groups, including her peers as well as older people. We have seen her talk about hunting, fishing and the outdoors in the classroom one day and then formally address Rotary Club business professionals as she explains the workings of the Conservation Congress.



She does not hesitate to call on both young and old to participate in the democracy of the wild, urging them to attend spring hearings and other meetings where their voice can be heard.

Sam's voice is definitely heard and respected by students and adults.

People are impressed by her depth of knowledge and understanding of natural resources, as well as her communication skills.

Trent Tonn said, "Sam helps teach younger kids about the outdoors, from assisting game wardens with a game feast, helping with deer processing, teaching ice fishing and pitching in on learn to hunt events."

Sam says, "After being a student in these programs, it feels good to give back and help teach the younger generations about the outdoors, just as I have been taught."

Pre-pandemic, she began participating in County Deer Advisory Committee meetings and

WCC's Outdoor Heritage & Education Advisory Committee. During the last year or so she has continued to participate virtually, including interactions with DNR and other natural resources professionals.

She has already begun developing her leadership style.

Business professionals might use buzz words like "Servant Leadership Techniques," but Sam simply sees it as rolling up her sleeves, pitching in, and leading by example. It's no surprise to see her stocking pheasants, aging deer, banding ducks, assisting biologists who collect lymph nodes from whitetails, or setting up a SnapShot Wisconsin trail camera in the field.

And now she has been selected into the WWF Conservation Leadership Corps' 9<sup>th</sup> Class!



# YCC Upcoming Opportunities

## SEPTEMBER

- 8th- YCC virtual gathering. YCC Summer Fishing Contest winners will be revealed and we will talk about individual focus opportunities for YCC delegates. Zoom link will be shared by email.
- 18th - Archery deer season opens.
- 18th - Fall turkey season opens.

## OCTOBER

- 9th & 10th - Youth deer hunt weekend (ages 15 and under).  
<https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/hunt/documents/deeryouthhunt.pdf>
- 9th or 16th - YCC Oversight Committee Meeting (to be determined).
- 10th - YCC Learn to Hunt Pheasant Program (tentative).

## NOVEMBER

- 20th - 28th - Gun deer season.

## 2021 HUNTING FORECAST

Hunters and trappers across Wisconsin are in the final countdown to the fall season openers. To help get ready, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has pulled together the 2021 fall forecast series, which details everything Wisconsinites need to know ahead of the game.

Forecasts can be found at the links below and on each corresponding species page.

[2021 Fall Deer Hunting Forecast](#)

[2021 Fall Upland Game Bird Hunting Forecast](#)

[2021 Fall Migratory Bird Hunting Forecast](#)

[2021 Fall Bear Hunting Forecast](#)

[2021 Fall Furbearer Hunting and Trapping Forecast](#)

More information on hunting, including regulations and season dates, is available on the DNR website.

<https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Hunt>

For more updates throughout the fall hunting seasons, follow the DNR on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

## YCC VIRTUAL GATHERING - Learn about upcoming YCC opportunities



**Wednesday, September 8th 7:30-8:30pm**

As a delegate of the YCC, you have many opportunities to learn about all aspects of conservation. Our goal is to help YCC delegates connect with conservation leaders in their communities, increase their knowledge about natural resources, and learn new skills related to hunting, fishing and trapping.

Each YCC delegate will be choosing an individual focus opportunity for the upcoming year. Join the discussion to learn more about what this means, and how you can tailor your individual focus opportunity to your personal interests and goals.

Watch your email for a zoom link.

## TRACK YOUR TIME

Please keep track of your time spent participating in WCC meetings, virtual gatherings, mentored outings, YCC promotions, and other conservation related activities.



**Please update your hours from September 2020 - August 2021.** Keeping track of your hours is important to the WCC. Please log them online: <https://forms.gle/2NsLvLPD33wQXmao9>

## SAFETY CLASSES - ARCHERY

Archery safety classes are being offered across the state. This course is an add-on archery safety course to a companion hunter safety course. Any individual who has completed a hunter safety course may enroll.



Learn more about In person and online classes: <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/Education/OutdoorSkills/safetyEducation> - click on "Bowhunting Education" tab.

To search for in-person classes, click on the "course type" and "statewide" <https://gowild.wi.gov/customers/safetiedclass>