

Wisconsin Youth Conservation Congress Update

June 2022

YCC delegates and mentors,

We had a wonderful representation of YCC delegates who attended the WCC Convention last month. In addition to sitting in on the meetings of the Congress, delegates participated in field trips to the Reedsburg Outdoor Club, Aldo Leopold Foundation, International Crane Foundation and Devil's Lake State Park.

The convention and YCC weekend was a great opportunity for YCC delegates to connect with peers, their mentors and other natural resource professionals. One delegate commented: *"My experience at the convention opened my eyes to what actually goes on and how things work. I hope I can continue being a part of this amazing group and hopefully in my future be able to help further grow the WCC."*

I can't wait to see how the momentum from the convention carries into the summer. We are planning an incredible YCC program for August, and there are several other upcoming opportunities available for YCC delegates. Check out the newsletter to learn more!

~Kyle Zenz, YCC Coordinator

Outdoor Adventures



Blake, YCC delegate from Calumet Co. harvested this 22.5 pound turkey with a 10.5" beard, and 1" spurs.



Olivia, YCC delegate from Calumet Co. is pictured at her graduation with YCC mentor, Keith Propson.



Destiny, YCC delegate from Douglas Co. was featured in the magazine: [The Woman Today](#)

Destiny [shares tips and advice](#) for beginner anglers and a few personal stories, including her opinion on what NOT to bring on a fishing trip.



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: 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

Welcome

We are excited to welcome a new delegate to the YCC:

Edward, Calumet County



A special thank you goes out to WCC delegate, Rick Wayne from Pepin County. Rick cut out and donated bluebird nest box kits for the YCC delegates to assemble. This was a great project and the YCC delegates look forward to installing the nest boxes in a suitable location. Thank you, Rick for sharing your passion for bluebird boxes and for your support of the YCC!

YCC SUMMER PROGRAM

Save the date:
Thursday, August 11th -
Sunday, August 14.

Initial plans are being made to hold our YCC Summer Program on the South Fork of the Flambeau River in Price County. There will be many opportunities to explore and learn about river ecology, fisheries biology, forest management, wildlife management and more.

Fishing, paddling, hiking and camping activities will take place over the weekend. Plans will be finalized by June.

Save the date!



CONSERVATION LEADERSHIP CORPS

We encourage all YCC seniors to apply for the Conservation Leadership Corps (CLC). The CLC is designed to provide training for seniors in high school along with college freshmen, sophomores, and juniors to develop leadership skills and techniques to allow students the ability to analyze as well as develop conservation policies in his or her subject of interest.



All expenses encountered while participating in the CLC program will be covered by WWF. At the successful completion of the year, each participant will receive a Certificate of Accomplishment for the training program, a letter of commendation for their resume portfolio and a scholarship to advance their continuing education.

Application Deadline is June 30th, 2022. Interested CLC candidates should fill out the application and send it to the CLC Coordinator, at CLC.WWF.Coordinator@gmail.com.

Additional details and application: [click here](#)

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.

Please contact Mark Conradt at 715-853-6671 / msljcon@gmail.com for more information regarding the camp.

NATURAL RESOURCE FOUNDATION - MEMBERSHIPS & FIELD TRIPS

YCC delegates are gifted a complimentary membership to the Wisconsin Natural Resource Foundation. Paperwork was sent in the mail detailing your membership.

In addition - you are also eligible to receive 20% off of Natural Resource Foundation Field Trips. If you haven't already looked into these field trips, please do. There are some amazing, one of a kind opportunities to learn about natural resources from experts around the state.

Information about the NRF Field Trips: <https://www.wisconservation.org/field-trips/> You will need your NRF paperwork (mailed to you) to locate your membership number and information.



THANK YOU MENTORS!

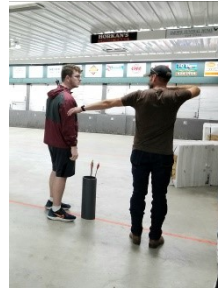
We appreciate the support, advice and opportunities you provide for the Youth Conservation Congress delegates. The collective knowledge held within WCC delegates is immeasurable and we can't thank you enough for helping to pass it on to the YCC.

Thank you to all of our current YCC mentors:

| District | County | Mentor |
|----------|------------|---------------------|
| D1 | Sawyer | Frank Pratt |
| D2 | Chippewa | Don Dukerschein |
| D2 | Rusk | Joel Taylor |
| D2 | St. Croix | Claude Bovi |
| D3 | Marathon | Tom Bartz |
| D3 | Vilas | Jim Heffner |
| D4 | Langlade | Dave Kuhr |
| D5 | Buffalo | Terri Roehrig |
| D5 | Vernon | Tim Morgan |
| D5 | Vernon | Jason Leis |
| D6 | Clark | Tara Rueth |
| D6 | Jackson | Jim Johnson |
| D6 | Monroe | Maurice Amundson |
| D6 | Portage | Jessica Tomaszewski |
| D7 | Dodge | Harold Drake |
| D8 | Calumet | Keith Propson |
| D8 | Manitowoc | Brad Martinson |
| D8 | Washington | Tashina Peplinski |
| D9 | Sauk | Mitch Baker |
| D10 | Dane | Tim Gorski |
| D10 | Dane | Paul Reith |
| D10 | Green | Scott Lettman |
| D10 | Jefferson | Lowell Wright |
| D11 | Milwaukee | Brian Haydin |
| D11 | Racine | Trent Tonn |



Mentoring Memories



JOIN US! 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.

Featured YCC Delegate

Name: Sarah Hougard

County: Racine

School: Union Grove High School, Senior

WCC Mentor: Trent Tonn

Years involved in the YCC: 1.5

What is one of your most memorable outdoor experiences? One of my most memorable outdoor experiences would have to be getting my first turkey this year with my dad.

Share something specific you have learned from your mentor or an experience you shared together. I learned how to make good connections with DNR staff and to get involved in every opportunity that I get.

Aside from your interest in the outdoors/hunting, are there other school activities or personal activities that you enjoy participating in? I am a Union Grove FFA chapter member and show sheep and turkeys at the Racine County Fair through 4-H.

What are your plans following high school graduation? I will be attending UW Stevens Point and plan on studying Wildlife Ecology.

What would you say to encourage someone to join the YCC? I would tell them that they should just give it a try. I have had some amazing opportunities through the YCC and know that it would be an amazing experience for them too.

Is there anything else you would like to share about yourself or your YCC involvement? I am so grateful to have been a part of this program and wish that I would have joined earlier.



Sarah's first turkey!



Sarah monitors a Snapshot WI camera for the Elk Project in the Black River State Forest.



Sarah and her dad, John participated in the 2022 YCC Ice Fishing event.



YCC
SPOTLIGHT

Sarah built and installed a wood duck box near her house.

“I've been blessed to have worked with some of the brightest students and future conservationists that Racine County has to offer, and Sarah Hougard is one of them. It's been a pleasure to see Sarah explore and grow her interest and knowledge in wildlife management, from teaching her about Snapshot Wisconsin, to the management of waterfowl, and now her current involvement with elk herd monitoring. I am excited for her to

start her next journey of conservation education at UW-Stevens Point. We should all look forward to her future contributions to our wildlife, environment, and the Wisconsin Conservation Congress.”

~Trent Tonn, mentor to Sarah



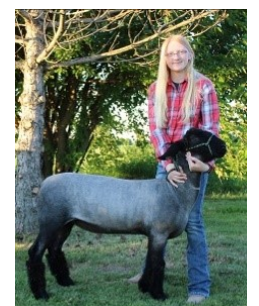
Sarah, pictured with mentor, Trent Tonn at the YCC summer program.



Sarah (fourth from right) participated in duck banding with local DNR staff.



Sarah pictured with her turkey and sheep that she entered at the fair.



2022 WI Conservation Congress Convention & YCC Weekend



YCC delegates, mentors and YCC committee members toured Aldo Leopold's "shack" near the Aldo Leopold Foundation, Baraboo.



WI DNR Secretary, Preston Cole (center) is pictured with YCC delegates at the WCC Convention.



The Reedsburg Outdoor Club hosted YCC delegates for a night of trap shooting & indoor archery.



YCC delegates enjoyed designing fishing lures & flies, constructing bluebird nest boxes, and competing in conservation trivia during the YCC nighttime socials.



YCC delegates learning about crane conservation at the International Crane Foundation in Baraboo.



Over 200 pounds of invasive garlic mustard was removed near a hiking trail at Devil's Lake State Park.



Campfire dinner preparations.



Catching trout in Devil's Lake.



Hiking Parfrey's Glen State Natural Area.



Rocky overlook at Devil's Lake. YCC delegates learned about geology, ecology and local history during a 3 mile hike, led by a WI DNR naturalist.

YCC PERSPECTIVE ON THE CONSERVATION CONGRESS CONVENTION

Written by: Madison, YCC delegate from La Crosse County

Although I am a delegate for the Wisconsin Youth Conservation Congress, I admittedly did not know much about the actual Wisconsin Conservation Congress. However, my mind was opened when I attended the WCC annual convention. The Wisconsin Conservation Congress is "the only statutory body in the state where citizens elect delegates to advise the Natural Resources Board and the Department of Natural Resources on how to responsibly manage Wisconsin's natural resources for present and future generations." There is not another program like it in the United States. Each county elects five representatives to advise the NRB and DNR, and every year they get together and vote on things and bring up new business. However, the annual conference hasn't been held since 2019 due to Covid concerns. This year's convention was held in Wisconsin Dells.



2022 WCC Convention. Delegates voting with their county signs.

We arrived in the Dells and received our name tags and information. After, we sat in in the first meeting of the convention. Maddie and I met three out of the five delegates from La Crosse County, who were the nicest people ever. They showed us the wooded sign that had been used since the sixties, and all the delegates names that had been carved into it over the years. They also told us about conventions in the past, and their favorite was one in Cable at a hunting lodge. The meeting started with roll call, with the chairman calling out counties and a delegate yelling how many delegates were present. I learned of counties that I never knew existed. My takeaway is that I don't know where a lot of places in Wisconsin are.



WI DNR Secretary, Preston Cole addressing the Wisconsin Conservation Congress.

After a few more people spoke, we got to hear from the DNR and the rules and regulations committee. They read off statements, and delegates voted on them, either aye or nay. If it sounded close, they would ask each county individually. However, if the rule doesn't pass, it still moves on to the DNR and NRB, but it is heavily noted that the WCC does not agree. This was the coolest part, as it was like hearing laws change in person, but a lot less crazy than the politics in DC. My favorite speaker was the secretary of the whole DNR, Preston Cole. He talked about how we need everyone working together to promote Wisconsin recreation and natural resources. We got to take a photo with him after the meeting, which was super cool.

One of the other things I learned about at the WCC was that they have different committees to take care of certain things. Some examples of these were the Bear Committee, the Great Lakes Committee, and the Deer and Elk Committee. I think it was a very good idea of them to do that. However, I don't believe you get much of a choice starting out what committee you get placed on, as over the weekend speakers placed an emphasis on doing your best no matter what committee you get placed on.

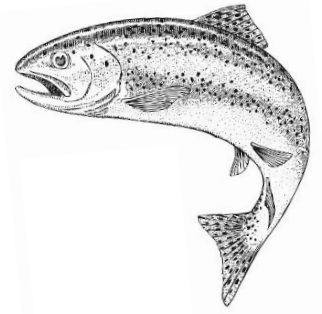
The WCC opened my eyes on how conservation policies actually get changed in Wisconsin. I think it's an essential program, and many more states should adopt this program. I would love to be on the WCC one day if I stay in Wisconsin.



Madison, YCC delegate from La Crosse Co. participated in local field trips and other activities during the convention. She is pictured with a nest box she constructed.

TROUT STOCKED ACROSS THE STATE

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has been busy stocking over 700,000 catchable-sized brook, brown and rainbow trout in waters across the state. DNR hatchery staff raised the fish at the Nevin Fish Hatchery, Osceola Fish Hatchery and at St. Croix Fish Hatchery.



The DNR is also working with local fishing clubs to raise an additional 70,000 trout that will be stocked into [urban fishing waters](#). These small lakes and ponds are cooperatively managed with local municipalities and are frequently used to host [fishing clinics](#).

Some of these urban ponds have certain fishing restrictions. Make sure to check the [2022-2023 Hook and Line fishing regulations](#) for eligibility requirements, angler restrictions and daily bag limits.

These trout stocking efforts are still ongoing, but here's a list of where [catchable-sized trout have been stocked so far](#).

Good luck if you plan on fishing these urban ponds or any of the waters where these trout have been stocked!

LYME DISEASE AWARENESS MONTH: PROTECT YOURSELF FROM TICK BITES



Tick season is here. Along with the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS), the DNR would like to remind you to Fight the Bite by protecting yourself from tick bites that may lead to Lyme disease or other illnesses spread by ticks.

Lyme disease is a bacterial infection spread by deer ticks, which can be as small as a poppy seed. Deer ticks are common in Wisconsin and live in wooded areas and brushy or grassy areas adjacent to woods. Because of their small size, deer tick bites can often go unnoticed. Now that warmer temperatures have arrived, ticks are out once again.

You can limit your chance of contracting Lyme disease and other illnesses spread by ticks by following these tips to avoid tick bites:

- Cover as much of your body as possible; ideally, wear long sleeves and pants, and tuck shirts into pants and pants into socks.
- Walk in the center of trails where grass and vegetation are mowed.
- Wear light-colored clothing so ticks are easier to spot and remove quickly.
- Use an EPA-registered insect repellent when you head outdoors. You can also treat your clothes in advance with permethrin.
- Throw your clothes in the dryer for 10 minutes on high heat when you arrive home after recreating.
- Always check yourself, children and pets for ticks, especially behind the knees, under armpits, around the hairline and ears and at the waist.

If you do find a tick embedded in your body, remain calm and remove it as soon as you find it. To remove the tick, use tweezers and grasp the tick as close to the skin as possible while gently pulling it up and out in one fluid motion. Make a note of the date you removed the tick, as this information may be helpful for your doctor to know. Save the tick in a sealed plastic bag or take a photo of the tick before disposing of it in case you develop symptoms later. The easiest way to dispose of a tick is by putting it in alcohol or flushing it down the toilet.

Lyme disease symptoms typically develop between three to 30 days after being bitten by a tick. The often flu-like symptoms include fever, chills, fatigue, muscle aches, joint pain and nausea. Some people who contract Lyme disease also develop an expanding rash, often in the shape of a bullseye. If you think you or a loved one may have Lyme disease, contact your health care provider right away. Lyme disease can be treated with antibiotics.

To help Fight the Bite this summer and learn more about Lyme disease, visit the [DHS Fight the Bite webpage](#).

YCC Upcoming Opportunities

JUNE

- 4th-5th - Free fishing weekend in Wisconsin.
- 21st - YCC Oversight Committee meeting , virtual.
- 30th - YCC field trip to the DNR Science Operations Center & Fish Hatchery, Madison.

JULY

- 13th - YCC virtual gathering. Discuss details for the YCC summer program.

AUGUST

- 11th-14th - YCC Summer Program - Save the date!
- 27th - Waterfowl Expo, Oshkosh. YCC delegates are invited to volunteer with the Youth Zone.

SEPTEMBER

- 14th - YCC virtual gathering. Discuss details for the YCC summer program.

ONGOING

- Statewide opportunity: volunteer to help with conservation workdays at State Natural Areas. <https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/lands/naturalareas/volunteer.html>
- DNR State Park System volunteer information: <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/parks/volunteer>

YCC CAREER FIELD TRIP

Thursday, June 30th, Madison

10:00-12:00 - DNR Science Operations Center

1:00-3:00 - DNR Nevin Fish Hatchery

YCC delegates have been invited to interact with staff at the Wisconsin DNR Science Operations Center. Through this tour, participants will learn more about careers in fisheries, wildlife disease, deer management, communications, database management, and citizen science with Snapshot Wisconsin.

In the afternoon, YCC delegates will tour the Nevin Fish Hatchery. This field trip offers information about careers, rearing and stocking fish, and conservation efforts.

Watch your email for additional details.

JULY - YCC VIRTUAL GATHERING - Summer Program on the Flambeau River



Wednesday, July 13th ,7:30-8:30pm

Learn about plans and details for the 2022 YCC summer program. Don't miss out on this incredible weekend, filled with hands on activities related to fishing, forestry, elk management, and more. We will be camping on the south fork of the Flambeau River in Price County.

Dates for the summer program: August 11-14

Watch your email for a zoom link.

YCC VIRTUAL SUMMER FISHING CONTEST

All YCC delegates are invited to join a summer fishing contest using the Fishdonkey app. There are various species, combo and "any other fish" categories.

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 is doing.

This contest runs from Saturday, May 7 through November 11th.

You can join anytime throughout the contest.

- Download the FishDonkey app: fishdonkey.com/app
- Tap: Fish in a Tournament
- Join: YCC <https://tourney.fishdonkey.com/#/tournament-info/9361/details>

Watch a 1 minute tutorial on [How to Enter a Fish](#)

Watch a 1 minute video on [How to Measure a Fish](#)

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.**



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