

Wisconsin Youth Conservation Congress Update



Trout display pool at Nevin Fish Hatchery

July 2022

YCC delegates and mentors,

Summer is always filled with more opportunities, events, and dreams than we can all fit into a few short months. What do you still have left on your list to do this summer?

We have two great, upcoming programs for YCC delegates to learn, engage and have fun. Our YCC Summer program will include fishing, forestry, paddling, wildlife management, and more. Space is limited for this program, please sign up if you haven't already. We are also looking for volunteers to help at the Youth Zone for the Waterfowl Expo in Oshkosh. Please consider joining us!


Summer will be gone before we know it. Consider sharing some of your favorite summer activities, like fishing or hiking with a new friend or relative. Pass on your love of the outdoors to others!

~Kyle Zenz, YCC Coordinator

We want to feature photos of you in our monthly newsletters. Email or text outdoor pictures of yourself to: kyle.zenz@wisconsin.gov or 715.299.0295



Visit the [WCC Facebook site](#)



Outdoor Adventures



Brody & Shawn, YCC delegates from Racine Co. participated in a shoreline restoration project.



Tommy, YCC delegate from Vilas Co. shot a personal best at the State SCTP trap shoot.



Madison, YCC delegate from La Crosse Co. helped DNR staff band geese.



Gabby scored 7th in women's varsity and Gavin won men's varsity and "High Over All". Congrats on their achievements at the WIHSCL state shoot.



Wisconsin Youth Conservation Contacts

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Welcome

We are excited to welcome new delegates to the YCC:

McKenna, Racine County
Gus, Milwaukee County



In Memory



Jim Heffner

Learn more about
Jim's life and legacy
by reading his
[Obituary](#)

It is with heavy hearts, we share the news about the passing of Jim Heffner, of Oneida County. Jim served as a member of the YCC Oversight Committee for many years and was a mentor to Ethan Snyder, his granddaughter, Courtney (Froemming) Andrews, and most recently, Tommy Burr.

Jim was passionate about conservation, especially fishing and angler education.

We thank Jim for his dedication to conservation in Wisconsin, and his support of the Youth Conservation Congress. His wisdom and presence on the YCC Committee will be greatly missed.

Jim was more than a mentor to me. He was a great friend in the time I knew him. He has taught me so much over the last 4 years about fishing, wildlife and conservation. I had fun learning from Jim while we taught the fishing tips class together. He could teach so that the kids jaws would drop. Jim was a great mentor, teacher and overall, the best friend a guy could have. I will miss him. ~Tommy, YCC delegate



Tommy and mentor, Jim at the 2021 YCC Learn to Hunt Pheasant Program



Jim and granddaughter, Courtney will replace him as a WCC delegate in Oneida County.

WISCONSIN NATURAL RESOURCES MAGAZINE—SUMMER 2022

Check out the Summer edition of the [Wisconsin Natural Resources Magazine](#). The cover story puts a spotlight on food waste and provides several ways we can all make a big difference in reducing food waste and its burden on our landfills. According to the DNR's recent Statewide Waste Characterization Study of landfills, food waste accounts for 20% of municipal waste in Wisconsin's landfills – more than double since the last study in 2009.

This issue also celebrates summer, giving readers plenty of ways to find some fun during Wisconsin's warm season. Gear up for sunny hikes with the kids, indulge in a beach day with our list of Wisconsin's best beaches and meet rock climbers taking full advantage of our state's unique geology in various state parks.

With great summer fun comes great responsibility. Learn the principles of Leave No Trace and keep the outdoors beautiful for everyone. And get the latest information from the Wisconsin Initiative on Climate Change Impacts to stay informed on our state's progress on combatting climate change.

Hear from chef and host of "Wisconsin Foodie" Luke Zahm and try his delicious wild rice recipe; get a history and architecture lesson from Mirror Lake State Park's historic Seth Peterson Cottage, a Frank Lloyd Wright design; and find inspiration in nature with a nature journaling activity in Kids Corner.

<https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/wnrmag/2022/Summer/e-Edition>



YCC CAREER DAY—SCIENCE OPERATIONS CENTER & NEVIN FISH HATCHERY



YCC delegates toured the WI DNR Science Operations Center in Madison. The group rotated through 6 interactive stations to learn more about natural resource careers, wildlife disease, citizen science, fisheries, monitoring equipment, communications, and deer management.



YCC delegates learned about the citizen science project, Snapshot Wisconsin and participated in a relay race to set up a trail camera and identify wildlife photos.



DNR Fisheries staff demonstrated how to use fish shocking equipment.



A Wildlife biologist discussed deer monitoring programs and let each YCC delegate try out punching ear tags into cardboard.



The group watched a drone demonstration and learned about the importance of aerial monitoring for wildlife and mapping applications.



Staff at the Science Operations Center shared information about wildlife disease and x-rays showing internal poisoning from lead.



YCC delegates spent the afternoon at the Nevin Fish Hatchery in Fitchburg. The fish hatchery raises trout, and the group got a chance to see the operations first-hand. The fish hatchery is one of the oldest DNR properties in the state.



Fish hatchery staff feeding the rainbow trout.



YCC delegates worked together on a math exercise to determine fish weight and inventory.



Mike, Nevin Fish Operations Supervisor discusses the behavioral differences in trout species.

YCC Upcoming Opportunities

AUGUST

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

SEPTEMBER

- 14th - YCC virtual gathering. Topic to be determined.
- 17th - Archery deer season opens
- 17th - Fall turkey season opens
- 17th-18th - Youth Waterfowl Hunt, 15 years and younger

OCTOBER

- 8th & 9th - Youth deer hunt, 15 years and younger
- 12th - YCC virtual gathering. Topic to be determined.
- YCC Oversight Committee Meeting, date to be determined.

YCC SUMMER PROGRAM

Thursday, August 11th - Sunday, August 14.



We will be camping in Price County on the South Fork of the Flambeau River (the night of Thursday, August 11th through Sunday afternoon, August 14th). Programs and activities will include: Learning about the local elk herd, touring a logging operation, learning about forest management for wildlife habitat, bass fishing, paddling the Flambeau River, learning about logging history of the Northwoods, discussions about fire management and prescribed burning as a tool for improving wildlife habitat, and MUCH more!

In addition to learning about wildlife management, forestry and fishing – we will have plenty of time to relax by the river, make some delicious meals, tell stories by the campfire, and spend time with a great group of people.

Space is limited—sign up ASAP. Check your email for registration information.

WATERFOWL EXPO— VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The WCC & YCC will be hosting a “youth zone” hands-on learning area at the [Waterfowl Expo](#) on Saturday, August 27th in Oshkosh. This area will be an interactive, hands-on, family friendly area. There will be learning stations, trivia & prizes, YCC information, and much more! We are also hoping to have a raffle at the Expo, to raise funds for future YCC programming.



We need your help! Please save the date and consider volunteering for this one-of-a-kind learning event. All Expo volunteers will receive free admission to the Expo, volunteer T-shirt, food voucher, and ID tag. All volunteers will also have time to spend exploring the Expo, visiting with vendors, listening to presentations, and learning about all things related to waterfowl biology, hunting and conservation.

Please contact Kyle Zenz if you can help.

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