

Wisconsin Youth Conservation Congress Update

December 2020

YCC delegates and mentors,

Congratulations to all of our YCC delegates and mentors who were successful and safe during the 9 day gun deer season. We held our first YCC Big Buck Contest this year, and Ben from Sauk County was our winner. His deer had a 21" spread, with 9 points. The rack on the left side was broken with several points missing. It makes you wonder what kind of adventure caused this injury! The number of license sales and deer registration numbers were up this year. Being outdoors, hunting, or simply enjoying the beauty of nature is always great for your mind and body - especially this year!

We had a great first YCC virtual gathering in November, learning about Snapshot WI from Sam. Please join us on December 9th when Gavin and Gabby share their experiences with trap shooting.

Take care and get outside! ~Kyle Zenz, YCC Coordinator

Outdoor Adventures!



Ben, from Sauk Co. harvested a buck with 9 points and an inside spread of 21". The left side of the rack was broken.



Ethan, from Washington Co. had a great hunt this year with an 8 point buck.



Olivia, from Chippewa Co. spent her birthday in the woods this year, and was lucky enough to get a buck!



Wisconsin Youth Conservation Contacts

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

YCC Oversight Committee Vice Chair: Rob Bohmann (262) 498-4605 / rob.bohmann@att.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

Outdoor Adventures!



Gabby, from Jefferson Co. enjoyed a picture perfect winter day while deer hunting.



Tommy, from Vilas Co. is all smiles with the doe he harvested this year.



Gavin, from Jefferson Co. spent a sunny, warm day squirrel hunting.



Avery, from Green Co. is pictured while getting his tree stand ready for deer hunting.

NATURAL RESOURCE FOUNDATION ANNUAL PHOTO CONTEST

We invite you to submit ANY nature photo taken in Wisconsin, whether on an NRF Field Trip or not. Many of us have found being outdoors to be a time of respite during this challenging year. Perhaps you found solace on a quiet walk through the woods, a sense of renewal as you watched the seasons change, or a spark of hope as you witnessed other miracles of our natural world.

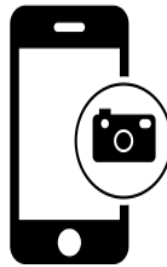
In that spirit we have chosen *Connections* as the theme of our 2020 photo contest, and invite you to share how you have found a sense of connection to Wisconsin's lands, waters, and wildlife this past year.

Submit up to **FOUR** of your favorite Wisconsin nature photos via [this online portal](#).

DEADLINE: Sunday, December 20



PHOTO REQUIREMENTS: High quality photos that are at least 1024 pixels or larger (tall or wide) or around 300 pixels per inch (1MB to 3MB in size) and JPG or JPEG format.



SHARE YOUR INPUT

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) invites hunters, farmers,

foresters and anyone interested in the Wisconsin deer herd to attend upcoming County Deer Advisory Council (CDAC) meetings held virtually across the state Dec. 7-18.

Councils will meet via teleconference to review deer herd metrics and harvest data from the last three years and to provide a preliminary recommendation on the herd size objective for the next three years. The DNR will also share preliminary recommendations on the deer management unit and zone boundaries.

For more information about CDAC please visit:

<https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/hunt/cdac.html>



Featured YCC Delegate

Name: Samantha Hammiller

Burlington High School, Racine County

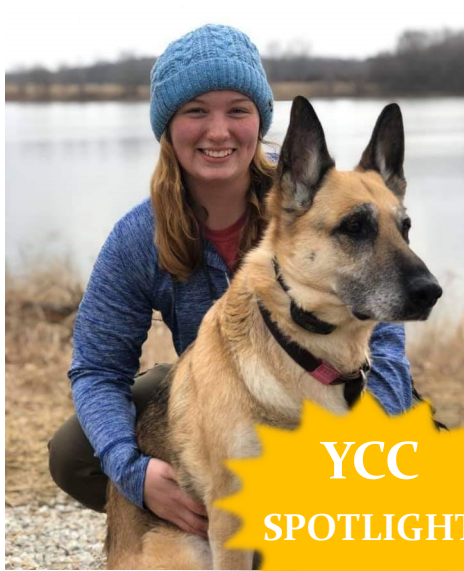
WCC Mentor: Trent Tonn Years involved in the YCC: 2.5

What is one of your most memorable outdoor experiences? One of my most memorable outdoor experiences would have to be pheasant stocking with the DNR. I loved being hands-on and knowing that I am helping out.

What have you learned from your mentor? Mr. Tonn has taught me so, so much throughout the years that I have known him, even beyond my time as a YCC delegate. If I were to pick one specifically, I would have to say a lot of my interest and skills in trapping has been through him. Not only did I learn a lot from my 3 years in his Outdoor Skills class, I also had the privilege of having him as one of my teachers at a Learn to Trap event that I got my trapping license at. To this day he still teaches me a lot, and I plan to go out and trap beaver with him this month as well.



DNR Pheasant stocking opportunity



YCC
SPOTLIGHT

Sam with her dog, Amber

What other activities do you enjoy participating in? I am currently the president of the Burlington FFA chapter and I am a council member for the Wisconsin Agriculture Youth Council.

What are your future plans? After high school, I plan on attending UW- Stevens Point with a major in Natural Resources. I am thinking of Wildlife Biology with a minor in Soils, but I am still exploring the exact path that I would like to go down.

What would you say to encourage someone to join the YCC? I would tell them that it is an amazing experience and will suit your level of involvement. You can choose to be super involved and attend many meetings and go above and beyond, or you can stay at a simpler level and gain information that way. It really allows you to explore options for your future and create a line of networking across the entire state with not only other adult and youth delegates, but DNR personnel along with other agencies or conservation groups. If you have any interest in the outdoors I would encourage you to join and see what it is about. Any one of the mentors are amazing people and want to help you any way possible, you just have to reach out.

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

I would like to thank every single person that I have met in my time as a youth delegate. I am so blessed to have you guys in my life and all of you have shown me who I can become. I would also like to open myself up to any youth that have questions about being a delegate or even would just like to get to know me and my path. My email is samhammiller@gmail.com. I would love to help more youth get the opportunity that I was given throughout this program.



Sam is pictured with Scott Schoenike, Milwaukee County's WCC Vice Chair and WTA Trapping Education Instructor

“ As her former art teacher, Outdoor Skills Club advisor, and YCC mentor, I can attest that Samantha is not one to back down from any challenge.

Knowing that Samantha has always been passionate about nature and the out of doors, I challenged her to take on the role of Racine County's Youth Delegate to the Wisconsin Conservation Congress. Over the past two and a half years, she has worked diligently to become involved with fellow Youth Delegates, Wisconsin Conservation Congress Delegates, and Department of Natural Resource's staff. Samantha has volunteered hours, days, and weeks, to the help DNR staff in their jobs and research efforts by banding ducks, aging deer, releasing stocked pheasants, and sorting through DNR Snap Shot photos. She's even spent time in Conservation Warden, Brandon Smith's vehicle helping to patrol the fields and waters around Burlington, WI. She has attended numerous WCC and DNR meetings where she has offered her viewpoint as a young, female, outdoor enthusiast. Her comments and suggestions have helped to guide some of the policy work of the WCC. Heck, she even got to do a radio interview with Dan Small for Outdoor Wisconsin.

Samantha continues to be humble in her work and learning. Her passion for our environment and its well-being is contagious and encourages others to be involved.

When the opportunity arises, she willing volunteers to help teach younger students in our community to be good stewards of our land, water, fish, and animals. I can always count on her help at an Outdoor Skills Club event. Doesn't matter if she is tying on hooks or serving up squirrel stew, Sam jumps right in.

As a senior, I know our time working together grows short, but I am excited for her next journey and am happy to have shared so many experiences with her. I am proud to say that Samantha is off to my alma mater, UW-Stevens Point next fall to attend the College of Natural Resources. - Trent Tonn



Sam pictured with her mentor, Trent Tonn

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YCC Upcoming Opportunities

DECEMBER

- 9th - YCC virtual skill sharing session - introduction to trap shooting . 7:30-8:30. Check your email for a link.

JANUARY

- 1st—First day hike. Ring in the new year by getting outside and exploring a new trail or your backyard.
- 13th- YCC virtual skill sharing session 7:30-8:30. Check your email for a link.
- 16th—**YCC event**— Ice Fishing on the Petenwell Flowage - more details to follow.

SAVE THE DATE:

May 13-15 - WCC State Convention, Stevens Point

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>

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-----

The Association of WI Snowmobile Clubs offers a variety of scholarships to graduating high school seniors who are current members in the AWSC. If you plan to pursue further education at an accredited two or four-year institution of higher learning check out the scholarship opportunity. <https://www.awsc.org/About-Us/Scholarships.aspx>

WHAT LIVES IN YOUR WOODS?

Are you curious about what walks through your woods while you aren't looking? Snapshot Wisconsin is a volunteer-based project which utilizes a statewide network of trail cameras to monitor wildlife year-round.



Volunteer to host a trail camera on your property, or adopt a camera already in place on public land. The project provides important data for wildlife management. It is also a unique opportunity for individuals, families, and students to get involved in monitoring the state's valuable natural resources. No experience is necessary, and all training and equipment are provided. Volunteers must be able to participate for at least one year and check the camera at least once every three months.

<https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/research/projects/snapshot/>

HELP IDENTIFY WILDLIFE

Photos collected by Snapshot Wisconsin cameras are hosted on Zooniverse, a crowdsourcing website for citizen science projects. Thousands of volunteers worldwide participate on Zooniverse by identifying wildlife captured in Snapshot Wisconsin photos. You can help Snapshot WI identify animals:

<https://www.zooniverse.org/projects/zooniverse/snapshot-wisconsin>



Sam, YCC delegate from Racine County is a volunteer with the Snapshot WI program. Sam created a video highlighting how to set up a Snapshot WI camera and use the computer software. She shared this information during the November YCC virtual gathering.

SAFETY CLASSES

Snowmobile safety classes are now available. Learn more about In person and online classes: <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/Education/OutdoorSkills/safetyEducation>



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