

Wisconsin Youth Conservation Congress Update

July 2021

YCC delegates and mentors,

I hope you are all taking advantage of summer and spending time exploring, recreating, fishing, hiking, paddling and relaxing. While you are relaxing, do you ever daydream? Does your mind wander to thoughts like catching the big fish, becoming a better bowhunter, wondering about fluctuations in wildlife populations, understanding algal blooms on lakes, and countless other things related to natural resources and conservation?

I want to encourage you to daydream this summer. As a YCC delegate, what would you like learn more about? What hands on projects would you like to participate in? In September we will be encouraging all YCC delegates to identify a conservation topic or outdoor skill you would like to focus on. We will help you create a conservation goal, and assist you with following through on learning or exploring a new topic or skill.

More information will be shared shortly, but for now, please continue to daydream about your interests related to the outdoors, your questions about nature, and your goals for the future.

Take care! ~Kyle Zenz, YCC Coordinator

Outdoor Adventures!



Caleb, YCC delegate from St. Croix Co was happy to catch a 16 inch bass in Chetek.



Brooke, YCC delegate from Dodge Co placed first in the JV division at the SCTP trap shooting state meet and 2nd in ladies overall.



Gavin & Gabby, delegates from Jefferson Co competed at state for trap shooting through SCTP. Gavin's squad finished in 2nd place for doubles and Gabby finished 1st place in ladies JV handicap.



Madison, YCC delegate from La Crosse Co is pictured at Cedar Breaks National Monument. She is spending the summer working in Utah and visiting relatives.



Wisconsin Youth Conservation Contacts

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

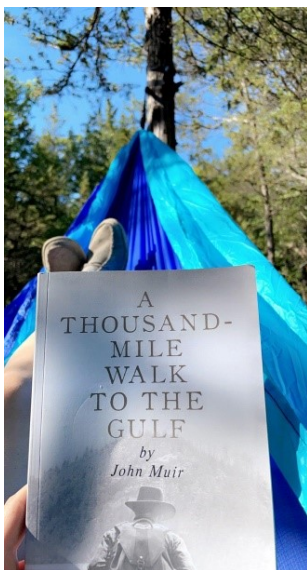
YCC Oversight Committee Vice Chair: Rob Bohmann (262) 498-4605 / rob.bohmann@att.net

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

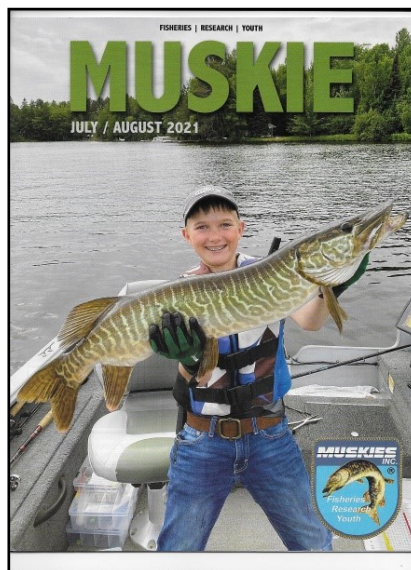
YCC Coordinator: Kyle Zenz (715) 299-0925 / kyle.zenz@wisconsin.gov

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

YCC delegate updates



Sam, YCC delegate from Racine Co snapped this photo of herself reading a John Muir book while relaxing in a hammock. Sam is keeping busy this summer with work and preparing to start school at UW-Stevens Point in the fall. She was recently accepted to the next class of Wisconsin Wildlife Federation's Conservation Leadership Corps.



Tommy, YCC delegate from Vilas Co. was featured on the cover of the July/August magazine, MUSKIE! Congratulations on your cover photo. What an honor to be featured! MUSKIE is the magazine for Muskies Inc., and Tommy is active with the Headwaters Chapter.

Wisconsin Natural Resources Magazine

Celebrate summer and Wisconsin's pollinators in the upcoming issue of [Wisconsin Natural Resources](#) magazine available now. The [Summer issue](#) explores how the sound of a single bee, identified by a field ecologist, led to an exciting discovery late last summer in Milwaukee County: a nest of the rare rusty patched bumblebee.

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) was alerted of the find, setting off a buzz of research activity that conservation experts hope will aid efforts for the continued support of this federally endangered species.

Read all about the rare rusty patched bumblebee and learn ways to help this special bee and other pollinators. Additional stories featured in the Summer issue include:

- The DNR celebrates the 75th anniversary of the Northern Highland Fishery Research Area, a key player in data collection and science that supports the state's rich angling tradition.
- Anniversaries abound! Celebrate the 70th year of the DNR's State Natural Areas Program with a story that looks back and looks ahead, examining how the program is adapting to meet the state's future conservation needs.
- Sailing may be a lesser-known activity in the state, but it also has a rich history. Learn about Wisconsin's sailing roots.
- Paddling gets its due, too, with a look at a new online guide to state waterways, developed by a veteran river lover who has paddled more than 300 Wisconsin rivers and streams.
- Baseball icon Hank Aaron, who died in January, is remembered with a look at the state trail in Milwaukee named in his honor. Aaron spent much of his professional career in the city and remained involved in the community for many years. The Hank Aaron State Trail helps to connect adjacent Milwaukee neighborhoods to important outdoor activities.
- Applaud outdoor endurance feats, including stories of long-distance swimming, running and a 1,200-mile off-season solo hike on Wisconsin's Ice Age National Scenic Trail.
- A special report in this issue offers in-depth coverage of ongoing work to support Wisconsin's Great Lakes, crucial natural resources "to cherish and champion," as the report notes.
- And a pullout card highlights fire safety, including a hands-on Smokey Bear project for kids.

Plus, learn from DNR Secretary Preston D. Cole about how the agency is working to protect the planet and the people of Wisconsin by the simple act of planting trees.

"Forests are woven into the culture of Wisconsin — where 17 million acres of forestland cover nearly half the state," said Cole. From providing jobs and recreational opportunities to safeguarding water resources and mitigating climate change, forests "are vital to our social, ecological and economic well-being."

<https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/wnrmag>



YCC SUMMER PROGRAM- Trout Ecology

Friday, August 6th -Sunday,
August 8th.
Namekagon River,
near Hayward



All YCC delegates are invited!

The YCC Oversight Committee is planning a summer YCC gathering. The weekend will be spent learning about trout ecology, surveying the aquatic population of the river, and of course we will spend time fishing, paddling, learning about lures/bait and enjoying the Namekagon river.

We will all be camping on property near the Namekagon River. There is a house on the property and a bathroom is available. Tents and sleeping bags can be made available if needed. YCC delegates under 12 will be required have a parent present during the entire program.

Check your email for a registration form and additional information.

Join us for the YCC virtual program, Wednesday, July 14th from 7:30-8:30.

This is an opportunity for YCC delegates, parents, and mentors to discuss the summer program agenda, activities, logistics, food, accommodations, and more. There will be discussion and time for questions/answers.

AGENDA

YCC Summer Program: Trout Ecology & Fishing

Friday, August 6th

Late morning: Arrive and set up tents/explore property.

10:00: Electro fish shocking survey on the Namekagon River.

Late afternoon: Macro invertebrate survey in the Namekagon River.

Evening: Dinner at Seely Sawmill Saloon.

Information (video/presentation) about the Wild & Scenic designation of the Namekagon river. Fly tying demonstration and hands on practice/design.

Saturday, August 7th

Morning to mid afternoon: Canoeing/kayaking the Namekagon with learning stations.

Late afternoon: Time for fishing. Learn from Trout Unlimited volunteers, instruction about poles, bait, lures, etc. Learn about cleaning and preparing fish for a meal.

Evening: Learn about the Namekagon watershed, lure making, free time.

Sunday, August 8th

Morning: Fishing, hiking, art opportunities, lure making, fly tying, etc.

Afternoon: Clean up and head home.

YCC VIRTUAL SUMMER FISHING CONTEST

The YCC committee and Friends Into Spooner Hatchery (FISH) invite all YCC delegates to join in a summer fishing contest using the Fishdonkey app. The contest is an opportunity to share your summer vacation catch photos with your fellow delegates. There are various species, combo and wild card categories but don't get too hung up on the competition part. 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 the rest of the gang is doing.

**This contest runs until September 6th (Labor day).
You can sign up anytime until the end of the contest.**

To join contest:

1. Download the FishDonkey app. fishdonkey.com/app
2. Tap: Fish in a Tournament
3. Join: YCC



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

Thanks to those who have entered fish in the contest.
A few reminders about the contest & using
FishDonkey:

- Take a few minutes to do the "practice entering a fish tournament" - You can find this on the main page of the Live Leaderboards.
- Include a picture of the fish with a measurements and a picture of you with the fish.
- You need to take a picture of the fish through the fish donkey app, not your regular phone setting.
- It's not too late to enter! Sign up today and don't forget to use the app to record your catch!
- Please enter your catch even if someone else has listed a species larger than yours. There are several categories to win, and entering more species and sizes, increases your chance to be on the leaderboard.

YCC Upcoming Opportunities

JULY

- 14th- YCC virtual gathering - Learn about plans for our summer trout program in Hayward.
- July is Lake Appreciation month. Learn more and find ways to get involved: <https://www.nalms.org/lakes-appreciation-month/>

AUGUST

- 6-8- YCC summer program. Hayward, WI. Learn about the Namekagon River, aquatic surveys, trout fishing, watershed ecology, and more!
- 10th - Natural Resource Board meeting <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/about/NRB/agenda.html>
- 28th - Waterfowl Hunters Expo, Oshkosh. Opportunities to volunteer at the Expo and at the Touch of the Wild trailers. <https://waterfowlhuntersexpo.com/>

SEPTEMBER

- 8th- YCC virtual gathering. Topic to be determined and zoom link will be shared by email.
- 18th - Archery deer season opens
- 18th - Fall turkey season opens

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.

YCC VIRTUAL GATHERING - YCC Summer Program Information



Wednesday, July 14th, 7:30-8:30pm

Join us by zoom to learn more about the plans for our Trout & Namekagon River summer program. This is an opportunity for YCC delegates, parents, and mentors to discuss the agenda, activities, logistics, food, accommodations, and more. There will be discussion and time for questions/answers.

Watch your email for a zoom link.

LEARN TO HUNT DEER OPPORTUNITY

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is now accepting applications for the 2021 Learn to Hunt Deer program at [Sandhill Wildlife Area](#) this fall.

Learn to Hunt programs combine classroom instruction and fieldwork before a novice goes hunting with an experienced hunter. The unique opportunity is available to youth and adult hunters without previous hunting experience and includes workshops this summer covering the following topics:

- Deer biology and management
- Hunting rules and regulations
- Sportsmanship and ethical hunter behavior
- Basic firearm safety and marksmanship

The youth program is for children between the ages of 12-15 years with varying levels of hunting experience and includes three required workshops on Aug. 18, 20 and 21, 2021. The adult beginner program is intended for individuals age 16 or older without previous experience hunting deer with a firearm and includes a single workshop on Aug. 21, 2021. The workshop fee for both the participant and chaperone is \$40.

The program will end with a one-day hunt on Nov. 6, 2021, at the 9,150-acre Sandhill Wildlife Area near Babcock in Wood County. All participants and chaperones must attend the Learn To Hunt workshops and complete a [Hunter Education course](#) prior to the hunt portion of the program.

The deadline to apply for the 2021 Sandhill Learn to Hunt Deer program is July 15, 2021. [Please click here to fill out an application.](#)