

Wisconsin Youth Conservation Congress Update

December 2021

YCC delegates and mentors,

2021 has been a great year for expanding YCC activities and involvement. I have enjoyed watching our YCC delegates grow in their experiences and connections to mentors and peers. We have so much planned for next year, and I'm excited to witness and support YCC delegates working towards their individual conservation learning goals.

Like many end-of-the-year correspondences, I have included a photo "brag" sheet documenting our YCC delegates in action! *Check out page 6.*

A final message of congratulations to YCC delegate, Ben for winning the biggest buck contest and to YCC delegate, Destiny for winning the outdoor writing contest. Great job!

Take care and see you next year!
~Kyle Zenz, YCC Coordinator



Ben, from Sauk Co. is pictured with his 11-point buck. Ben holds the YCC big buck contest title for the 2nd year in a row.

Outdoor Adventures - Deer Hunting Success!



Destiny, YCC delegate from Douglas County



Caleb, YCC delegate from St. Croix County



Gabby, YCC delegate from Jefferson County



Gavin, YCC delegate from Jefferson County



Wisconsin Youth Conservation Contacts

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Welcome

NEW YCC DELEGATES

We are excited to welcome new delegates to the YCC:

Shawn, Racine County

Bode, Rusk County



YCC Outdoor Writing Contest

November Sixth of 2021 Minnesota Deer Opener, one hour in.

Writing
Contest
Winner

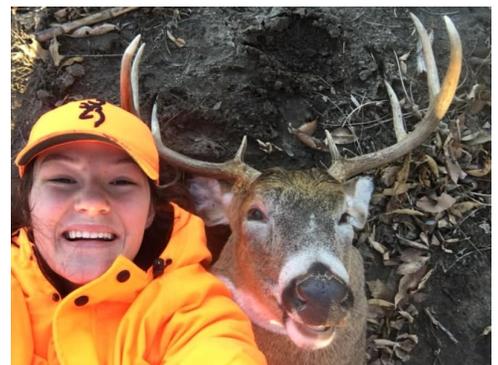
The morning was nippy but yet warm with a south west wind blowing past my face. It was a perfect morning for deer hunting. Not even 25 minutes in until I see a big doe come walking in scanning the area ahead of her. My heart starts pounding. Tha thump tha thump. She kept looking behind her as if she was looking for something until I saw it -- another deer. I was excited I had two great big deer in front of me. I was watching the second one like none other thinking it was a doe until it came in further. My eyes set on it's rack, "Holy crap that's a nice six point buck" I thought to myself. THA THUMP THA THUMP THA THUMP. My heart was pounding so hard it was like you could see all four of my layers moving with my heart beat. The only problem that met with these deer and I was the fact that they came in on "Mark's Side." The fine line of the neighbors property that met mine 40 yards in front of me.

Stuck in the rut... grunt, grunt. This wide body buck was going crazy, grunting and rubbing on one twig like tree. I was blown away at the fact that I was watching a buck in action during the rut for I have never seen them react before. After he made his rub he walked away. I was devastated. I remembered that I had "The Great BIG Can" that my buddies gave to me for my birthday. I figured I'd give it a shot. "EEEEEEEE" the can goes. Four does come running down in front of me still on Mark's Side, I was blown away at the fact that I now had five does in front of me but I couldn't take a shot. Behind them came frantically running -- the prize. It was now 8:25 -8:30 am. I have been watching these deer praying they come onto my side. The buck walks away again.

The second time around I had no hope, he wasn't coming back. I look over to my left to see the big fat doe still standing in the same spot the buck left her. Right then and there I knew he wasn't gone yet. Patiently waiting like a little kid for the ice cream truck. The four does that the buck had chased started walking my way onto my side. Tha thump tha thump my heart goes. This was it. This was prime time I'm thinking. My gun, ready the whole time. I picked up the gun and my line of sight met the scope. Here he comes running at me through my scope like a banshee trying to get the ladies. He leaped over the barbed wire that split the properties in half and ran 20 yards in front of my stand. Broadside... I pulled the trigger and off he went. I thought for sure I had missed him for the way he just trotted away.

I let 30 minutes go by after the shot was taken and I got out to go look for blood. Red drops as wide as gumdrops on the forest floor. Following the blood to the bean field so eagerly my trail started to die out. This kicked my confidence to the bucket. My grandpa came walking out to meet me and I explained to him how I thought I had only hit it to wound it and it wasn't dead. "Well no Destiny you have a great blood trail going, look!" Sure enough you look up and all it is, is a red line marking the dead bean field. We walked along the side of the trail for about 10 yards. "DESTINY! There it is!" Sure enough 20 yards from where I shot what I thought was a nice six pointer laid a hefty eight pointer with a wide rack. Dead on my side Lying one foot before it crossed into Mike's side.

A 40 minute wait turned into not only a life long memory but a brand new personal record as well. *Written by Destiny.*



Destiny, YCC delegate from Douglas County is the winner of the 2021 YCC Outdoor Writing Contest. Congrats!

Outdoor Adventures!



Ben, YCC delegate from Sauk Co. harvested this 9-point buck during the archery season.



Mentor, Trent Tonn from Racine Co. had a successful archery season.



Mentor, Jeff Hintz (pictured right) from Waukesha Co. spent time in Colorado hunting with his son. This was Jeff's first elk hunting trip and first elk harvest.

Wild Game Recipes

Recipe for: Smoked Meat

(for goose, pheasant, other meat/fish)

From the kitchen of: Jeff Hintz, Waukesha Co.

Ingredients:

1.5 cups non-iodized salt

1 cup brown sugar

1 gallon hot water

Cherry wood chips or 1/2 apple, 1/2 hickory

Meat of choice

Directions:

- Mix salt and brown sugar with 1 gallon hot water (the hot water helps dissolve the salt and brown sugar).
 - Place meat in brine, place in refrigerator, and brine meat for 12 hours, fish for 10 hours.
 - Rinse meat with cold water, pat dry.
 - Soak wood chips in water.
 - Use 1 pan of wood chips right from the start and let cook until done.
 - Smoke at 225 degrees (until meat is 150-160 degrees internal temp).
 - If smoking turkey, remove at 135 degrees.
- ◇ Note: when brining smaller cuts (pheasant, duck, loins) use 1 cup salt and 1 cup brown sugar.

Recipe for: Pan Fried Heart

From the kitchen of: Jeff Hintz, Waukesha Co.

Ingredients:

1 heart

1/4 cup non-iodized salt

1/4 cup butter

1 clove garlic, crushed

1 cup diced onion

1/2 TBS minced fresh parsley

1/2 tsp ground pepper

1/2 tsp salt

Directions:

Prepare heart:

- Wash in cold water, drain all blood.
- Remove all fat and valves, open heart to remove silver lining (as much as possible).
- Slice heart into about 1-inch strips.
- Mix 1/4 cup non-iodized salt with 1/2 quart hot water, let cool and submerge heart strips and refrigerate at least 12 hours.

Cooking:

- Melt butter in skillet.
- Add garlic and onion.
- Season heart with salt, pepper and parsley.
- Cook heart 2-3 minutes per side.

———— **Featured YCC Delegate** ————

Name: Gavin Ford
County: Washington
School: Hartford Union High School, Senior
WCC Mentor: Tashina Peplinski
Years involved in the YCC: 2



**YCC
SPOTLIGHT**

Gavin is pictured holding a giant (2 ft) earthworm found on the Galapagos Islands.

“ Gavin has been eager to learn anything and everything available through the YCC program. His drive to explore everything he can has been impressive, and he has been a great example of what you can accomplish by simply being open to new experiences. ”

~Tashina Peplinski, mentor to Gavin



Tashina and Gavin at a WCC district meeting.



Gavin (on right) learning about collecting sap to make maple syrup.

What is one of your most memorable outdoor experiences?

My most memorable outdoor experience was probably catching my first saltwater fish off the coast of the Galapagos Islands.

Share a memorable experience that you shared with your mentor.

The most memorable experience I had with my mentor was attending a district WCC meeting and experiencing how the WCC works first hand.

What school or personal activities do you participate in?

Besides activities in the outdoors I enjoy playing Badminton, traveling to new places, and studying history.

What are your plans following high school graduation?

After high school I will be attending Indiana University in Bloomington, IN. I will be majoring in Microbiology and Minorng in Japanese Language. I also hope to join the Badminton club.

What would you say to encourage someone to join the YCC?

When you join the YCC as long as you have the drive to learn and participate in new activities you will no doubt have a good time. The YCC will allow you to experience and learn many new things that you had never been able to do. While COVID may have put a damper on activities I guarantee that there will be more offered when pandemic is finally done.



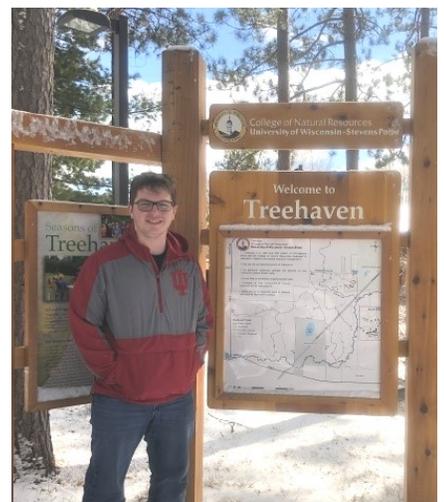
Fishing in Minnesota with family.



Wahoo caught in the Pacific Ocean off the coast of the Galapagos Islands.



Gavin pictured with sea lions on the Galapagos Islands.



Gavin participated in a tree felling course at UW-Stevens Point.

YCC Delegates Help Stock Pheasants



Miles, YCC delegate from Monroe County helped release pheasants on State property at the [Sand Creek Fishery Area](#).



Madison, YCC delegate from La Crosse County helped release pheasants on State property at the [South Beaver Creek Wildlife Area](#).

Learn more about which state properties stock pheasants: <https://dnr.wi.gov/pheasantstocking/>

[Pheasant season](#) is open in Wisconsin until January 9th, 2022. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources will stock 2,920 pheasants across 25 state properties over a two-day period during the week of Dec. 20.

“We are excited to grow holiday stocking to [25 properties](#) this year and offer more opportunities to hunt with family and friends,” said Kelly Maguire, DNR State Game Farm Manager. “The selected areas are located near population centers to provide accessible opportunities to as many holiday hunters as possible as well as areas that see high hunter use throughout the pheasant hunting season.”

YCC VIRTUAL ICE FISHING CONTEST

The YCC committee and Friends Into Spooner Hatchery (FISH) invite all YCC delegates to join in an ice fishing contest using the Fishdonkey app. 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 from December 1st - April 1st. You can sign up anytime during the contest period.

Download the FishDonkey App on your phone or smart device. (You do not need cell reception to record fish – they can be recorded on the app and uploaded when you have wifi or cell reception). Search for the contest: YCC Ice <https://tourney.fishdonkey.com/#/tournament-info/8222/details>

PRIZES (still to be determined) will be given to the top positions of each leaderboard category.

- All fish entered in the tournament will be photographed, measured, and recorded with the FishDonkey app. Each entry must include a picture of the fish on a measuring board or with measuring tape AND a selfie with the fish. All entries must be photographed through the camera setting in the FishDonkey app.
- Please read through all rules and information on the contest page.
- Categories and leaderboards will update throughout the contest so check the leaderboards through your app to follow the tournament progress.
- Awards are presented on the basis of length as determined through the mobile app and verified by tournament judges. The categories, species, and official rules can be found in the FishDonkey app.
- A big thanks to Larry Damman for organizing the YCC contest and to the Friends into Spooner Hatchery for sponsoring the tournament.



2021 Youth Conservation Congress YEAR IN REVIEW



YCC Upcoming Opportunities

DECEMBER

- 8th - YCC Virtual Gathering 7:30-8:30pm. Citizen Science and the Christmas Bird Count. Presentation by avian expert, Bill Mueller.

JANUARY

- 12th - YCC Virtual Gathering 7:30-8:30pm. Learn about Chronic Wasting Disease in the WI deer population. Presentation by DNR Biologist, Tim Marien.
- 15th - YCC Ice Fishing Event, Lake Petenwell.
- 15th - 16th - Free Fishing Weekend in Wisconsin.

FEBRUARY

- 9th - YCC Virtual Gathering 7:30-8:30pm. Topic to be determined.

SAVE THE DATE:

March 5 - YCC Oversight Committee Meeting, UW-Stevens Point.

May 12-14 - WCC State Convention, Wisconsin Dells

CERTIFICATES FOR YOUR FIRST HARVEST OR FIRST EXPERIENCE

The Wisconsin DNR encourages hunters of all ages to celebrate their first hunt with a free first harvest and first hunting experience certificate.



To obtain a certificate, visit the first certificate page on the DNR website and select which species or experience to celebrate. Hunters can submit a photograph of their special moment as well as details about the experience, including when and where the animal was harvested. All information will be displayed on the free, customized certificate.

<https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/hunt/firstcert.html>

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>

YCC VIRTUAL GATHERING - Citizen Science and the Christmas Bird Count



Wednesday, December 8th 7:30-8:30pm

Bill Mueller, former Director of the Western Great Lakes Bird and Bat Observatory, Inc. will share information about citizen science opportunities and describe the history of the

[Christmas Bird count](#) and how citizens have helped contribute to historical research.



Watch your email for a zoom link.

SAVE THE DATE

YCC Ice Fishing Event on Petenwell Lake

Saturday, January 15th, 2020, 9am-5pm

[Petenwell County Park, Adams Co.](#)

Join other YCC delegates and WCC mentors for a day of ice fishing. This day will be focused on enjoying time on the ice while learning new techniques for a successful day of fishing. DNR wardens and staff will join our group to talk about safety, regulations, winter adaptations for fish, ecology, and specific characteristics of Petenwell Lake.



New to ice fishing? No problem! Mentors will be on hand to teach you everything you need to get started. Extra equipment will also be available.

Experienced with ice fishing? Great! Share your tips with others and learn more about the ecology of Petenwell Lake.

This is the FREE fishing weekend in Wisconsin. We encourage you to bring a friend or relative who is new to fishing or hasn't gone fishing in years!

Please help us plan the event by responding to the survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Q3HSW6V>