

Wisconsin Youth Conservation Congress Update



January 2021

YCC delegates and mentors,

The new year has painted much of our state with breathtakingly beautiful crystals. This phenomenon, called rime ice occurs during periods of dense fog. Supercooled water drops (in liquid form) in the air come in contact with a frozen surface. Those liquid water droplets then freeze on contact. The result turns our landscape into something magical and transforms ordinary trees, shrubs and grasses into something quite extraordinary. Did you get a chance to witness this? There is always so much beauty in nature, but it is special when it makes so many people pause and take notice.

Take care and pause to observe your surroundings! ~Kyle Zenz, YCC Coordinator

UPDATE:

Our planned YCC ice fishing event for Saturday, January 16th has been cancelled. In its place will be holding a virtual ice fishing contest from January 8th to February 8th. See page 2 for more details.

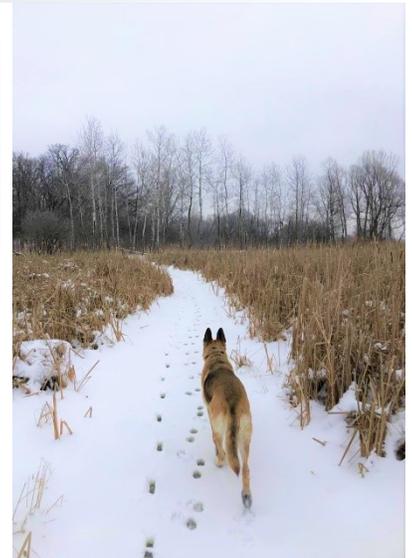
Outdoor Adventures!



Tommy, from Vilas Co. recently caught his personal record walleye: 22".



Ben, from Sauk Co. enjoyed a day fishing with the beautiful rime ice clinging to trees in the background.



First Day Hike! Sam, YCC delegate from Racine Co., welcomed the new year on a hike with her dog, Amber.



Wisconsin Youth Conservation Contacts

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

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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

TRAP SHOOTING INFORMATION

Gavin & Gabby from Jefferson County created an introduction to trap shooting video that was shared with the YCC during our December virtual gathering. Several of our YCC delegates are involved with a variety of shooting sport programs. Youth trap shooting opportunities exist across the state at many different levels. Programs exist in schools, through 4-H and at local sporting clubs.

Do you already belong to a local trap league or participate in a school program? If you are looking to join a trap league, there are many opportunities available. If your school doesn't have a program, there are two existing program models that have been designed specifically for students. Both the Scholastic Clay Target Program (SCTP) and the WI State High School Clay Target League would be happy to work with your school administration to get a program started. The first step, however is finding an adult who would be willing to serve as a coach and identifying a location to shoot. The 4-H shooting sports program is another way to get involved locally in your county. This program offers training, practice, and opportunities to compete statewide and nationally. Check out the links below to find out more information about these programs.

Scholastic Clay Target Program: <https://mysctp.com/>

Wisconsin State High School Clay Target League: <http://wiclaytarget.com/>

Wisconsin 4-H Youth Shooting Sports: <https://fyi.extension.wisc.edu/wi4hshootingports/>

Badger State Games (competition open to all Wisconsin residents):

<https://www.visitwausau.com/trap-shooting>

Wisconsin Trap Shooting Association: <http://www.witrapshooters.com/>

Public shooting ranges in Wisconsin: <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/Education/OutdoorSkills/WisconsinShootingRanges#j>



Gabby & Gavin from Jefferson Co. compete yearly at the Badger State Games. They are also active in school and local trap leagues.



"Being involved on my trap/skeet team has helped me meet a lot great people who share similar interests with me. I've learned a lot by doing it not only as a marksman but as a teammate too." Ben from Sauk Co. pictured, shooting with his high school team.

WISCONSIN DEER MANAGEMENT PUBLIC INPUT

Each County Deer Advisory Council (CDAC) has provided preliminary recommendations to increase, decrease or maintain herd size. In addition, the public has the opportunity to comment on DMU boundary recommendations proposed by the DNR. To view the preliminary recommendations for each county and provide feedback, visit the [DNR's website](#).

Now through Jan. 13, 2021, the public is invited to comment on the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources' (DNR) herd size objectives and deer management unit (DMU) boundaries for the next three years.



Learn more and share your comments:

<https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/newsroom/release/40351>

YCC VIRTUAL ICE FISHING CONTEST

Since we won't be gathering as a group to fish in January, we encourage you to get out on the ice and share your experience virtually!

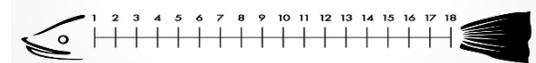
Contest details:

WHEN: January 8th through February 8th

WHERE: Anywhere in Wisconsin

WHO: All YCC delegates

HOW: Take a photo of the fish you catch - showing it on a bump (measuring) board. The mouth of the fish should be closed, and touching the end of the board. Send these photos to Kyle by email or text (kyle.zenz@wisconsin.gov - 715-299-0925). All photos must be received prior to 8:00am on February 9th.



The winning fish will be judged by length, but we are also curious how many fish you catch and how many days you spend fishing. Please keep track and include that information with your pictures.

*Even if you don't consider your fish to be a winning length, please send in multiple photos of different fish species and size- we want to include pictures of all YCC delegates out on the ice!

The winner will be announced at our virtual YCC gathering on Feb. 10th.

——— Featured YCC Delegate ———

Name: Ben Moran

County: Sauk

School: Reedsburg Area High School, 11th grade

WCC Mentor: Mitch Baker

Years involved in the YCC: 2



Ben won the 2020 YCC big buck contest

YCC SPOTLIGHT

What is one of your most memorable outdoor experiences?

The first buck I shot with a bow.

What school or personal activities do you participate in?

I am in high school archery club.

I am a varsity high school trap shooter.

I also am a youth hunter safety instructor.

I also serve as a youth board member at our local outdoor club.

What are your plans following high school graduation?

I plan on going to school at the University of Stevens Point to become a wildlife biologist.

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

I would tell them that it's a great way to have a voice and be a part of change for the better while also learning a lot about the outdoors.



Steelhead



Mitch Baker, a WCC delegate from Sauk Co. is Ben's mentor

“ I first met Ben at our Outdoor Club, shooting indoor archery. He immediately struck me as a hard worker... always shooting extra. During work days he was always digging in... and then looking for more work to do. So, when I was elected to the Congress and learned about the Youth Conservation Congress, I immediately knew that Ben would both, be a great addition and would gain a great deal from being a part of such a unique opportunity. At the very first WCC meeting Ben attended, which was District Meetings, he confirmed my hunch. When asked if he wanted to introduce himself, he without hesitation stood up and delivered impressively, in front of 50+ WCC delegates and DNR staff...also contributing on a couple questions during the meeting and at the spring hearings.

2020 and Covid has certainly changed the way we've all been able to interact with each other... But it has also, at times, created more opportunities to be outdoors, especially as individuals. I know Ben has made the most of those opportunities.

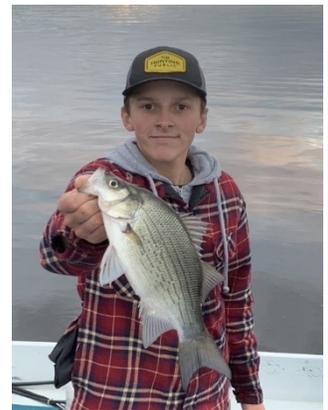
Ben is the kind of hard-working motivated guy that will succeed in anything he pursues... I sure look forward to seeing where that takes him. ” - Mitch Baker



Bow season 2019



Smallmouth bass



White bass



Fall duck hunting

YCC Upcoming Opportunities

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 - learning about careers from a DNR Wildlife Biologist. 7:30-8:30. Check your email for a link.

FEBRUARY

- 10th- YCC virtual skill sharing session - ice fishing program. 7:30-8:30. Check your email for a link.

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/2NsLvLPD33wQXma09>

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-----

National Wild Turkey Federation—Dr. James Earl Kenamer Academic Scholarship

The purpose of the NWTf Dr. James Earl Kenamer Academic Scholarship Program is to recognize and reward an NWTf member, who is currently a senior in high school, for their outstanding academic achievement, community involvement and leadership roles. The National Scholarship Winner will receive a \$10,000 scholarship sponsored by Mossy Oak.

<https://your.nwtf.org/scholarships/>

YCC VIRTUAL GATHERING - Career Focus: Wildlife Biologist

Join us along with DNR wildlife biologist, Missy Sparrow-Lein to learn more about what it takes to manage and study wildlife in Wisconsin. She will talk about her experience, share photographs and give academic and career advice about becoming a wildlife biologist.



Wednesday, January 13th - 7:30-8:30pm
Watch your email for a zoom link.

FREE FISHING WEEKEND

The WI DNR offers two free fishing weekends each year. The first in winter (January 16-17, 2021) and the second in late spring (June 5-6, 2021).

You can fish almost anywhere in Wisconsin without a license or trout stamp on the free fishing weekend. All other inland waters and Wisconsin's side of the Great Lakes and Mississippi River are open for you to test your skills and try your luck, except for spring trout ponds.

Learn more about the [early trout season](#) and the [trout regulations](#) for clarification. If you see a season date listed for a specific body of water, you're welcome to fish there, although please keep in mind that some waters may be catch and release only.

Remember that all usual [regulations](#) and [seasonal restrictions](#) are in force.

Learn more: <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Fishing/anglereducation/freeFishingWeekend>

Creativity Counts!

The WI Department of Natural Resources is searching for a park sticker design for 2022. High School youth in Wisconsin are invited to enter the contest. The deadline to submit artwork is April 30, 2021.

Find official rules and information: <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/parks/designcontest>

