

# Wisconsin Youth Conservation Congress Update



November 2021

YCC delegates and mentors,

Deer season is right around the corner, and for many hunters, this is a time of tradition and togetherness. Memories are made and time is often spent with close family or friends.

Indeed, many people experience hunting this way, however there is a growing number of hunters who start out hunting for the first time with a non-relative mentor. Mentored hunting is an opportunity for first time hunters to learn about hunting in a controlled manner. Learn more about mentored hunting options and regulations: <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/Education/OutdoorSkills/mentor>

If you are new to deer hunting, and want to participate in this season's hunt, please reach out to me. I will work to connect you with a mentor who can provide you with a safe, firsthand experience.

Take care! ~Kyle Zenz, YCC Coordinator

## REQUEST FOR PICTURES

We want to feature photos of you in our monthly newsletters.

Email or text outdoor pictures of yourself to: [kyle.zenz@wisconsin.gov](mailto:kyle.zenz@wisconsin.gov) or 715.299.0295



Visit the [WCC Facebook site](#) to see what's new

## Outdoor Adventures!



Blake, from Calumet Co. helped DNR staff release pheasants on state land. The [Poynette State Game Farm](#) raises pheasants and approximately 75,000 birds will be stocked this year.



Caleb, from St. Croix Co. was successful in a grouse hunt on land in Minnesota.



Gavin, from Jefferson Co. harvested his first woodcock. This bird is also known as a timberdoodle.



### Wisconsin Youth Conservation Contacts

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

## Outdoor Adventures!



Gavin, from Jefferson Co. recreated Mary Ellen O'Brien's pheasant hotdish recipe shared in the [October newsletter](#). In addition to pheasant he included woodcock in the recipe.



Kyle, from Dane Co. spotted this bobcat on his family's trailcam. If you have unique trailcam photos from your property - please share them.



Gabby, from Jefferson Co. participated in the Future Trappers Camp this past July. She is pictured practicing her new skills by preparing fur from a beaver.



Caleb, from St. Croix Co. harvested his first buck during the MN Youth Hunt.

### SHARE YOUR FAVORITE RECIPE!

Do you have a favorite wild game recipe? Whether it is your own creation, or a recipe passed down from generation to generation, consider sharing it. Email recipes (and photos if you have them) to [kyle.zenz@wisconsin.gov](mailto:kyle.zenz@wisconsin.gov) by December 1st. We will share recipes in our December newsletter.



### YCC BIG BUCK & OUTDOOR WRITING CONTESTS

Take part in the annual YCC big buck and fall writing contests. All YCC delegates are invited to participate.

#### Big Buck Contest

Take a photo of your harvested deer (with you in the photo) and submit it to Kyle. We will determine a winner based on rack points.

#### Fall Writing Contest

Share a story with us about a unique fall experience. Maybe it was about the big buck that got away, an experience witnessing waterfowl migration, or just a really neat wildlife encounter.

Please send buck photos or your fall story to [kyle.zenz@wisconsin.gov](mailto:kyle.zenz@wisconsin.gov) by December 5th. Photos and stories will be posted in the YCC newsletter and winners will receive a prize.

### PHOTOGRAPY TIPS FOR CAPTURING A GREAT PHOTO THIS DEER SEASON

**Check your background - keep it natural.** Taking a photo of your deer in its natural habitat is best. Emphasize the beauty of the outdoors by avoiding pictures in the back of a pick up truck or in a garage.

**Clean up your deer - and you.** Wipe blood from the deer's body, mouth, and nose. If possible, try to face any wounds away from the camera. Check the tongue and make sure it is not showing. Check your own appearance for dirt or blood stains before the photo as well.



*YCC Alumni, Ethan poses for an example of a great deer hunting photo. Ethan was also the winner of the YCC Big Buck Contest in 2020.*

**Safety first!** If you include your gun or bow in the photo, make sure it is unloaded and pointed in a safe direction.

**Find the right angle - get low with your camera.** A picture taken lower to the ground, looking straight towards you and your deer will give the best perspective.

**Snap the photo.** Actually, it is a good idea to snap **several** photos from different angles. Frame the photo with the natural background, and make sure not to cut off any part of your body or your deer.

**Show your pride - smile in the picture.** Your hard work and skills have paid off! You have had a successful season and you will have meat to share with your family.

## Deer Hunting Information

### HUNT WILD WISCONSIN

The free Hunt Wild Wisconsin mobile app has everything Wisconsin hunters need in the field, from property boundaries and electronic regulations, including shooting hours, to chronic wasting disease (CWD) sampling and deer carcass disposal locations.

App users can find new public lands to explore, brush up on the regulations or listen to podcasts with the Hunt Wild Wisconsin app. With mobile mapping, up-to-the-minute shooting hours and much more, all the tools are available to focus on what's important – enjoying your time in the outdoors.

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



### RADIO COLLARED DEER ARE LEGAL TO HARVEST DURING HUNTING SEASON



During the hunting season, hunters may spot deer that are equipped with radio collars. Collared deer are part of a mortality study in the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and are legal to hunt with a standard Wisconsin hunting license and harvest authorization.

Licensing and harvest regulations apply to collared deer, just as they do to uncollared deer. Anyone who harvests a collared deer is asked to call the number on the collar so that a crew member can retrieve it. The number to call is 608-935-1940.

### CERTIFICATES FOR YOUR FIRST HARVEST OR FIRST EXPERIENCE

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources 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 to help mark the occasion.

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

### DEER HUNTER OBSERVATION SURVEY

To gain a better understanding of the relative abundance and distribution of deer and other mammalian/avian wildlife species in the state, the DNR is developing a long-term database of deer hunter observation data. Past efforts have provided the agency with valuable information for managing many wildlife species.

The survey period is Sept. 18 - Jan. 9. You can help with this survey by recording the following from your deer hunting trips:

- date hunted
- number of hours hunted
- county
- zone (map)
- land type
- weather conditions
- type and number of animals observed

Data can be reported by a mobile device, desktop or by mail.

Learn more about the observation survey:

<https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/WildlifeHabitat/wlsurvey.html>



# YCC Upcoming Opportunities

## NOVEMBER

- 10th - YCC Virtual Gathering 7:30-8:30pm. Learn about the basics of trapping and how it is used as a wildlife management tool.
- 20th - 28th - Gun deer season.

## DECEMBER

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

## JANUARY

- 12th - YCC Virtual Gathering 7:30-8:30pm. Topic to be determined.
- 15th - YCC Ice Fishing Event, Lake Petenwell.
- 15th - 16th - Free Fishing Weekend in Wisconsin.

### SAVE THE DATE:

May 12-14 - WCC State Convention, Wisconsin Dells

## 2021 HUNTING FORECAST

Hunters and trappers across Wisconsin are in the final countdown to the fall season openers. To help get ready, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has pulled together the 2021 fall forecast series, which details everything Wisconsinites need to know ahead of the game.

Forecasts can be found at the links below and on each corresponding species page.

[2021 Fall Deer Hunting Forecast](#)

[2021 Fall Upland Game Bird Hunting Forecast](#)

[2021 Fall Migratory Bird Hunting Forecast](#)

[2021 Fall Bear Hunting Forecast](#)

[2021 Fall Furbearer Hunting and Trapping Forecast](#)

More information on hunting, including regulations and season dates, is available on the DNR website.

<https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Hunt>

For more updates throughout the fall hunting seasons, follow the DNR on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

## YCC VIRTUAL GATHERING -

Learn about the basics of trapping and how it is used as a wildlife management tool.



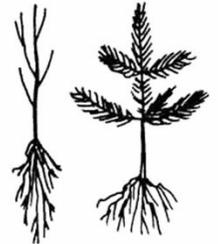
Wednesday, November 10th 7:30-8:30pm

Anna Schneider, Assistant Furbearer Ecologist with the WI DNR will give an informational presentation about trapping. She will cover topics related to history, ethics, trap types, wildlife management, seasons, regulations, and trapper ed classes.

Watch your email for a zoom link.

## PLANT MORE TREES!

Have you thought about planting trees in the spring? The DNR-Division of Forestry's reforestation program is now accepting orders from Wisconsin forest landowners for tree and shrub seedlings. The high-quality seedlings are native species appropriate for planting throughout Wisconsin.



Seedlings grown by the state nurseries are used for reforestation and conservation plantings on private, industrial, state and county forest lands. They can provide future forest products and revenue, wildlife habitat and fodder, soil erosion control, living snow fences and other benefits.

Learn more about tree species available, pricing, and additional details:

<https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/treeplanting/order>

## CREATIVITY COUNTS!

The WI Department of Natural Resources is searching for a park sticker design for 2023. High School youth in Wisconsin are invited to enter the contest. The deadline to submit artwork is April 30, 2022. To find official rules and information, check out <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/parks/designcontest>

