

Wisconsin Youth Conservation Congress Update



October 2021

YCC delegates and mentors,

I hope you have all made the most of being outdoors this October. It has been easy, with above average temperatures and our desire to hang on to the fleeting feelings of late summer.

Our YCC fall weekend was a success! We gathered at the MacKenzie Center in Poynette to participate in a pheasant learn to hunt program, and witness the incredible instincts and dedicated training of hunting dogs. The energy of the dogs was contagious and it was evident that this experience will be one to remember for the YCC participants, mentors, and volunteers!

Spend more time outside, and don't forget to share photos of your fall adventures!

~Kyle Zenz, YCC Coordinator

Outdoor Adventures!



Caleb, YCC delegate from St. Croix Co. harvested his turkey with a bow. It was a beautiful day for the opening of Fall Turkey Season.



Gabby, YCC delegate from Jefferson Co. didn't have any luck spotting deer during the youth hunt, but she saw other wildlife and enjoyed spending the day outside with her dad and mentor, Lowell.



Gavin, YCC delegate from Jefferson Co. was eager to get out on the opening day of duck season. He is pictured with a green and blue wing teal.



Gabby, YCC delegate from Jefferson Co. participated in the youth duck hunt, harvesting a blue wing teal and is pictured here with two geese.



Wisconsin Youth Conservation Contacts

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YCC Summer Virtual Fishing Contest

YCC delegates participated in a virtual fishing contest from Memorial Day to Labor day. The virtual platform was through the app: FishDonkey. Delegates were encouraged to submit any fish caught in Wisconsin, the United States or anywhere in the world! Larry Damman, (WCC delegate) coordinated this contest, and even got on the leaderboard himself!

FISH (Friends Into Spooner Hatchery) sponsored this event. Learn more about FISH: www.spoonerhatchery.com



Largest Panfish (Perch): 10"
Tommy



Largest Walleye: 24"
Olivia



Largest Inland Trout (Rainbow): 14"
Tommy



Largest Northern Pike: 23"
Destiny



Largest Smallmouth Bass: 17.5"
Olivia



Largest - Wildcard (Bullhead): 12.5"
Tommy



Grand Slam: Walleye, Panfish, any other fish: 59" combined
Tommy



Largest Any other fish (Muskie) 30"
Tommy



Largest Great Lakes Salmon 26" King Salmon
Larry Damman

Not your everyday catch...
These were not entered in the contest



Shark Atlantic Ocean
Destiny



40" Wahoo Pacific Ocean
Gavin

2021 YCC Learn to Hunt Pheasant Program

YCC delegates, mentors, WCC delegates and volunteers gathered for a wonderful weekend at the MacKenzie Center in Poyette. One full day was spent learning about pheasant hunting. The Friends of Poyette Game Farm held a Learn to Hunt Pheasant program for our YCC delegates. This program provided education about hunters safety, rules and regulations about pheasant hunting, biology and habitat of pheasants, hunting dog handling, hands-on safe gun handling, and target practice. Following the educational program, all participants hunted in the field with a mentor and dog handler. It was a great day for all learn to hunt participants, mentors and dogs!



Jerry Schenck, Friends of Poyette Game Farm helped coordinate the learn to hunt program



Jeff Weisoff, Friends of Poyette Game Farm led the program and is pictured teaching gun safety to YCC delegate, Madison



YCC delegate, Logan gets his pheasant from the retrieving dog



YCC delegate, Liv is smiles with her harvested pheasants



WCC delegate, Terri Roehrig and her dog enjoying the hunt along with YCC delegate, Olivia, and WCC delegate Reed Kabelowsky



YCC delegate, Tommy and WCC delegate Jim Heffner



WCC delegate, Frank Pratt enjoyed hunting with Logan & Blake



YCC delegate, Olivia and her mentor, WCC delegate Don



A few of the participants in the Learn to Hunt program: Blake, Logan, Gavin, Gabby, Tommy, Destiny, Abby



YCC delegate, Jacob enjoyed his first time hunting



YCC delegates Gavin & Gabby WCC delegates Mary Ellen O'Brien, Lowell Wright



YCC delegate, Abby cleaning her pheasant with her dad, WCC delegate, Jason Leis

YCC Fall Weekend - Poynette



A special feature of our YCC fall weekend was a tour of the Poynette Game farm from manager, Kelly Maguire. The group learned about all aspects of raising pheasants from incubation to field stocking.



Corky Meyer and dog handlers, Jon Walz and Nick Koch gave an educational program about hunting with hounds. Following the discussion, the group followed the dogs on a training run looking for raccoons. The dogs located two raccoons and the group was able to spot one of the racoons in a tree. No raccoons were harvested during this demonstration.

Crockpot Pheasant Hot Dish - Recipe by Mary Ellen O'Brien

Ingredients

3-4 pounds of pheasant (more is better)
2 cans cream of chicken soup
2 cans cream of celery (or cream of mushroom) soup
2 one pint cartons of half and half
3 packages McCormick chicken gravy mix
(each package mixes with one cup of water)
1 envelope Lipton Recipe Secrets onion soup/dip mix
2 boxes of quick cook Uncle Ben's long grain and wild rice
2-3 cups of flour for coating pheasant
Butter for sautéing pheasant
Spices (curry powder, paprika, garlic powder)
Need a large crockpot/slow cooker for this recipe (If recipe is doubled, a Nesco roaster might work best).

Directions

1. Cut pheasant into 2-3 bite portions (about the size of a panfish filet). Sprinkle with a little curry powder and paprika (not too much of either). Set aside while preparing other ingredients.
2. Prepare rice according to directions, but cook just long enough to soak up the water. It will finish cooking in the crockpot.
3. Put the "soup" ingredients in a large bowl or directly in the crockpot (soup, chicken gravy, half and half, Recipe Secrets onion mix).
Use some of the half and half to rinse out the soup cans.
Mix up the chicken gravy separately per package directions, then add to the crockpot mixture. Sprinkle mixture with a little garlic powder and stir so all ingredients are thoroughly mixed.
4. Lightly coat the pheasant pieces in flour (shake in plastic bag) and carefully sauté them in butter until lightly browned, turning once. Keep some extra melted butter handy to add to the frying pan as needed as the flour tends to soak up the butter.
5. Add sautéed pheasant to crock pot.
6. Cook on low-medium heat for 3-4 hours.
7. At this point, the hot dish is ready to eat, but it's even better if removed from the crockpot and baked in the oven for about ½ hour at 350 degrees.

YCC Delegates in Action—Monarch Tagging

Dane County delegate Reja Von Klopp, and mentor Mary Ellen O'Brien, helped tag Monarch butterflies on a field trip sponsored by the Wisconsin Natural Resources Foundation. Tagging was done at Madison Audubon's Goose Pond sanctuary in Dane County where several hundred acres of restored prairie provide late summer nectar plants for adult Monarchs. Three varieties of goldenrod are the main source of high energy nectar.

Tagging helps answer questions about the geographic origins of Monarchs that reach Mexico at the end of their fall migration, the timing of migration, mortality, and changes in geographic distribution. The unique tag number for each Monarch is linked to the Monarch Watch database that identifies the location, date captured, sex, and plants being utilized. Only one percent of Monarchs tagged in Wisconsin are recovered in Mexico, but some are recaptured along the way.

During the northward migration from Mexico, Monarchs go through four generational cycles of laying eggs, maturing to adulthood, and dying. Monarchs tagged in the fall in Wisconsin, are the fifth generation of Monarchs that began their journey from Mexico in the spring. By early October, this fifth generation will make the 1,500 mile journey to the mountains of Mexico where they will cluster in fir tree colonies for the winter.

Researchers continue to investigate how Monarchs find their overwintering locations. It appears to be a combination of things such as the magnetic pull of the earth and position of the sun. Unlike some migratory waterfowl, Monarchs don't learn the migration route from their parents, so it must be part of an ancient DNA code.



Monarch with tag



Preparing to release



Male monarch with 2 black spots on lower wings



Reja, netting a Monarch for tagging

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Readers will also get to enjoy an up-close look at Peninsula State Park's Eagle Tower following an extensive rebuilding project that includes a new accessible observation tower and treetop ramp that allows visitors of all abilities to take in the breathtaking views. Readers can dive deeper into the forest science behind the project that led to the stunning end result.

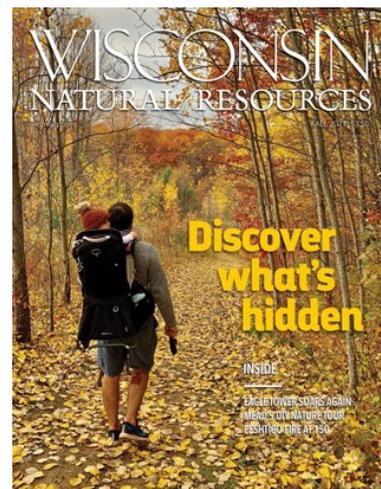
Celebrate Willow River State Park's 50th anniversary by learning the history of how this beautiful property joined the State Park System in northwest Wisconsin.

Learn about a new DNR initiative designed to engage youth in urban areas in a favorite state pastime – fishing. The Mobile First Catch Center, dubbed the Fishmobile, brings angler education and equipment to places where kids might otherwise not have access.

The fall issue shines a spotlight on the work of the DNR's conservation wardens, who make helping wildlife a priority. Other stories include information about a volunteer land access program that helps open more areas to public hunting; a retrospective marking the 150th anniversary of the 1871 Peshtigo fire; and a look at how the George W. Mead Wildlife Area adapted its visitor outreach during the COVID-19 public health emergency by developing virtual presentations and self-guided tours.

Plus, hear from DNR Secretary Preston D. Cole about the upcoming Safe Water for All panel series the agency is hosting this September and October. With safe, clean drinking water a vital priority, the panels will discuss leading contaminants that threaten water resources and address solutions to ensure clean water for all Wisconsinites.

<https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/wnrmag/2021/Fall/e-Edition>



YCC Upcoming Opportunities

OCTOBER

- 9th & 10th - Youth deer hunt weekend (ages 15 and under).
- 9th - YCC Oversight Committee Meeting, Poynette.
- 9th—10th - YCC fall weekend at the MacKenzie Center.
- 13th—YCC Virtual Gathering, learn about pheasants from Josh Jackl, Pheasants Forever President, Outagamie Area Chapter.

NOVEMBER

- 10th - YCC Virtual Gathering 7:30-8:30pm. Topic to be determined.
- 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.

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 by December 5th. Photos and stories will be posted in the YCC newsletter and winners will receive a prize.

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.

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>