

Wisconsin Youth Conservation Congress Update

March 2022

YCC delegates and mentors,

March is a wonderful time of the year to plan and dream about upcoming summer adventures. While we are all anticipating warm weather, don't forget that this shoulder season between winter and spring has many redeeming qualities. The month of March is famous for teasing us with warm, sunny days, followed by snowfall, rain and sleet, but witnessing the landscape change from white to brown to green can be very satisfying. Each passing day awakens new life and growth all around us.

What are your favorite outdoor activities during this shoulder season? Are you planning to tap maples for sap, prune trees and shrubs, follow wildlife tracks in the snow or mud, or squeeze in a few more ice fishing trips?

Go play outside and get muddy! ~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 or 715.299.0295

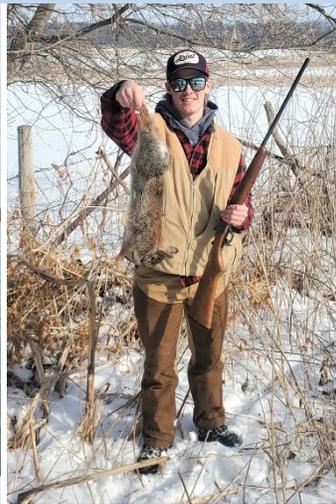


Visit the [WCC Facebook site](#) to see what's new

Outdoor Adventures



Destiny, YCC delegate from Douglas Co. caught this black drum while in Texas.



Avery, YCC delegate from Green Co. enjoyed a beautiful afternoon rabbit hunting.



Gabby, YCC delegate from Jefferson Co. enjoyed the sunshine and a day out on the ice.



Ari, YCC delegate from Jackson Co. spent time ice fishing with family in Minnesota.



Wisconsin Youth Conservation Contacts

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

YCC Oversight Committee Vice Chair: Reed Kabelowsky (920) 242-3144 / r.kabelowsky@sbcglobal.net

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

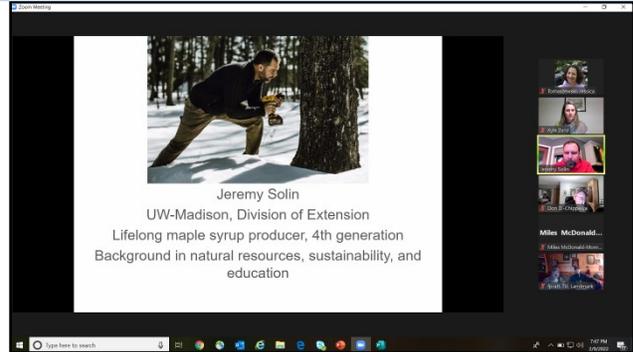
YCC Coordinator: Kyle Zenz (715) 299-0925 / kyle.zenz@wisconsin.gov

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

YCC Adventures, Programs & Opportunities



Bode, YCC delegate from Rusk Co. pictured with two perch he caught while ice fishing.



Screenshot from the February YCC Virtual Gathering. We learned about maple syrup production from Jeremy Solin.

MAPLE SYRUP PRODUCTION

In February, YCC delegates and mentors learned about forest management, the science of sap, and maple syrup production from Jeremy Solin, maple syrup project manager for the University of Wisconsin-Extension.

If you have specific questions about tapping your own trees or about maple syrup production in general, you can email him at: jeremy.solin@wisc.edu

In January, he spoke with Wisconsin Public Radio. You can read about his interview, or listen to it: <https://www.wpr.org/rural-wisconsin-syrup-producer-wants-more-tap-business>

If you tap trees this year, please share photos of yourself involved with the process.

Learn more from the Wisconsin Maple Syrup Producers Association - View the [Beginners Guide](#)



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>



LEARN TO HUNT BEAR APPLICATION

Beginning in 2005, the Wisconsin DNR began offering Learn to Hunt Bear opportunities. The Learn to Hunt Bear Program (LTHB) is an opportunity to expose novice hunters to the hunting experience and recruit new hunters into the sport. The Conservation Congress is one of the statewide conservation organizations that are specifically issued a bear harvest tag through the LTH Bear Program.

Each spring the Conservation Congress accepts applications from novice hunters interested in participating in the LTH Bear Program. Applicants must fill out and submit an application along with a brief essay describing why they would like to be considered to receive the bear harvest tag and why they would like the opportunity to hunt bear.

For additional information and application form visit: <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/about/wcc/lth>

Applications must be postmarked by Wednesday, April 22, 2020.

— Featured YCC Delegate —

Name: Jacob Munson

County: Dane

School: Verona Area High School, Senior

WCC Mentor: Paul Reith

Years involved in the YCC: 1

What is one of your most memorable outdoor experiences?

My most memorable outdoor experiences with YCC were the pheasant hunt and the racoon hunt. I spent the weekend at the Poyette Game Farm where I learned to hunt for the first time. I spent four hours learning about hunter education and pheasant hunting. I was able to harvest two birds. I also

enjoyed learning how to hunt racoon. One night we went out and tracked a couple racoons using the hunting dogs. The dogs were amazing.

Share something specific you have learned from your mentor or an experience you shared together.

Paul and I are working on my focus project which is centered around stocking fish. He has shared with me that there are certain times of year that are better for stocking fish. He and I are working on contacting fisheries for information on stocking.

Aside from your interest in the outdoors, are there other school activities or personal activities that you enjoy participating in?

In High School, I have been involved in the wrestling team. I was awarded rookie of the year as a Sophomore, and I was on the Big 8 All Academic team. I also enjoy working in my community on restoration projects, specifically, Friends of Stewart Lake County Park. My passion is fishing, I like all freshwater fishing in Wisconsin. I spend a great deal of time on the water up in Vilas County, Crab Lake. In August of 2021, I was able to participate in an Outward Bound Program up in the Boundary Waters. For 10 days, a group of us along with two guides, paddled through the Boundary Waters, where we learned how to work as a team out in the wilderness. We learned how to survive in the wilderness and respect the land by leaving no trace. It was an experience I will never forget.

What are your plans following high school graduation?

In the summer I plan to work for Dane County Parks as a Lake Harvester and then start classes at UW Stevens Point in the Fall. I have been accepted into the Natural Resources Program where I hope to concentrate on Fisheries.

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

If you are looking to educate yourself on the outdoors, then the YCC has many learning programs and fun activities for you to participate in. I enjoy attending our meetings where we learn new information on what is going on in the state concerning our natural resources. If you are passionate about the outdoors and meeting people with the same interests, then YCC is definitely a program for you.



**YCC
SPOTLIGHT**

“ Jacob is enthusiastic about what makes Wisconsin so unique, and the incredible variety of outdoor opportunities we have! In conjunction, he's interested in these systems and how they work. His experiences have laid a great foundation for a future career helping our natural resources stay accessible and valuable for decades to come! ”

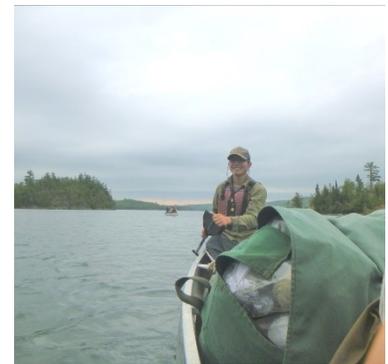
~Paul Reith,
Mentor to Jacob



Learning to shoot clay targets



2021 pheasant learn to hunt



Outward Bound Trip -
Boundary Waters



Summer job - lake harvesting
aquatic invasive plants



White bass, caught at Babcock Park

SHARE YOUR VOICE - SUBMIT A CITIZEN RESOLUTION

An important part of serving as a YCC delegate is learning about the process by which Wisconsin's natural resource policy is determined. Participating in the [Wisconsin Spring Hearings](#) is one avenue for citizens to share their voice. Writing and submitting a citizen resolution is another opportunity to act as a conservation advocate.

Do you have any new ideas related to conservation you would like to see be implemented in Wisconsin, or any current regulations that you feel should be modified?

Authoring a citizen resolution is your chance to bring up a new idea or concern. Please talk with your mentor and other WCC delegates in your county about guidance for drafting a resolution. The process of submitting a resolution is fairly straightforward, however, it is important to think through your concern, and include all necessary criteria for submitting a resolution (see details on right).

Learn about resolutions written in 2021: https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/about/wcc/2021_Resolutions

2022 resolutions must be submitted through the online submittal tool and must be **received by midnight on March 11, 2022**. If you have an idea for change, please follow the directions to submit your resolution <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HQX2DTN>

What are the criteria for a resolution to be accepted?



1. The concern must be of statewide impact.
2. The concern must be practical, achievable and reasonable.
3. The resolution must have a clear title.
4. The resolution must clearly define the concern.
5. Current state statutes and laws must be considered, with reasonable cause for change being presented.
6. The resolution must clearly suggest a solution to the concern and a description of further action desired.
7. Resolutions must be 2000 characters or less.
8. The author's name, mailing address, county, telephone number are required with the resolution. Email address is helpful, but not required. For 2022, a signature will not be required.

2022 SPRING HEARING - ONLINE

The Spring Hearing questionnaire will go live on April 11, 2022 (starting at 7:00 pm) and remain open through 7:00 pm on April 14, 2022. <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/about/wcc/springhearing>

The public will have the opportunity to provide input on the natural resources proposed rule changes from the DNR, and advisory questions from the Natural Resources Board (NRB) and WCC through the online input option.

You are all encouraged to participate in the Spring Hearings. If you plan to contribute your input to these questions, please take time to look over the questions in advance. If you are unsure about the meaning of any of the questions, or want more information feel free to reach out to your WCC mentor for clarification. If you don't have an opinion on a question, or if you aren't really sure, you can just click "no opinion".



ANNUAL WCC AWARD NOMINATIONS

Each year the Wisconsin Conservation Congress recognizes individuals and organizations who have dedicated themselves and their time to the conservation of Wisconsin's natural resources.



These awards are intended to acknowledge the hard work, exemplary leadership and commitment of these individuals and groups to continuing our outdoor legacy for generations to come. Learn more about the award categories. <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/about/wcc/award> Nominations will be accepted through March 31st.

UPCOMING CDAC MEETINGS

Each county in Wisconsin has a County Deer Advisory Council (CDAC) to provide input and



recommendations to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources on deer management within their county.

Talk to your mentor to learn more about CDAC and consider joining a meeting. For more information about CDAC please visit:

<https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/hunt/cdac.html>

YCC Upcoming Opportunities

MARCH

- 3rd - 15th - WCC Spring District Meetings. [Dates and zoom links](#) are listed for each district.
- Dates vary by county - [County Deer Advisory Council \(CDAC\)](#) meetings
- 30th - YCC Oversight Committee Meeting. 6:30 via zoom.

APRIL

- 11th - Spring hearings will be held online beginning at 7:00pm and remain open through 7:00 pm on April 14, 2022. <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/about/wcc/springhearing>
- 13th - YCC virtual gathering 7:30-8:30pm. Learn more about Snapshot Wisconsin and how you can host a camera on your property, or volunteer to monitor a camera on state property.
- 16th-17th Youth Turkey Hunt
- 22nd - Earth Day
- Dates vary by county - [County Deer Advisory Council \(CDAC\)](#) meetings

MAY

- 7th - Fishing opener in Wisconsin. *Please always check regulations first. Season dates are often specific to the species of fish as well as the water body.
- 11th- YCC virtual gathering. Topic to be determined.
- 12-14th - WCC Annual Convention, Wisconsin Dells. Details will soon be available.

JUNE

- 4th—5th Free fishing weekend in Wisconsin.

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>



MARCH - YCC VIRTUAL GATHERING



We will not be holding a March virtual gathering. Please join your WCC District Meeting to learn about important WCC business and updates.

WCC SPRING DISTRICT MEETINGS

Youth are invited to attend the WCC Spring District Meetings. These meetings take place March 3rd through the 15th.

These meetings are virtual through zoom. Click on the link to determine the meeting date for your district:

<https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/sites/default/files/topic/About/WCC/2022/2022SpringHearingsmtgschedule.pdf>

WOOD DUCK BOXES

The month of March is a great time to start thinking about building or installing a wood duck box.



The Wisconsin Outdoor News is featuring a “Wood Duck Challenge” For this “challenge” the WI Outdoor News asks youth to build and install a wood duck box, and take a photograph with the box. Photos will be shared in the WI Outdoor News, and prizes are available. Learn more: <https://www.outdoornews.com/wood-duck-challenge/>.

If you are interested in constructing a wood duck box and don't have materials or equipment, please reach out to YCC Coordinator, Kyle Zenz. She can help you get in contact with WCC delegates, local conservation clubs, high school tech education teachers, and others who might have wood to donate or tools to help construct the boxes.

There are also options to buy a kit or a completed box. The Wisconsin Waterfowl Association sells kits and boxes: <https://www.wisducks.org/product-category/wood-duck-boxes/>