

# Wisconsin Youth Conservation Congress Update

November 2022

YCC delegates and mentors,

Capturing a photograph is easier than ever, thanks to the mini cameras we all carry in our pockets. Photographs have the power to document everything from a special event to our daily lives. How often do you think about the story your photograph might tell?

Sharing photos of your YCC involvement or outdoor adventures might inspire others to seek new opportunities related to conservation or join the YCC. Consider promoting the YCC through your social media, and share the positive impacts you have experienced.

If you plan to go deer hunting this fall, check out the photography tips on page 5 for capturing and sharing a great photo and don't forget to send in pictures of your experience, whether you are successful, or not!

~Kyle Zenz, YCC Coordinator

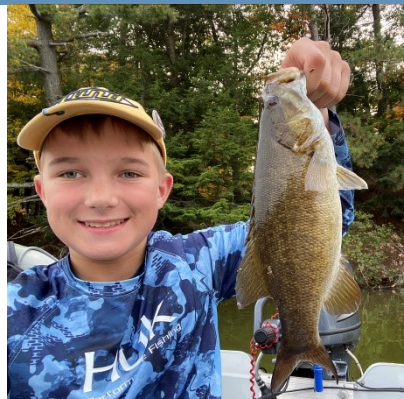
## Outdoor Adventures



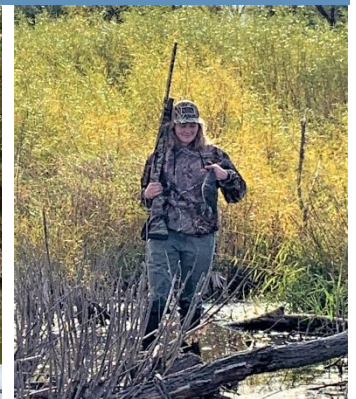
Gus, YCC delegate from Milwaukee Co. harvested a deer during the bow season.



Caleb, YCC delegate from St. Croix Co. participated in the Minnesota youth deer hunt.



Tommy, YCC delegate from Vilas Co. was committed to the YCC fishing tournament and kept fishing through October!



Gabby, YCC delegate from Jefferson Co. enjoyed nice weather while duck hunting.



### Wisconsin Youth Conservation Contacts

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

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

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

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

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



Welcome

We are excited to welcome a new delegate to the YCC:  
Anna, Racine Co.



## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY:



The DNR releases pheasants in suitable habitat across the state throughout the months of October - December.

This could be an opportunity for a field experience releasing pheasants with a DNR biologist. Contact your mentor to determine if this is an option for you. If you need assistance initiating contact with a biologist, or determining release dates, please contact the YCC Coordinator.

Are pheasants being released in your county? Search by county to determine pheasant release locations: <https://dnr.wi.gov/pheasantstocking/>

## YCC Delegates Help Stock Pheasants



Jacob, from Ozaukee Co. helped release pheasants at Jackson Marsh Wildlife Area.



Madison, from La Crosse Co. helped release pheasants at the South Beaver Creek Wildlife Area.



Gus, from Milwaukee Co. helped release pheasants at Jackson Marsh Wildlife Area.

## 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.



Ben, 2021 Big Buck winner



## Featured YCC Delegate

**Name:** Abby Leis

**County:** Vernon

**School:** Westby Area High School , Senior

**Years involved in the YCC:** 2

**Why did you join the YCC?:** I joined the YCC because my dad is a WCC delegate and thought it would be a good opportunity for me. I want to go to school for environmental science at the University of Stevens Point, so I feel having these experiences will benefit me for college.

YCC  
SPOTLIGHT

**Share an experience from a YCC program or experience with your mentor that was memorable:**

A memorable experience for me was when I got the chance to hunt pheasants at the Friends of the Poynette Game Farm. My dad is my mentor and he always tells me stories of when he used to go pheasant hunting with our old bird dog. When I heard about the learn to hunt program I was so excited. Learning about how to hunt pheasants, how to cook them, and how to preserve their habitat is something I will never forget. I met interesting people and I'm still in contact with the woman who hunted with me that day.

**Aside from your interest in the outdoors/hunting/conservation, are there other school activities or personal activities/hobbies that you enjoy participating in?:** I participate in many clubs at my school which include, green club, service club, National Honor Society, nurse link, tech team, band, choir, FFA, and W club. I am also the senior class president this year along with service club co-president, and FFA reporter. My favorite hobby is playing sports. I play volleyball, softball and I manage our girls basketball team.

**What would you say to encourage someone to join the YCC?:** If you love the outdoors, and conservation then the YCC is the best of both worlds. The YCC also gives you great resources for future jobs, applications, and learning opportunities.



Abby pictured at the pheasant hunt with the YCC at the Mackenzie Center in Poynette.



Abby with her dad, Jason at the learn to hunt pheasant program.

“ I am proud to be the mentor of Abby Leis. I'm happy that she is interested in learning more about our natural environment and feel privileged to pass on my knowledge to the next generation. With all the activities kids are involved in now, it's refreshing that she makes time to disconnect from the electronic devices and get back to nature to recharge. ”

~Jason Leis, YCC Mentor



Successful deer hunt.



Hunting selfie with the setting sun.



Making friends with a captive deer.



Abby (right) and her hunting partner, Cassandra.



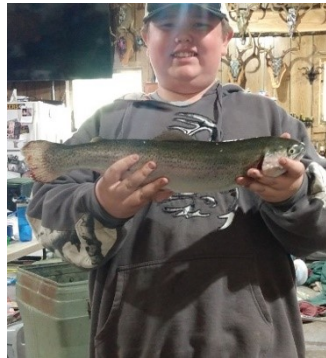
# YCC Summer Virtual Fishing Contest

YCC delegates participated in a virtual fishing contest from May 7 through November 1. The virtual platform was through the app: FishDonkey. Delegates were encouraged to submit fish caught anywhere in the world. 103 total fish were entered in the contest. The most competitive category was Bass, with 64 entries.

Thanks to Larry Damman, (WCC delegate) for coordinating the contest



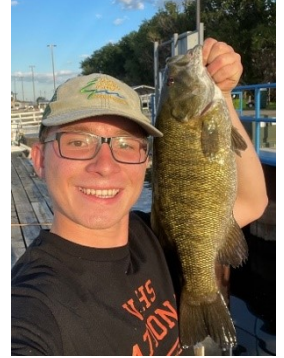
**Largest Northern Pike: 37.5"**  
Tommy



**Largest inland Trout: 18.5"**  
Payton



**Largest any other fish (Musky): 43"**  
Tommy



**Largest Bass: 20"**  
Jacob



**Largest Walleye: 22.75"**  
Tommy



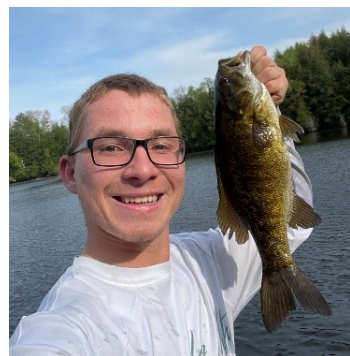
**Largest Bluegill: 8.5"**  
Tied: Trevor & Tommy



**Most intriguing**  
9.5" turtle: Olivia



**Best photo**  
Jacob - cool T-shirt

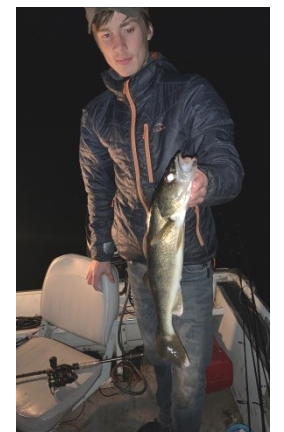
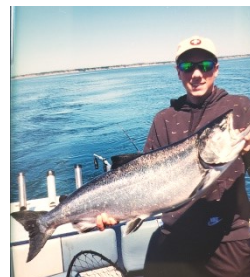


**Stringer of 5 Bass**  
94.5" combined  
Jacob



**Grand Slam: Walleye, Northern Pike,**  
**any other fish: 103.25" combined**  
Tommy

Additional entries - clockwise: Shawn, Brody, Logan, Ari



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





## 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.

**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.



*YCC Alumni, Ethan poses for an example of a great hunting photo.*

## 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.



## 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.

## 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.

# YCC Upcoming Opportunities

## NOVEMBER

- 9th - YCC virtual gathering. Learn about the forest products industry in Wisconsin.
- 19th-27th - Gun deer season.

## DECEMBER

- 8th-11th - State antlerless hunt. Potential opportunity for YCC to hunt in Sauk Co.
- 14th - YCC virtual gathering 7:30-8:30pm. Learn about black bear management in Wisconsin.

## JANUARY

- 11th - YCC virtual gathering 7:30-8:30pm. Learn about a career as a Conservation Warden.
- 21st - YCC ice fishing event, Shawano Lake.
- 21st-22nd - Free fishing weekend in Wisconsin.

## FEBRUARY

- 8h - YCC virtual gathering 7:30-8:30pm. Learn about how airplane pilots assist with natural resource management in Wisconsin.

## SAVE THE DATE

- March (date TBA), YCC Oversight Committee meeting.
- May 11-13, WCC Convention, Oshkosh.
- June 22, YCC career day field trip.
- August 10-13, YCC Summer Program.
- August 26, Volunteer at the Youth Zone - Waterfowl Hunter's Expo, Oshkosh.
- October (date TBA), YCC Oversight Committee meeting. YCC Learn to Hunt program.

## DNR SAFETY COURSES

ATV/Snowmobile education safety classes are being held across the state. Search for classes near you: <https://gowild.wi.gov/customers/safetiedclass>



## YCC VIRTUAL GATHERING -

Wednesday, November 9th 7:30-8:30pm

Learn about the forest products industry in Wisconsin.



Brian Zweifel, DNR Forest Products Specialist, will discuss traditional and cutting edge uses of forest products.

As a renewable resource, forest products are an important part of the Wisconsin economy and our lives. Hardwood flooring, toilet paper, golf balls, medicine, fruit, detergents, clothing, furniture...the list is endless! Learn more about the relatively simple way forest products can be utilized as well as how they can be engineered, designed, and transformed and into complex products.

Watch your email for a zoom link.

## WANNA GO HUNTING?

### DNR HUNTING WEBINAR SERIES

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR)

is hosting several educational hunting

[webinars](#) for members of

the public that are new to hunting or hunting curious.

The [webinar series](#) is in partnership with the National Wild Turkey Federation, Pheasants Forever and Becoming an Outdoorswoman.

The series is designed for those interested in learning about hunting, fishing and trapping. Each episode will feature guest speakers sharing their experiences getting started with hunting and include discussions addressing common challenges faced by those new to hunting, fishing or trapping.

**Wanna Go Hunting Series:**

- [Let's Get Started!](#) - [What Can We Hunt?](#) - [Where Can We Hunt?](#) - [Where can we practice shooting?](#) - [Who Can We Learn From?](#)

Follow the [DNR YouTube](#) channel to learn more.

