



## Wildlife WHEP Wisconsin 4-H Wisconsin 4-H Forestry

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### "TRACKS" – February 2019

*Participation in Wildlife WHEP Wisconsin 4-H & Wisconsin 4-H Forestry activities are open to all Wisconsin 4-H club members interested in wildlife and forestry. You can be enrolled in any 4-H project and participate in the Wildlife WHEP Wisconsin 4-H and Wisconsin 4-H Forestry activities.*

#### Wildlife WHEP & Forestry 4-H Friends,

Winter came with a vengeance recently - but what exactly is a Polar Vortex? "The polar vortex is a large area of low pressure and cold air surrounding both of the Earth's poles. It ALWAYS exists near the poles but weakens in summer and strengthens in winter. The term "vortex" refers to the counter-clockwise flow of air that helps keep the colder air near the Poles. Many times, during winter in the northern hemisphere, the polar vortex will expand, sending cold air southward with the jet stream. This occurs fairly regularly during wintertime and is often associated with large outbreaks of Arctic air in the United States." Source: <https://www.weather.gov/safety/cold-polar-vortex>

It was definitely a cold spell! I filled my birdfeeders on Tuesday and by Thursday morning they were all nearly empty. Every morning there was a flurry of activity as finches, blue jays, cardinals, and downy and hairy woodpeckers visited the feeders and suet. How does wildlife survive such an arctic blast? Wild animals in Wisconsin are adapted to cold weather. Weaker animals die off every winter, generally about 30% every year. This provides food for predators and scavengers. Without this die off, the herbivores would quickly outstrip available food. Another interesting phenomenon created by cold and windy weather are ice formations on the shores of Lake Michigan. Ice canos, ice pancakes and ice caves can be seen - just be sure to dress for the cold! For more information, visit [Ice Canos Have Returned | Schlitz Audubon](#)

The good news is spring is "just around the corner!" Will Punxsutawney Phil see his shadow on Feb. 2? Observation of Groundhog Day is tied to an old European tradition called Candlemas Day. Folklore states "If the day is bright and clear, there will be two winters in the year." A shadow free day means Spring has sprung. Regardless, the Spring Equinox occurs on March 20<sup>th</sup>, but we all know that even in April, Wisconsin can continue to offer chilly temps. Source [Why do we celebrate Groundhog Day?](#)

**Are you looking for wildlife & forestry class topics and activities?** Just let us know and we'll email you: Wildlife/Forestry Activities - Anytime or Anywhere, along Wildlife WHEP Class Topics and Forestry Class Topics. There are topics for every age group in the listings.

**Wildlife WHEP and FORESTRY Contests - April 5 & 6, 2019** - Participation is open to all enrolled Wisconsin 4-H club members: Junior – 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and 8 years old, Intermediate – 11-14, and Senior – 15-19. Let us know and we'll show you how easy it is to prepare for the contests. You can start reviewing the basics right now. Just ask lots of questions. Get a friend to join you. This contest is an opportunity for you to become familiar with the wildlife habitat education program (WHEP) competition and the forestry program competition. The ecoregion for the wildlife contest is [Great Prairie Grassland – Shortgrass Prairie](#). The forestry contest is on [Forestry Basic Information and Management](#). The contest questions will be multiple choices. It's a great way to test your knowledge.

**Wildlife WHEP Contest - (5 topics):** Wildlife Management Practices; Concepts & Terms; Wildlife ID; Foods ID; & Management Plan.

**Forestry Contest - (5 topics):** Compass & Topo Maps; Tree Identification; Tree Health - Insects/Diseases; Tree Measurement; & Forest Evaluation. Request registration forms by email. [The registration deadline is March 16th](#). Join us for 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Activities.

**Older youth can qualify for National 4-H Competition by participating in the contests.** Participation in 2019 can qualify you for the 2020 team. Wisconsin plans to send a team of four 4-H youth to the National 4-H WHEP Contest in late July. Another 4-H team will be going to the National 4-H FORESTRY Contest at the same time. **Need more information on Wildlife?** Check out <http://fyi.uwex.edu/whepwi4h/> and [whep.org](http://whep.org) to see wildlife curriculum. **Need more information on Forestry?** Check out <http://4hforestryinvitational.org/> to see forestry curriculum and [www.internationalpaper.com](http://www.internationalpaper.com) for interesting topics on forestry.

**Wildlife WHEP and Forestry Art Contest - April 5 & 6, 2019** - Participation is open to all Wisconsin 4-H club members. There are 18 categories in each of three age divisions: Bird House, Nesting Structure, or Bat House, etc., or feeders, Craft, Drawing, Invasive Plant or Weed, Orienteering, Photo Black & White, Photo Color, Painting, Recycle, Taxidermy, Trail Camera Photo – Large / Small Mammal, Trail Camera Photo – Upland Bird, Backyard Bird, Waterfowl, or Raptor, Tree or Shrub, WHEP or Forestry Concept, WHEP Foods, WHEP or Forestry Management Practice, Wildflower, Wildlife or Forestry Game. See the registration form online or request the registration forms by email. [Can't attend the contest - follow the instructions on the registration form](#). Join us for 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Activities.

**Wildlife WHEP Wisconsin 4-H & Wisconsin 4-H Forestry** committee members and youth leaders can do age specific hands-on activities in your county. We'll train your youth and adult leaders at the same time. Parents, youth, and adult leaders are encouraged to participate to find out how easy it is to lead these hands-on activities. Contact us anytime and reserve your dates.

**Kerri, "TRACKS" Editor**

**Special Thanks** are extended to the following for making the "Wildlife WHEP Wisconsin 4-H" & "Wisconsin 4-H Forestry" programs possible:

Wisconsin Chapter of National Wild Turkey Federation; Mad City Gobblers; Safari Club International (SCI) Wisconsin Chapter, Wildlife WHEP Wisconsin 4-H & Wisconsin 4-H Forestry Friends; Wildlife WHEP Wisconsin 4-H & Forestry - Washington County; Washington County (Hartford Chapter) Whitetails Unlimited; Northern Kettle Moraine Chapter of Whitetails Unlimited; Ebel Sales, Wildlife WHEP Wisconsin 4-H & Wisconsin 4-H Forestry State Committee Members. Advisor: Kevon Palmer



#### DATES TO REMEMBER

**April 5 & 6, 2019**  
ART CONTEST  
Wildlife WHEP WI  
4-H & Wisconsin 4-H  
Forestry  
West Bend, WI

**April 5 & 6, 2019**  
Wildlife WHEP WI  
4-H Contest (NQE)  
West Bend, WI

**April 5 & 6, 2019**  
Wisconsin 4-H  
Forestry Contest  
(NQE)  
West Bend, WI

**April 5 & 6, 2019**  
20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
4-H Wildlife Contest  
and Tri-County 4-H  
Archery & Air Rifle  
Tournament  
West Bend, WI