



Wildlife WHEP Wisconsin 4-H Wisconsin 4-H Forestry

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"TRACKS" – September 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,

Last fall we found a dead Great Horned Owl in our yard. There were no apparent injuries. The beautiful bird was lying wings open on the grass near the pond. It was an amazing sight: long, sharp talons and eerie large eyes. I knew immediately it must be a Great Horned Owl. The ear tufts were unmistakable - even to a rookie like me.

Owls have keen vision and hearing. They hunt at night for small prey with their sharp beaks and razor-sharp talons. When an owl is killing something, it does so by grabbing it with both feet and hanging on until its prey suffocates or bleeds to death. The great gray owl is the largest owl in Wisconsin with a wingspan of up to five feet. The northern saw-whets are the smallest owls found in this state weighing only 2.8 ounces, on average.

I had to do some online research to determine which owls I was hearing at night. I determined we also have barn owls living across the road. To listen to owl sounds, follow this link

<https://www.wpr.org/whose-hoo-bird-expert-asks-if-you-can-identify-owl-calls>

(Side note: I called the DNR to report the dead Great Horned Owl. Because they are protected it is illegal to possess even a feather!)

Sources: <http://www.birdsandblooms.com/birding/bird-species/birds-of-prey/owls-north-america/>
<https://dnr.wi.gov/news/features/article/?id=137>
<https://www.thespruce.com/how-to-attract-owls-386250>

See Page 2 for the Press Release on the 2019 Wisconsin 4-H National WHEP Team

DATES TO REMEMBER

April 17 & 18, 2020
ART CONTEST
Wildlife WHEP WI
4-H & Wisconsin 4-H
Forestry
West Bend, WI

April 17 & 18, 2020
Wildlife WHEP WI
4-H Contest (NQE)
West Bend, WI

April 17 & 18, 2020
Wisconsin 4-H
Forestry Contest
(NQE)
West Bend, WI

April 17 & 18, 2020
4-H Wildlife Contest
and Tri-County 4-H
Archery & Air Rifle
Tournament
West Bend, WI

Thank you to all the participants in the past Wildlife WHEP & Forestry Contests. Older youth can qualify for National 4-H Competition by participating in the contests. Participation in 2020 can qualify you for the 2021 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 to see wildlife curriculum. **Need more information on Forestry?** Check out <http://4hforestryinvitational.org/> to see forestry curriculum and www.internationalpaper.com for interesting topics on forestry.

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 interest and age group in the listings and we have more topics if needed.

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: Kevin Palmer



Extension
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

July 17, 2019

NEWS RELEASE

Wisconsin Earns 6th Place Finish at the National 4-H WHEP Contest “WHEP” is the Wildlife Habitat Education Program

Wisconsin placed 6th in the 30th annual National 4-H WHEP Contest from Sunday, July 14, through Wednesday, July 17, 2019.

At the WHEP Contest 4-H members compete for overall team and individual awards. Events included identifying wildlife, participating in the wildlife challenge, knowledge of management practices, and developing a management plan. 4-H members must know wildlife terms and concepts, know the habitat of wildlife and be able to judge the quality of that wildlife habitat. They also must know how to manage wildlife damage and invasive species.

This year the invitational was held at Junction City, Kansas at the Rock Springs State 4-H Center. The contest ecoregion was Great Plains Grassland – Tallgrass/Mixed Prairie. The contest is held in a different state and features a different ecoregion each year. A 4-H youth may only participate one time in their 4-H career.

The Wisconsin Team was represented by Caeley Champeau, Taylor Champeau, Phillip Mayer, and Micah Stege. Coaches were Allen Gross and Robin Champeau.

Taylor Champeau of the Jackson Explorers received the 3rd high-point individual award. Fourth place high individual award was given to Micah Stege of the St Lawrence Eager Beavers.

Our Wisconsin WHEP Team was sponsored by National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF) Mad City Gobblers Chapter, Safari Club International Inc (SCI) Wisconsin Chapter, and Whitetails Unlimited (WTU) Northern Kettle Moraine Chapter.

For more information on the National 4-H WHEP Contest go to <https://www.whep.org/>



2019 Wisconsin WHEP Team
Rock Springs 4-H Center - Junction City, Kansas
July 14-17, 2019
Great Plains Grasslands - Tallgrass/Mixed Prairie

L-R Coach Al Gross **Caeley Champeau, Phillip Mayer, Micah Stege, Taylor Champeau** Coach Robin Champeau