



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

Website <https://4h.extension.wisc.edu/opportunities/projects/outdoor-education/>  
Email: [wi4hwildlifeforestry@gmail.com](mailto:wi4hwildlifeforestry@gmail.com)



## “TRACKS” – September 2022

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

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

It's a new 4-H year! Did you know you can participate in wildlife and forestry activities without being enrolled in the specific projects? Take advantage of the amazing opportunities in Wildlife WHEP & Forestry activities as well as develop leadership skills by attending or participating in the educational sessions offered, especially at many 4-H Shooting Sports events. There is a connection between wildlife and shooting sports projects.

### Is there any truth to the saying that a lot of pine cones means we're in for a harsh winter?

Pine cones and pine trees have existed since prehistoric times. Each pine tree produces male cones and female cones. The male cones produce pollen, are typically very small and grow mostly on the lower branches. The female cones are larger and have woody spirals. Pine cones stay on a tree until the seeds are mature, which can be anywhere from 2 to 10 years. Because of this, using a plethora of pine cones to predict an extra cold winter is a myth... the pine cones you see lying on the ground are at least two years old!

Source: <https://www.duluthnewtribune.com/lifestyle/ask-a-master-gardener-weather-influences-pine-cone-production>

\*\*\*\*\*  
**WHEP & Forestry 4-H Statewide Contests, 4-H Wildlife & Forestry Art Contests & Tri County 4-H Tournament Wildlife Contest is on March 31 – April 1, 2023.** Save the Date & mark your calendars.

\*\*\*\*\*  
**Preparing for Wildlife & Forestry Competition** - Learn how easy it is to prepare and participate in wildlife & forestry contests - local, statewide, & national events. Begin with the wildlife and forestry skill level booklets. Digital copies of the Wildlife & Forestry Skill Level Booklets are available, and you can print your own copies. We'll help you set up mini contests for your 4-H club. Find out more by emailing: [wi4hwildlifeforestry@gmail.com](mailto:wi4hwildlifeforestry@gmail.com)

\*\*\*\*\*  
**Do you need wildlife & forestry activities to do in your county?** Wildlife WHEP WI 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 leaders, 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 program dates.

\*\*\*\*\*  
**We have topic suggestions for you on the “Backyard & Back 40” Wildlife & Forestry Activities** – See the attached copy on the **Backyard & Back 40 Activities**. Just let us know and we'll email you: Wildlife/Forestry Activities – “**Anytime or Anywhere**” Class Topics. There are topics for every interest and age group.

### **Kerri, “TRACKS” Editor**

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

Northern Kettle Moraine Chapter of Whitetails Unlimited, Wildlife WHEP Wisconsin 4-H & Forestry – Washington County, Safari Club International (SCI) Wisconsin Chapter, Wisconsin Chapter of National Wild Turkey Federation, Wildlife WHEP Wisconsin 4-H & Wisconsin 4-H Forestry Friends & State Committee Members.

Wildlife WHEP Wisconsin 4-H & Wisconsin 4-H Forestry Advisor: Carlea Liermann, Calumet Co. 4-H Program Educator





# “Backyard & Back 40 Activities”

## Wildlife & Forestry



*Participation in Wildlife WHEP Wisconsin 4-H & Wisconsin 4-H Forestry activities are open to all 4-H members in every project area.*

### **We'll introduce you to these hands-on activities for your 4-H programs.**

- 1. Habitats – Forest, Prairie, Wetlands, & Urban** - Every plant & animal has a home. Identify them & find out where everyone and everything lives and why they are found in certain places. Learn about the habitat requirements.
- 2. Safely Viewing Wildlife & Camera Hunting** - Enjoy safely searching for wildlife and do some camera hunting to record those memories. It's a family activity you can do all year. Trail cameras record wildlife activities.
- 3. Backyard Birds, Migrating Land Birds, & Bird Watching** - Birds come to visit us every year and even some are resident birds. Maintaining bird feeders, providing nesting materials, & housing is important. Some family bird watchers keep notes on the date of first arrival every year. A log on every bird you have seen brings back memories.
- 4. Building Butterfly & Rain Gardens** - Plant wildflowers, especially native species, establish rain gardens and use rain barrels to collect rainwater. Building butterfly houses will help keep the butterflies in your area.
- 5. Milkweed & Monarch Butterfly Project** - Harvest milkweed seeds in fall, follow the winter instruction and plant them in spring. It is easy to raise butterflies in the summer & watch them fly away.
- 6. Purple Loosetrife Beetle Growing Program** - Raise purple loosetrife beetles as a bio-control method for preventing the spread of the invasive species, purple loosetrife. Details are provided on plants, collecting beetles, raising the beetles, and releasing them. Permits are required.
- 7. Building Bat Houses** - Bats eat 4-8,000 mosquitoes each night, so fewer mosquitoes will be biting you. Build bat houses and mount them high off the ground. Bats may not move into your bat house for several years until they know it's safe to move in.
- 8. Pollinator Habitat Improvement** - One out of every 3 bites of all foods need insect pollination. Plant wildflowers & build bee houses. Don't mow your lawn for 2 weeks in spring. Bees are our buddies - honey is good too.
- 9. Upland Bird Habitats** - Learn how to identify different upland game bird species, their various foods, and habitat. Learn how to use different management practices to increase the bird populations.
- 10. Water & Riparian Area Improvements** - A riparian area is the land near a river, stream, pond, lake, or wetland area. This vegetation reduces erosion and provides habitat for wildlife and aquatic critters. Water quality is improved. Let's catch some fish in cleaner water.
- 11. Tree Management, Planting A Renewable Resource, & Recreation** - Plant trees for the wildlife & the landscape in your area. Enjoy the forests for recreation, food, & hunting. Learn more about this renewable resource & forestry management practices. More trees = more fun & more wood. Identify trees by their shape, bark, & leaves.
- 12. Maps, Topography, Compass, GPS, & Geocaching** - Maps show physical features of our surroundings. They have nice to know map symbols. Learn how to use a compass, about GPS, & enjoy geocaching, too.
- 13. Urban Wildlife & Trees** - Learn how wildlife lives among people in urban settings. Selecting plant and tree species is good for wildlife. Also, learn how to reduce bird collisions with windows and buildings.
- 14. Tree Measurements and Aging** - Learn how to determine tree diameters and heights. How old is that tree?
- 15. Seasons, Wildlife, Trees, & the Weather** - Wildlife & trees always know what season is occurring. They know a lot about forecasting the weather & seasonal changes. Do you know the signs?

**Wildlife WHEP Wisconsin 4-H & Wisconsin 4-H Forestry website:**  
<https://4h.extension.wisc.edu/opportunities/projects/outdoor-education/>  
Email: [wi4hwildlifeforestry@gmail.com](mailto:wi4hwildlifeforestry@gmail.com)

