



Adam Birding Conservancy

A Prairie & Wetlands Reserve in Cold Spring, WI

Mid-Year 2026 Newsletter

As for the rest of 2026...

1. The ABC is hosting the first Southeastern Wisconsin NRCS Wetlands Easement Landowners gathering on August 6th.
2. Funding is secure for the burn of the conservancy by Tallgrass Restoration which will either take place this fall or next spring. Note the website (www.adamconservancy.com) for closures related to burns or hunting in the late fall.
3. Hopefully with the expert aid of Rich and Steve, we intend on upgrading the Bufflehead Blind in the northeast corner of the property.



A yellow-headed blackbird tries to stay warm in early April.

What's Up?

Highlights in the first half of 2026 include the install by WE Energies of a new 70ft osprey platform, the birth of another seven swan cygnets in the Blackbird Blind pond and the hosting of six tours of the conservancy in May and June. Extremely wet weather in April saw the ABC the most waterlogged in its eleven-year existence! The drone spraying done last October achieved mixed results at best. The contractor missed many acres and is not returning my messages while regrowth is happening far faster than forecasted.



Thanks to WE Energies for installing a 70ft pole with a metal nesting platform on top in the southeast corner of the conservancy on Feb 28th. While there was intermittent osprey activity on the platform, no nesting as of yet.

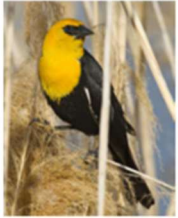


Marsh Hedgenettle



May 28th saw the birth of seven Trumpeter Swan cygnets across from the Blackbird blind. As of July 1st, the family of nine is doing well.

What do ticks and the Eiffel Tower have in common? (answer at the bottom of the next page)
Feedback or to be added/dropped from the mailing list: adambirdingconservancy@gmail.com



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Miscellaneous

Special thanks to Rich Rozelle for maintaining the trails this spring as the wet conditions made it challenging. You will note in walking the property some deadness in parts of the ponds and prairies from the drone spraying. We will see what the burn does but I need a new strategy to keep the wild from getting invasively wild.



Geese swim what is usually the trail from the woods to the old osprey platforms in mid-April. Wet!



Spring saw six tours of the ABC for...

1. Natural Resources Foundation
 2. Koshkonong Trails School
 3. Greater Whitewater Lake Property Owners
 4. Wild Ones-Kettle Moraine Chapter
 5. Whiney's Employee Gathering
 6. UW-Whitewater Foundation Board
- Please reach out if you have a group interested in touring or leading a tour at the ABC!



American Mink (in the right of the pic) by the Bubbling Springs



Red-headed woodpecker (by the Bark River)



Common Yellowthroat [Howard Rothstein]



Dickcissel



Happy Hour drink specials for the Deer

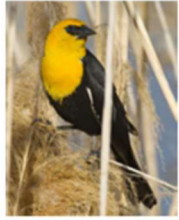


Lesser Yellowlegs



One of two large turkey nests noted while spraying invasives

Answer: They are both Paris sites.



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Prairie Plants

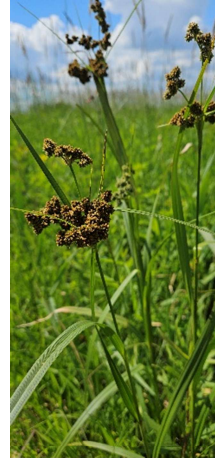
The three fens at the ABC provide new insights every season as the groundwater-based seepages are rich in minerals and are more alkaline than bogs and regular rainwater. The plant life tends to be unique. This spring we found marsh ferns, a few types of mannagrasses and tufted loosestrife in its flows.



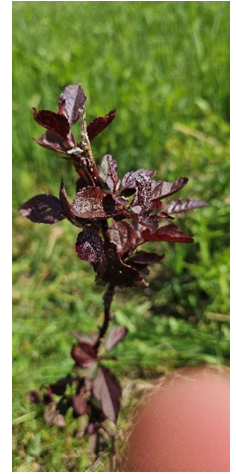
I won the battle (but perhaps not the war) against the largest buckthorn at the ABC this winter.



Bottlebrush Sedge



Dark Green Butrush



Prairie crab apple



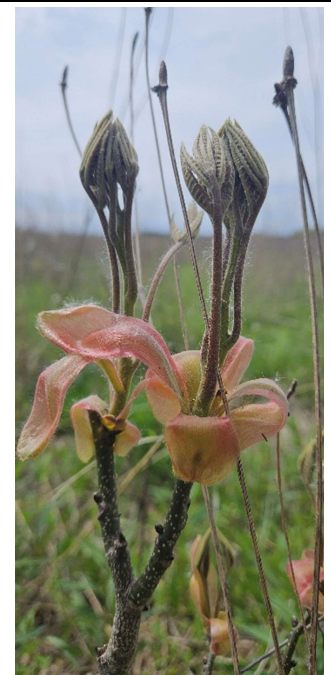
Glade Mallow



Southern Blue Flag Iris



Bloodroot pops in early April



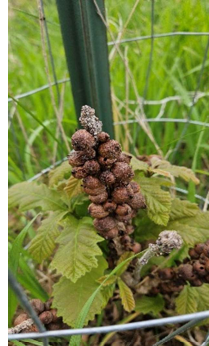
Shagbark Hickory in early spring



Skunk cabbage



Marsh Fern



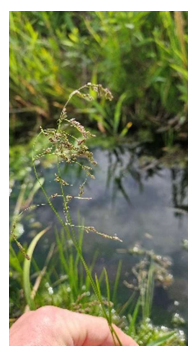
Baby Bur Oak with wasp nest



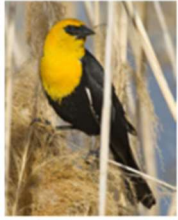
Canada Meadow Garlic



Common Yarrow



Fowl mannagrass



Adam Birthing Conservancy

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Archaeology Update

The top ten artifacts found this spring are shown below. Apologies the bottom five are 90 degrees off. Google Gemini can astound and confound...it stripped out the background on objects and assembled them together but could not grasp a 90-degree object pivot. If you have land you would like to have reviewed for possible earlier habitations, reach out to me to see if I can be of help.



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2



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9



10

1. **AWL.** Made of heat-treated chert (evidenced by the pink hue). Triangular (three-sided) with a sharp tip. Would have been used to puncture – say deer hides in the making of clothes.

2. **DRILL.** Found five meters from the Awl a few weeks later by my brother Mike, this drill has two sides and a thicker base to create more torque to press and turn into objects. Also made of heat-treated chert. Along with some other spokeshaves and micro-perforators found in this vicinity, it may point to a cached toolkit that was abandoned as finding two sharp tipped objects so close in such good order is not common.

3. **SCRAPER.** This may have been a projectile point at one time but wore down (think of a pencil needing to be sharpened with use) and was converted into a scraper for tasks like defleshing animals. Would have been twice its present size. Found in neighbor's fields. May be a Durst style, hinting at 2,000-3,500 years old.

4. **MINNIE BALL BULLET.** Found by Conner with his metal detecting prowess. This may have been shot from an 1861 Winchester rifle, a standard issue Civil War gun. If true, it points to a returning war veteran who used the gun in the 1860s-1880s in pursuit of deer or other animal.

5. **POINT.** This chert projectile point may be of a Raddatz side-notched style, though ten archaeologists can come up with eleven answers so at best it is a proxy. If so, the age is 4,300-6,100 years old.

6. **POINT.** This chert projectile point is not to scale. It is a tiny 1.1 inches long and maybe of a Durst style which hints at 2,500-3,500 years old. At one point, this baby could have been almost three times its present size as shown by the pic below.



7. **Rough POINT or SCRAPER.** I got beat up for posting this piece on the Wisconsin Archaeological Artifacts Facebook Group as being a sophomoric attempt by some high school wannabe knapper but it came in a context of other old things. I'd like to think of it as a Picasso before Picasso was Picasso.

8. **UTILIZED FLAKE.** For every interesting point, scraper, awl or drill, there are hundreds of rejects or quickly used objects. Consider it McDonald's silverware – something used at most a few times and then tossed. This flake may have been an improvised scraper or knife. Has a cool feature of thinness; it is translucent but very strong.

9. **CHERT CORE FRAGMENT.** Akin to an ancient wallet, carried around and used to chip off sharp flakes when the need arose. This drawing is not to scale (don't even try to get Gemini to interpret scales!). It is 4x the size of the largest point and many more times the mass.

10. **UTILIZED FLAKE-UNIFACIAL SCRAPER.** Another cool heat-treated chert scraper with a thumb rest and a flat obverse (hence unifacial) to facilitate scraping along an object.