

Adam Birding Conservancy

1636 Findlay Rd, Whitewater, WI

2022 Year in Review

23 January 23

www.adamconservancy.com



This newsletter is going out to members of the ABC Club and others who have been involved in the progress of the Adam Birding Conservancy.

What Happened in 2022?

1. **The first burn of the prairie in five years** took place in the spring thanks to the efforts of RES out of Janesville and funding from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).
2. **The burnt prairie offered up two Indigenous Peoples finds**, the first I've found at the conservancy. One was dated to 6,000-8,000 BCE! I got the artifact-searching bug and found three more native points in the lake at our cottage in Whitewater.
3. The rebuilt berms along the Bark River helped retain ponds after a few years where water was ephemeral and the cattails were crazy aggressive. May need to bring back the muskrats!
4. **Thanks to Rich and Donnie, some new trails were added in the fall.** One is a half-mile loop by the southeast corner highlighting Formica ant mounds. Others include a path to the Bark River and a few trails alongside the encroaching cottonwoods and sandbar willows to hopefully help keep the woodies from spreading on the prairie. The new trail map is on the last page of this letter.
5. Chris helped **plant some wood betony in the prairie between the homesteads.** The goal is to weaken the stranglehold the tall grasses have on the prairie so we can add more diversity.

6. **Dianne from Hoo's Woods released Sylvan, a bald eagle** who had been sick with lead poisoning, at the ABC in early June.
7. **The ABC Club is up to 380 members!**

Looking Ahead to 2023

1. **Mason and his Whitewater High School class are building a third wildlife blind.** Once permission is secured from the NRCS and with the help of Rich and Steve, will hopefully go on the berm by the woods facing the northeast later this year.
2. **Invasive species management...** phragmites and sweet clover will be ugly this year and extensive work will be needed to manage both.
3. After a year with few events (partially because I pedal-biked across Canada in the spring), **we may offer a few more tours in 2023** including one that might lead to a new beer collaboration with Mobcraft out of Milwaukee and (eventually) Waterford. **If interested in leading a tour, please contact me.**

Birds Seen....

Seven new species were found in 2022 and we are less than a relative handful away from cracking the top 100 eBird sites in Wisconsin. New finds:

1. Blackburnian Warbler
2. Swainson's Thrush
3. American Avocet
4. Yellow-billed Cuckoo
5. Pileated Woodpecker
6. Wilson's Warbler
7. Blue-headed Vireo



American Avocet



Black-Necked Stilt

Birds Invited...

Please encourage less common birds to hang out at the ABC when birding experts are on-site so they can be logged on to eBird. Here are 15 species seen in Jefferson County but not at the ABC. Lack of spruce and deciduous forest habitat and low levels of winter eBirding don't help, but with a little luck...

- Acadian Flycatcher
- Brewer's Blackbird
- Canada Warbler
- Carolina Wren
- Common Redpoll
- Connecticut Warbler
- Franklin's Gull
- Greater Scaup
- Mourning Warbler
- Olive-sided Flycatcher
- Ovenbird
- Snowy Egret
- Snowy Owl
- Upland Sandpiper
- Wood Thrush

Continued Thanks...

To **Rich, Donnie and the hunt crew** for trail management, **Byron** for field mowing, **Mike & Gene** for upkeep work, **Aaron & Mike** for leading tours, **Teresa** for seed and **Maggie, Mark** and the NRCS team for coordinating the burn and helping with restoration and paperwork! For those I left off, my apologies.



Burn On



Post-Burn from Main Sign [L Hying]



Buckthorn Rings



Formica Ant Mounds Post-Burn



Bubbling Springs with Small Falls



6-8,000 BCE Native Hafted Scraper



Treebeard – Lord of the tree Rings



Lesser Yellowlegs Reflects



Viceroy on Purple Coneflower



March = Waterfowl Watching



Widow Skimmer Dragonfly

Thanks for your interest and for the help and support you provide to the ABC. Stay in touch!

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www.adamconservancy.com



Adam Birding Conservancy

Privately Maintained Birding and Native Prairie Place
1636 Findlay Road, Whitewater, WI 53190

Hiking with Permission & At Your Own Risk

Please visit www.adamconservancy.com or use QR code below for guidelines and to join the ABC Club.

Trail Routes

==== Upland Prairie
(0.7 miles)

Driest route. Views of prairie plants.

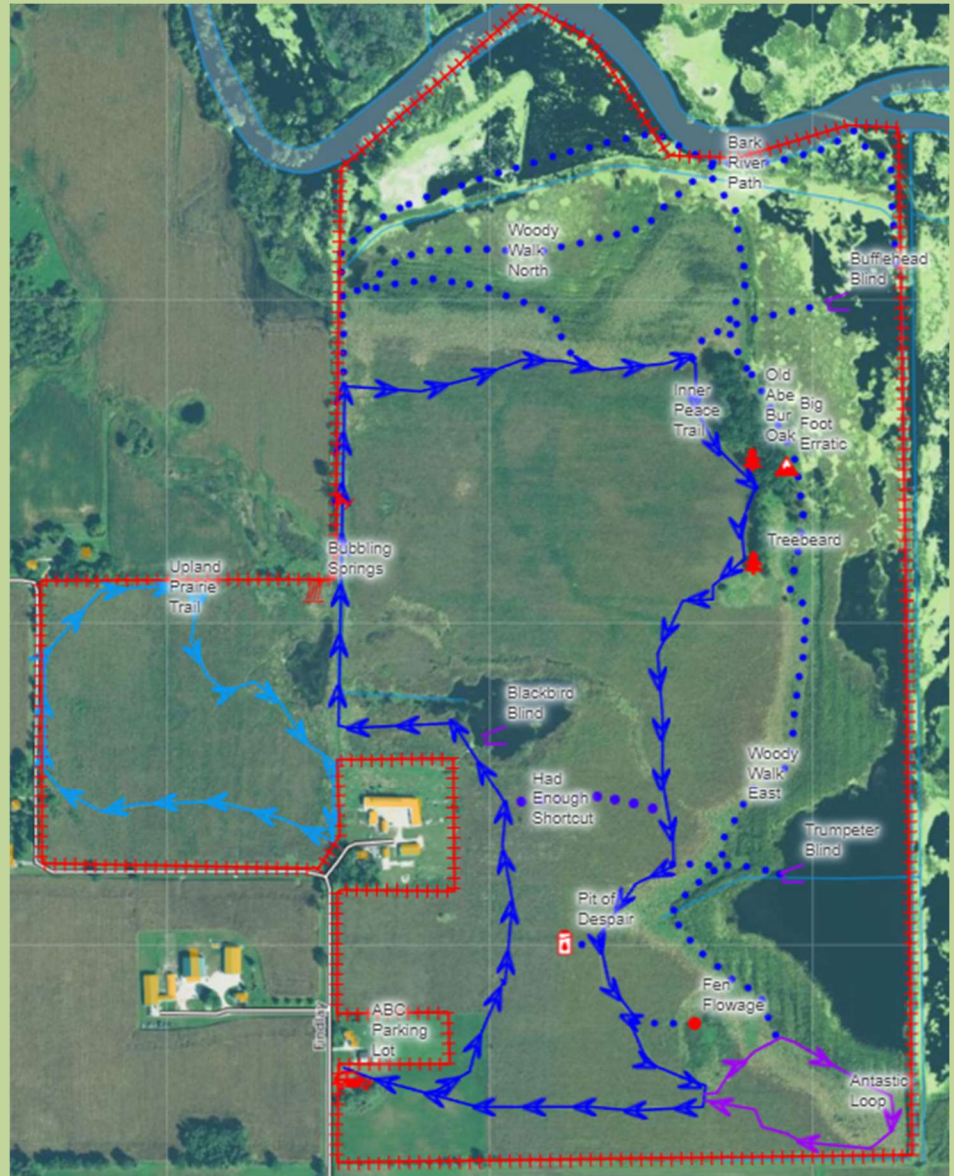
==== Inner Peace

(2.3 miles...or 1 mile with shortcut to 4 miles with Antastic Loop and all the wascally woody walks)

This path offers the best, most accessible views of prairie, woods and the blinds for wildlife sightings with a shortcut option for a mile-long pond promenade. Several extensions exist, including a 0.4-mile Antastic loop to visit Formica ant mounds. The dotted paths on the perimeter may be wet or highly vegetative and might not be maintained.

Main Attractions

- Three Blinds Nice bird watching
- Promenade in tallgrass prairie
- Bubbling Springs (dribbling falls and springs that bubble in season)
- Old Abe (Bur oak from ~ 1870)
- Big Foot Erratic (8' shoe-shaped glacial rock)
- Treebeard (Huge hollowed-out silver maple-Lord of the tree Rings)
- Pit of Despair (small sinkhole)
- Fen Flowage (water leeches from a mound)
- BIG ant mounds (on Antastic loop)



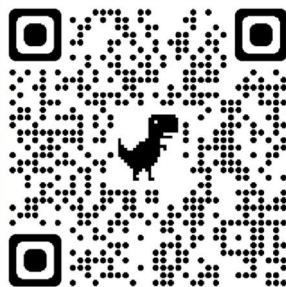
Join ABC Club Website for Tramping Access

Hiking Map (above) [Uses CalTopo]

Stories & Pictures [Uses StriveOn]

An **eBird** Hotspot

Research Assistance Provided by



CalTopo Map



TU6BL - Read

