



## April 2017 News Update

### Pope Farm Tapestry 2017

The crop rotation creates a different kaleidoscope of colors every year



The rotation of 5 different crops within these constantly changing prairies gives Pope Farm Conservancy a different look and feel every year. In addition, the seven different prairie restoration projects change their look each year depending on the species, the maturity of the prairie, and the growing season. When you combine this with changing site lines during the growing season, you have an ever-changing kaleidoscope of colors, spring, summer, and fall.

The **sunflower** field returns to the top of the hill and will yield that yellow rolling view over the stone fence that seems to go on forever. What will be different this year is that the **soybeans** will be next to the sunflower field. As you walk the trail between the sunflowers and the soybeans, it should be a remarkable view with a beautiful yellow carpet on one side and the view over the soybean field to the Black Earth Creek valley on the other. Moving north down the hill from the picnic area, you will be able to view a beautiful field of winter **wheat** framed by the pine trees of the adjacent woods.





As you walk along the field of **timothy** grass toward the CCC spillway, you can enjoy the view of the Black Earth Creek valley, and touch the beautiful short grass prairie (pictured below) along the other side of the trail.

Photo by Dennis Schenborn

The west end of the conservancy will feature the **oat** field in the North, and **corn** will occupy the South. This is the crop rotation, and like a very light twist of the kaleidoscope, the colors and textures of the land will change and form this beautiful tapestry at Pope Farm Conservancy in 2017.



Photo by Jack Sherman

---

## Parking Lane Construction to Begin

The parking land has been approved by the Town of Middleton, and Dane County. Construction will begin as soon as the weather permits, and will last about two days. The Parking Lane will greatly improve the ability to handle traffic during special events, and preclude the need for an additional asphalt parking lot.

---

## Thank you, Dane County Environmental Council!

This month, we are pleased to announce that the FOPFC will receive a grant from the Dane County Environmental Council for \$1,590. These funds will go toward the burning contract and for additional professional services. The FOPFC will supplement the grant with \$9,715 of matching and in-kind funds. A huge THANKS to Curt Caslavka and Nancy McGill for working on this successful grant application.



## Upcoming Tours

### Geology Tour & The Glaciers at PFC

Wednesday, May 10th, 2017 (6:00 – 7:30 pm)

Host: Eric Carson, Geologist and Assistant Professor, WI Geological and Natural History Survey

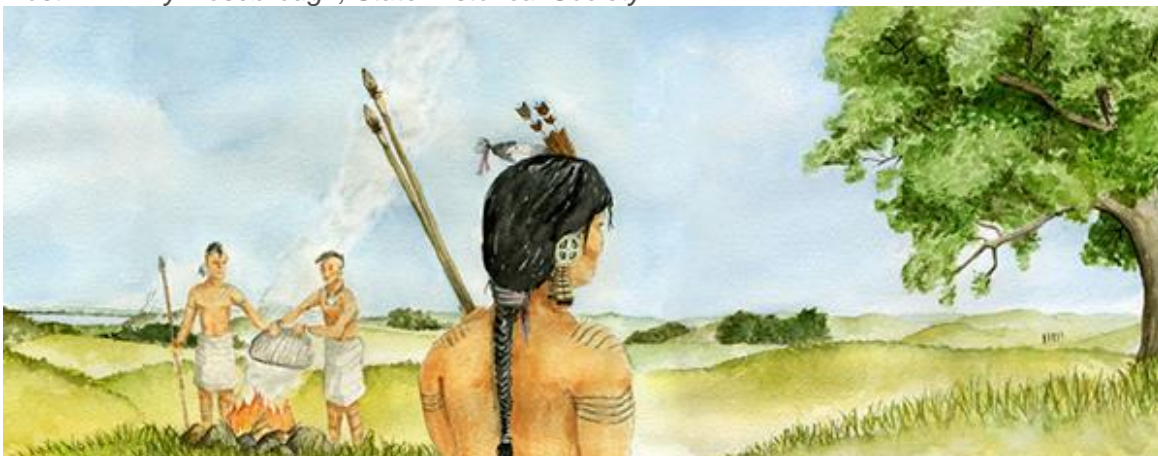


Pope Farm Conservancy has many geological features. Learn how the glacier made this Conservancy the way it is. View the terminal moraine, walk three recessional moraines and stand where three different watersheds come together (overlooking the city of Madison). And find out where the rocks came from that were used to build the iconic stone fence! This tour will be a fascinating look back in time. This event is free and open to the public - no registration necessary. We will meet in the lower parking lot off Old Sauk Road. Hope to see you there!

### Archaeology Tour

Thursday, May 18th, 2017 (6:30 – 8:00 pm)

Host: Dr. Amy Rosebrough, State Historical Society



Dr. Rosebrough, State Historical Society, will take us on an archaeological tour of sites in Pope Farm Conservancy and discuss Native American life in and near Pope Farm. She will show us how Native Americans made tools out of stones and provide a fascinating overview of how land usage has changed. This event is free and open to the public - no registration necessary. We will meet in the lower parking lot off Old Sauk Road. Hope to see you there!

## Upcoming FOPFC Meetings

You are encouraged to attend the following meetings to just observe, offer your viewpoint, or join these committees if you are interested.

### Events Team Meeting

**When:** April 25th, 2017, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

**Where:** Town of Middleton hall, 7555 W. Old Sauk Rd, Verona, WI (across from the conservancy)

The Events Team will be discussing FOPFC events for 2017, finalizing the public tour dates, and making plans for Sunflower Days. This is a great opportunity to offer your thoughts, and to see how the team works. Consider joining this great group of people who have fun giving back to the community.

### Education Team Meeting

**When:** April 25th, 2017, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

**Where:** Town of Middleton hall, 7555 W. Old Sauk Rd, Verona, WI (across from the conservancy)

We will begin working on the history of farming on the land where the conservancy is today, and researching the stories necessary to use for the interactive tour. We will be looking at the history of the crops, ownership, buildings, non-tillable land, and the stone fence. These are great meetings and always very educational! We hope you'll stop by.

### Sunflower Logistics Team meeting

**When:** May 4th, 2017, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

**Where:** Town of Middleton hall, 7555 W. Old Sauk Rd, Verona, WI (across from the conservancy)

We will begin planning the logistics of Sunflower Days. This team will look at parking, signage, and the logistics associated with this incredible event. We have a great time getting ready!

## A Visit to the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D.C.

Beth and Peter Rahko ran across this remarkable photograph in the Smithsonian Institute in our nation's capital. Beth reports "that this photo and the whole photo display is breathtaking. Don't miss it in DC." The Rahkos are members of the FOPFC. This remarkable photograph was taken by Sunil Gopalan during Sunflower Days in 2015. It made a short list with some other very talented photographers from over 20,000 images submitted from 51 countries.

To learn more about how Sunil shot this photo at Pope Farm Conservancy go to:

<http://www.sunilphotos.com/?p=1451>

The Town of Middleton has since purchased a copy of this photo, and it hangs in the TOM conference room. Thanks for sharing Beth!



## Question of the Month

**Do you plan to sell Pope Farm Conservancy Sunflower Seeds (bird feed) again this year?**

Yes, we plan to sell Sunflower Seeds again in Late November or Early December. The farmer ran into a problem last year because there was not an outlet for the Sunflowers. The FOPFC helped him out by volunteering to sell the seeds to the general public, and we anticipate the same situation will occur in 2017.

This year we will have a signup sheet at Sunflower Days for the public for those who would like to be notified when the Sunflowers seeds become available. As a member, you will be notified by email before the release of this information to the general public. Last year we sold 5,400 lbs. of sunflower seeds in 3 ½ hours.



---

## Friend of the Month

**Thank you, Cynthia Shaw!**

Cynthia Shaw has volunteered for the Friends of Pope Farm Conservancy in many ways. She has volunteered for Sunflower Days parking cars and has worked at various tables over the years. Cynthia is also on the Education Committee and is always volunteering to help with our efforts. She has helped coordinate the work done on the self-guided tour holder, coordinated the self-guided tour pamphlets including their review and helped with their assembly. Cynthia has also helped us with historical research by going thru old plat maps in determining the history of the land. AND, she has volunteered to help with our new social media committee.

The Friends of Pope Farm Conservancy would not be what it is today without the support that has been given by Cynthia Shaw, and she has truly made a difference at Pope Farm Conservancy!  
Thank you, Cynthia.



**And a happy field of sunflowers to you, Cynthia!**



## Volunteers Needed

Please consider giving back a few hours a month to make Pope Farm Conservancy the best it can be. Most of the work can be done from your home, and we will train you. The FOPFC is currently seeking:

- Administrative Support
- Volunteer Coordinators
- Social Media Intern
- Heritage Garden Volunteers

For a full list of volunteer opportunities and position descriptions, please visit the volunteer page on our website: <https://www.popefarmconservancy.org/volunteer/>

Other Volunteer Opportunities: We also welcome high school & college students looking to do research projects; master gardeners and nature enthusiasts to assist in the prairies; history buffs to help develop new interactive & self-guided tours; photographers & graphic artists to assist with promotional materials; parking assistants to help at Sunflower Days... and much, much more!

---

## Photos of the Month

On April 7th, several of the prairies at Pope Farm Conservancy were burned. This is done at regular intervals to keep the prairies healthy.



## Renew Your Membership

Just a reminder...you can now renew your membership securely online using a debit or credit card. Go to <https://www.popefarmconservancy.org/membership/> to renew your membership today! If you have already renewed your membership, THANK YOU! As a member of FOPFC, you will continue to receive monthly updates on the Conservancy, bi-annual newsletters, notification of education tours and special events, and invitations to help us in our volunteer efforts. Memberships are good for one (1) calendar year from the last date of your previous membership. We hope you enjoy being a part of our community.

---

## Connect with FOPFC on Facebook

Are you on Facebook? It's a great way to share your pictures and stories with others who "like" Pope Farm Conservancy.  
<https://www.facebook.com/FriendsOfPopeFarmConservancy>



**Thank you for joining the  
Friends of Pope Farm Conservancy!  
Our Journey Begins and You are part of it!**

