



August 2015 News Update

Mark Your Calendars...

Heritage Day!

Saturday, September 20, 2015 (12:00 - 4:00 p.m.)

Heritage Day is a great event for the entire family - not to mention a truly educational experience! Take a hayride around the conservancy in a wagon pulled by a team of draft horses. Get stunning views of the beautiful Madison skyline and Isthmus. And listen to talks from our featured presenters who will be positioned at different sites around the conservancy. During the afternoon, you will...

1. Hear how the land was formed by glaciers
2. See native plants from the prairies that existed here hundreds of years ago.
3. Learn how the Native Americans gardened and made stone tools.
4. Visit the site of a late 1800s settler's cabin.
5. See first-hand how the CCC and SCS worked to control erosion in the 1930s Dust Bowl era.

PLUS, Horse-drawn wagon rides! For \$2 per person, take a hay ride along the Madison sky-line in a wagon pulled by hard-working draft horses. Use your imagination and think of the draft horses being used by the settlers to move glacial rocks from the fields in the late 1800s. A brat stand will be open from 12:00 - 2:00 p.m. This is a FREE, family-friendly event. No registration is required. We hope you'll join us for an educational and fun afternoon in the conservancy!



Volunteers Needed: Goodwill Ambassadors are needed for the event to be at the "Friends Table", hand out information, lead visitors to stations, and help park cars. If you are interested in being a Goodwill Ambassador for this event, please contact us at info@popefarmconservancy.org.

Prairie Seed Collection is Underway!

A message from Curt Caslavka – Prairie Restoration Committee Chair



The prairies at Pope Farm Conservancy are still young and still in their restoration stage. Our goal is to establish a large variety of different native prairie plants throughout the prairies. To help that process along, we collect certain seeds from places where the plants are well established and then plant those seeds in other parts of the prairie.

That's where you come in! We need your help to collect seeds when they are ripe. The seeds of different plants ripen at different times, so we have chosen **7 dates** when we'll be collecting, weather permitting. Our first collecting date was August 22nd, but we have additional dates now through November. For a list of dates, please visit the Friends of Pope Farm Conservancy (FOPOC) website: <https://www.popefarmconservancy.org/events/2015-events/2015-prairie-seed-collection/>

No experience is necessary, but registration is required. **To register, please send an email to prairie@popefarmconservancy.com** and specify which date(s) you would like to sign up for. We will have team leaders on hand to help you on each of those dates.

Please join us – it's fun and it's an investment in the future. Hope to see you in the prairies soon! If you have any questions, please send an email to prairie@popefarmconservancy.com.

Past Events

Native American Garden Talk with Dr. Amy Rosebrough



Photo by David Peterson

On July 22nd, a beautiful evening was in store for more than 40 people as they joined Dr. Rosebrough for her intriguing presentation of “more than just food” at the Native American Garden site. Thanks, Amy!

Sunflower Days... Simply Incredible



Photo by Janie Starzewski

The sunflower crop was spectacular this year, and so were the number of families with kids who came to see them. We expected approximately 10,000 people (same as 2012), and we were amazed at the number of visitors during and after Sunflower Days, which is estimated to have

exceeded **60,000 people**. Both the Town of Middleton and the Friends stepped up big time in order to handle the traffic. The Middleton Community Church offered the use of their parking lot, and 58 “friends” volunteered to help with parking, information, and all those behind the scene activities that made this event successful. Our friend of the month award will go to all those who volunteered and made this event a happy one for so many families. Thank you, Mel Pope (FOPFC Chair)

The Annual Pope Farm Conservancy Tour - An Impressive Turnout



Photo by David Peterson

August 12th was the annual tour of Pope Farm Conservancy hosted by Mel Pope. The stories of the land were enjoyed by approximately 200 people. The spectacular vistas were at its best, and hopefully many of these visitors will come back and visit the conservancy again.

The Pollinators Tour with Susan Carpenter



Photo by Barbara Esser

On August 16th, Susan Carpenter led us on a fascinating tour and shared her vast knowledge about the pollinators. About forty people learned about various bee types and their life cycles including their favorite habitats, how to attract them, and how to identify them. We walked away with a better understanding of the critical role that bees play in our lives.

Question of the Month

Why did so many people show up for Sunflower Days this year?

We are not sure, but we think there are several reasons. First, the sunflowers were in their favorite place to grow this year. This, combined with an excellent growing season yielded a spectacular sight. Of course, the field, the stone fence, and the spectacular views were important ingredients, as well. The accessibility of the field to the parking areas made it easy for people to view them. Then of course there was all the press who contacted the Friends for interviews. The Milwaukee Journal, State Journal, Capital times, and the Middleton Times Tribune all had photos or articles about the Sunflowers or the Conservancy. The FOPFC Facebook page was extremely popular because we gave updates on the sunflower field status.

Next year will be interesting because the farmer will plant the sunflowers in a different field where they will grow well, but will not be as accessible as the location was this year. The sunflower field must be rotated every other year in order to have a healthy crop, and the field for 2016 has not been determined. We expect that he will plant the sunflowers in this year's location again in 2017.

If you have a question for us, please send it to info@popefarmconservancy.org and we will try to answer it.

Renew Your Membership Online

Our online [Membership Renewal Form](#) is back! You can now renew your membership securely online using your PayPal account or a debit or credit card. 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 date you join or from the last date of your previous membership. We hope you enjoy being a part of our community. Go to <https://www.popefarmconservancy.org/membership/> to renew your membership today!

Friends of the Month

Sunflower Days Volunteers

Cars upon cars began filling the parking lots. Both the upper and lower parking lots filled immediately, then the overflow parking began to fill, then 60 cars were parked at the Blackhawk entrance - some 260 cars in all, and then we began parking them at the Middleton Community Church. We were not prepared for anything like this! In addition to the original Friends volunteers assigned to help with traffic, the Town of Middleton also brought in people to help. And STILL they came! The events committee sent out a plea for help to all the members of the FOPFC. The following people responded and "saved the day". Over 10 percent of our membership came out to help, with some volunteering on more than one shift. Truly all of you are "Friends of the Month."

Many thanks to the following individuals who volunteered for Sunflower Days:

Anna Abbott, Wayne Abbott, Peggy Ahlgren, Fred Bartman, Jim Bolitho, Bethany Brander, Jim Byrd, Curt Caslavka, Bob Coleman, Gayle Coleman, Mary Collet, Ann Conroy, Dennis Dresang, Maxine Dresang, Barbara Esser, Bill Fenske, Kathy Gregory, Doug Gregory, Nancy Gunder, Bill Hinrichs, Dick Hinrichs, Jane Ilgen, Dave Kollasch, Jean Kollasch, Dave Manion, Jerry McAdow, Carol McAdow, Nancy McGill, Dan McLain, Natalie McLain, John Neumann, David Peterson, Mel Pope, Kristie Pope, Lee Pray, Karen Prochaska, Stan Richardson, Bill Rittman, Marlys Rittman, Amy Rosebrough, Cynthia Shaw, Jack Sherman, Jodi Sherman, Andy Shrago, Diane Smidt, Bill Sonzogni, Roberta Sonzogni, Janie Starzewski, Kathy Stella, Rick Trinko, Shawn Trinko, Sue Welch, Debbie Whitney, Bob Wink, Vina Yang, Hans Zoerb, Martha Zydowski

If we have inadvertently left anyone off this list, we sincerely apologize!



And a happy field of sunflowers to you, Volunteers!

Photos of the Month

Some pretty impressive and amazing photos this month! Thank you to all who submitted photos on our Flickr page: <https://www.flickr.com/groups/fopfc-photos/>



Photo by Sunil Gopalan



Photo by Beko Binder



Photo by Steven Henning

We welcome you to share your photos of Pope Farm Conservancy for our next "Photo of the Month." You can upload your photo(s) to our Flickr page at <https://www.flickr.com/groups/topfc-photos/> or send them to photos@popefarmconservancy.org.

Connect with Friends of Pope Farm Conservancy 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!**