

August 2016 News Update

A Huge Thank You!

Dear Friends,

Words cannot describe the thanks we owe to so many for helping with Sunflower Days. We estimate that over 84,000 people visited the Sunflower field this year! We had over 100 volunteers who logged 1,100+ hours of volunteer time during those 9 days, and over 1,200 hours were spent in preparation for this event. It was a remarkable success!

Photo by Monica Hall



We owe a great deal of gratitude to the Town of Middleton. The staff and crew provided fantastic support and we truly worked together to make Sunflower Days a success. Thanks to the Town board and the Parks Commission, and of course to all the volunteers at FOPFC. This collaborative effort provided smiles to thousands of families, and generated long term interest in Pope Farm Conservancy. We added new members, and we had a lot of fun working together. We all should take pride in what we have accomplished. *(Read more about Sunflower Days on Pages 4-6.)* **A huge thanks to all!**

Sincerely,
Mel Pope, FOPFC Chair



Photo by John B. McComb

Upcoming Tours

Mel Pope's Annual PFC Tour

Tuesday, August 9, 2016 (6:30 – 8:00 pm)

Host: Mel Pope, FOPFC Chair

This walking tour of Pope Farm Conservancy, led by Mel Pope, will explore the remarkable history and features of the conservancy. Come and enjoy a 360-degree panoramic view of Lake Mendota, the Capitol, Black Earth Creek valley and the terminal moraine. Learn how the Sunflower field has come to be an annual tradition. This is a tour that you won't want to miss!! It's free and open to the public. No registration is necessary. Bring your friends and family! We will meet near the lower parking lot on Old Sauk Road. Hope to see you there!



Photo by Aaron Leist

Native American Garden Tour

Thursday, September 1, 2016 (6:00 - 7:30 pm)

Host: Dr. Amy Rosebrough, WI State Historical Society

Travel back in time with Dr. Amy Rosebrough of the Wisconsin State Historical Society as she leads us on a tour of the Native American Garden, which replicates a garden from 1,000 years ago, and the Settler's Garden at Pope Farm Conservancy. Learn how the Native Americans have influenced modern day agriculture and where the food we eat comes from. Amy's talks are always delightful and not to be missed! This tour is free and open to the public. No registration is necessary.



We will meet near the lower parking lot on Old Sauk Road. Hope to see you there!

Photo by Janie Starzewski

Fall Members Picnic

Sunday, September 11, 2016 (1-3 pm)
Host: Friends of Pope Farm Conservancy



Come spend an afternoon among friends! Mel Pope will be talking about the FOPFC and what our plans are for 2017. We have worked hard this year, and many of us have gotten to know one another. This is a chance to hang out and congratulate ourselves for a wonderful year at Pope Farm Conservancy.

Bring your family & friends and join us for a picnic on top of the hill at Pope Farm Conservancy. No registration necessary. *Please bring a dish to pass. We will provide the beverages, plates & utensils.*

Upcoming Meetings

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

Events Committee Meeting

When: Tuesday, August 16, 2016 (6:30 – 8:30 pm)

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

Discussion: Sunflower Days!

The Events Committee is the great group of people who helped to plan Sunflower Days. At this meeting, we are going to talk about the things went well and what we can do to improve it for next year. I know many of you helped with this event, and your opinions are important to us! This is a great opportunity to offer your thoughts and to see how the committee works.

Education Committee Meeting

When: Tuesday August 23, 2016 (7:00 – 8:30 pm)

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

Discussion: Interactive Educational Tours & Self-Guided Tours

You are invited to attend the next FOPFC Education Committee meeting. You can just listen or be a part of this great group of people as we work on ideas on how to teach the public about the land. We will be planning the process of building interactive educational tours. We will be working to answer questions like:

- Which themes and historical stories should we work on?
- How will we present these stories?
- What type of media will we use (video, audio, print, web, etc.)?
- What research is necessary to relate these stories to the public?

We hope that this long term project will have a huge impact on telling the stories of the land. The Education committee meets once a month, and we hope you have interest in visiting us.

Past Events

Prairie Savanna Walk with Mike Anderson - July 7th

We had a wonderful tour with on a beautiful evening. Mike Anderson showed us all 7 prairies at Pope Farm Conservancy. Mike answered many questions about the history of the prairies at the conservancy.



Photo by Janie Starzewski

Geology Walking Tour – July 21

The Geology tour was rained out. Unfortunately, this is the second year in a row that this has occurred. Eric Carson has promised to come back in 2017, and we look forward to his talk. Pope Farm Conservancy has many Geological features, and we hope to see you next year.

Sunflower Days – July 23-31

It started slow...the first day, we were rained out. But, as the Sunflowers reached full bloom, it seemed like the world came to the Town of Middleton.



Photo by Michelle Meoska McGlynn



All three local TV stations jumped on the band wagon, and the people came in droves.



We had some problems in the overflow lot, so we opened up a portion of the hay field thanks to farmer Bill Hinrichs. At one point during the closing weekend, we had completely filled the Alfalfa field, the Blackhawk parking lot, both Old Sauk parking lots, the Church parking lot on Twin Valley Rd, and the Town of Middleton parking lots. What a turnout!



So, why is Sunflower Days a good thing?

Certainly the other 356 days a year, we strive for tranquility at PFC, but during the 9 days of Sunflower Days we invite the public to view a remarkable sight. And we do this for a couple reasons:

1. We are trying to generate interest in Pope Farm Conservancy year round, and in the past, Sunflower Days has accomplished that.

2. This event is a good opportunity for friends & families to come out and explore the sights of nature. Many people were reading our interpretive signage and learning about the land. It is free and open to the public, and it provides smiles to thousands of people from near and far.

3. Working on Sunflower Days has brought many of the Friends together, and the volunteers are proud of what the team has accomplished. Our membership has jumped up because others want to join and be part of this effort.

4. Finally, we were able to raise money that will be used to help educate the public with our educational programs, help with the prairie restoration projects at PFC, and pay for the expenses generated by Sunflower Days.



Question of the Month

How do you estimate the number of visitors during Sunflower Days?



First, it is important to note that these are estimates only. Every hour during all 9 days, we do a count of parked vehicles. We know the number of stalls at all the parking locations, and we estimate the fill position of these locations. We also randomly select a small number of cars when they are parked to determine the number of occupants in those cars, and the duration it takes for those occupants to go see the Sunflower field and come back to their car and leave. By putting this information together, we can estimate the number of visitors per day. Next year we will be trying to improve this by randomly selecting cars at different parking areas, at different times of day. It sounds a lot more complicated than it is...and does not take long to do. Needless to say, 84,000 people over 9 days is one heck of a lot of people!

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

Friends of the Month

Thank you to ALL the Sunflower Days Volunteers!

We want to thank ALL the Sunflower Days volunteers for the remarkable effort planning and executing Sunflower Days. We estimate that over 100 volunteers logged in 1,121 hours on site during this special event and another 1,213 hours were needed for preparation. Remarkable planning, and a great job during the event. Most of all, we had fun doing this, and many have commented they cannot wait to do it again. In the end, we have promoted the conservancy, increased our membership, and have generated funds to do good things at Pope Farm Conservancy.

Sunflower Days could not happen without the following people: (see next page)

Anna Abbott, Wayne Abbott, Gerry Anderson, Judy Anderson, Ray Antoniewicz, Max Austin, Sally Andrews, Fred Bartman, Michelle Bartman, Marv Beatty, Betty Ann Bolitho, Jim Bolitho, Bethany Brander, Joan Brock, Pam Brys, Ron Brys, Mary Burmeister, Jim Byrd, Janet Cabot, Maria Callis, Janet Carter, Joe Carter, Bruce Case, Curt Caslavka, Bob Coleman, Gayle Coleman, Mary Collet, Chris Conohan, Ann Conroy, Dennis Dresang, Barbara Esser, Dan Esser, Mike Faulhaber, Brian Feiler, Mary Feiler, Mitch Feiler, Jack Ferreri, Burr Fraser, Joel Galang, Trel Gimber, Kathy Graedel, Larry Goss, Sharon Goss, Janice Greening, Doug Gregory, Nancy Gunder, Bill Hinrichs, Valerie Hoch, Debra Hofmeister, Jane Ilgen, Erin Janssen, Linda Josheff, Ann Kale, Dave Kollash, Jean Kollash, CJ Kuehl, Judy Landsman, Susan Loudon, Sara Ludtke, June Machoian, Maddie Machoian, Dave Manion, Carol McAdow, Jerry McAdow, Nancy McGill, Tom Murphy, John Neumann, Doug Normington, Dan Olson, Brad Pope, Grant Pope, Kristie Pope, Mel Pope, Reagan Pope, Lee Pray, Karen Prochaska, Alba Ragno, Stan Richardson, Amy Rosebrough, Bob Schwartz, Jerri Schwartz, Cynthia Shaw, David Shaw, Jan Schenk, Mark Sieger, Jodi Sherman, Diane Smidt, Bill Sonzogni, Robby Sonzogni, Janet Staker Woerner, Janie Starzewski, Matt Starzewski, Louise Stephenson, Shelagh Thomee, Tesia Thomas, Rick Trinko, Susan Vergermont, Ann Walser, Adrienne Wible, Debbie Whitney, Eileen Williams, Bob Wink, Suzanne Wolf, Claire Wyhuske, Tracy Yaktus, Vina Yang, Lauren Yoshino, Hans Zoerb, Martha Zydowski

(If we have missed anyone on this list, we sincerely apologize)



And a happy field of Sunflowers to you, Volunteers!

Special Thanks!

And a very special thank you goes out to Bill Hinrichs, the farmer who planted the Sunflower field and letting us use the hay field for parking. He continues to experiment and improve the Sunflower field every year. We also want to thank Kwik Trip on Mineral Point Rd. for providing chipped ice to supplement all those frozen milk jugs we used. The water was cold and many people appreciated it. And a big thanks to Tom Murphy, from St. Francis football, let us use their machine to stripe the parking stalls. What a difference it made!

Volunteer for the State Historical Society

Last month we requested volunteers to assist the State Historical Society with the spring and fall field trips working with grade school students at the Conservancy. The response was overwhelming, and thanks to all who have volunteered.

Photos of the Month

We received so many amazing photos of the Sunflowers. It's impossible to pick just one to feature as the Photo of the Month. Here's just a sample of some of the beautiful photos taken by visitors. To see more photos, please visit:

- FOPFC Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/FriendsOfPopeFarmConservancy/photos>
- Flickr Group Page: <https://www.flickr.com/groups/fopfc-photos/>



Photos by Monica Hall, Sally Schnarr, Olga Dragieva, Patricia Burger, Larry Erdman, Linda Blattner Manka, Shawna Wyman, Stephanie Davies Sinnett, Sunil Gopalan, and Janie Starzewski



Photo by Larry Erdman

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 supporting the
Friends of Pope Farm Conservancy!**



... preserving the land and its stories