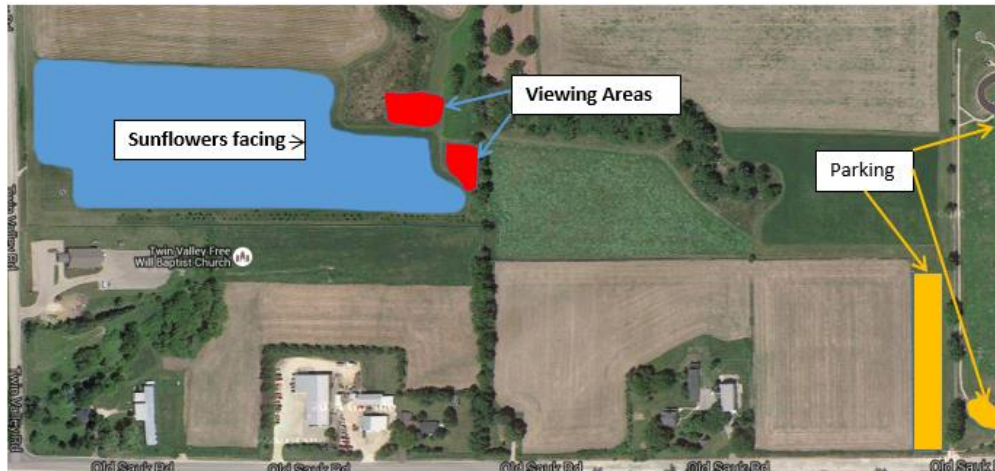




December 2015 News Update

Location of Sunflower Days 2016

“A hike to the back forty”



Need for Crop Rotation every other year:

The location of the 2016 Sunflower crop will be in the southwest corner of the Conservancy. The farmer believes that the location proposed for 2016 (above) is the best possible choice to grow sunflowers. The soil at this location is the only place in the conservancy that has the same soil type that exists where the sunflowers have been successful in the past. This will be a two-year rotation, and in 2017 the sunflowers will come back to the top of the hill by the stone fence where they were grown this year.

Access and Parking:

To catch a glimpse of the sunflowers, it will require a *substantial* half-mile walk (one way), on grassy paths. Because the sunflowers face to the east when they bloom, the viewing area will be easier to access from the Old Sauk parking areas than from Twin Valley Road. There will be NO available parking on Twin Valley Rd. Parking will be available only on the Old Sauk Rd. and Blackhawk Rd. parking areas. If we have a good crop of sunflowers, it will truly be a magnificent sight as the Sunflowers will be facing east on an east facing slope. **So when you plan your trip next year to see the Sunflowers, please make sure you bring your waking shoes!**

Overflow parking areas:

The overflow parking areas will have lines painted on the grass that show the parking stalls for the driver's convenience. They will also have directional arrows painted to direct the traffic flow. This will enable the drivers to self-park.

We will need your help again:

Last year, the FOPFC had 56 volunteers help with Sunflower Days and we had a wonderful time directing the smiling crowds of visitors. We will be announcing many opportunities for our members to help at Sunflower Days next year. FOPFC has officially taken over Sunflower Days as an FOPFC event. FOPFC is responsible for parking assistance, and we have volunteer opportunities for goodwill ambassadors, and retail sales. We will certainly need your help again in 2016.

News from the Education Committee

This last year, 2015, has been a good one for education at Pope Farm Conservancy. The FOPFC Education Committee was able to fulfill our mission of education with the support of our volunteers.

This summer the Education Committee and members of the Wisconsin Historical Society volunteered to lead 4 classes from Sauk Prairie School District around the park. It was a beautiful summer day as we did a **Seasonal Round** activity with the students, and the campers were a pleasure to work with.

Photo by Stephanie Williams



Community Education: This fall Amy Rosebrough from the State Historical Society did a presentation, *Everybody Eats*, about the field trips to PFC for the local Charlie Brown Society, our local archaeological association. Amy did an offsite tour of PFC and Ellsworth Brown, head of the WHS, attended. Folks were impressed by the site and the work done to educate students about local archaeology.

Stephanie Williams facilitated a round table discussion at the Midwest Environmental Educator Conference (MEEC) in October regarding using local geology and land-forms to teach environmental education. We had over a dozen educators from the Midwest discuss the topic, and used our work at PFC as one example of what is currently being done.

Self-Guided Tours: We developed several self-guided tours for the public as well as a platform for training FOPFC volunteers. We would like you to use these brochures and provide us with feedback when they become available. The topics that are complete are:

- European Farming and Settlement
- Archaeology
- Geology

We are currently working on a Prairie tour and have several other topics we would like to develop. In the future we'll add the tours to our website and eventually navigate to provide mobile friendly applications.

Seeking volunteers: We are seeking volunteers who would like to:

- help development and write additional tours
- learn about PFC and lead community groups
- assist with technology and documenting our local stories,
- and more...you can help as little or as much as you desire.

Thanks to all the people that have worked to provide and support our efforts. We are creating many educational experiences for the PFC visitor.

Student Education: The Middleton Cross Plains School District continues to hold their field trip at Pope Farm Conservancy every spring and fall. This includes all MCPASD grade schools who have signed up, and every fourth grader in the Middleton school district has the opportunity to visit PFC. That's close to 475 students each year both spring and fall. The work of the naturalists and the speakers at this MCPASD event are greatly appreciated.

Visit our Retail Site

Just in time for the Holidays!

Discover great gifts for your loved ones! 15% of sales proceeds will go to FOPFC to help preserve the land and its stories. To purchase your FOPFC logo wear, go to: <http://www.cafepress.com/friendsofpopefarmconservancy>.



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FOPFC Tote Bag
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Question of the Month

What happened at the meeting between FOPFC and the City of Madison Water Utility team concerning the proposed water tower across the street from PFC?

The meeting was informative. The water utility team laid out what their intentions are. They purchased the land on the south side of Old Sauk Road, directly across from the Conservancy. They have owned it for this purpose since the late 1990s. The water tower will roughly be across from the driveway of the Pope Farm Homestead as seen above.

The Blackhawk Water Tower will have the capacity to contain one million gallons of water. Because of its location, the tower will be about 170' high (seventeen stories), and easily seen from the belt line. The size will dictate that there will be cylindrical (thick) stem with cylindrical top, versus the "golf ball on a tee" shape. The estimated cost of the project is 3.6 million dollars, and construction is scheduled to begin next year and to be completed in 2017.

You can learn more by attending a meeting with the City of Madison Water Utility on December 9, 2015, 5:30 pm at the Town of Middleton Hall, 7555 W. Old Sauk Rd., Verona WI. (See map above).

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

Just a reminder...you can now renew your membership securely online using your PayPal account or a debit or credit card. 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 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!



Friend of the Month

Thanks to John Neumann!

John Neumann has been involved with Pope Farm Conservancy for many years. In 2004 John was on The Pope Farm Development committee. This three person committee wrote the Master Plan for PFC for the Town of Middleton, and much of what you see today is a result of that plan. John has continued his involvement with PFC, and was one of the first to sign on as a member of the Friends of Pope Farm Conservancy. He has volunteered to help set up events

over the years. This year John's volunteer efforts to help with parking during Sunflower days were remarkable. He volunteered no less than four times during that busy 9 day event. John Neumann has truly made a difference at Pope Farm Conservancy.



And a happy field of sunflowers to you, John!

Winter Hours and Activities

The Conservancy is OPEN daily from sunrise to sunset during the winter months. Should the snow return, there are winter activities such as cross country skiing, snowshoeing, and sledding. The cc-skiing trails are around the outer perimeter of Pope Farm Conservancy and are groomed courtesy of the Blackhawk Ski Club. The parking entrance on Old Sauk Rd. will be open and plowed during the winter months.

We wish you a safe and happy holiday season!



Photo By Dan Thoftne

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!**

