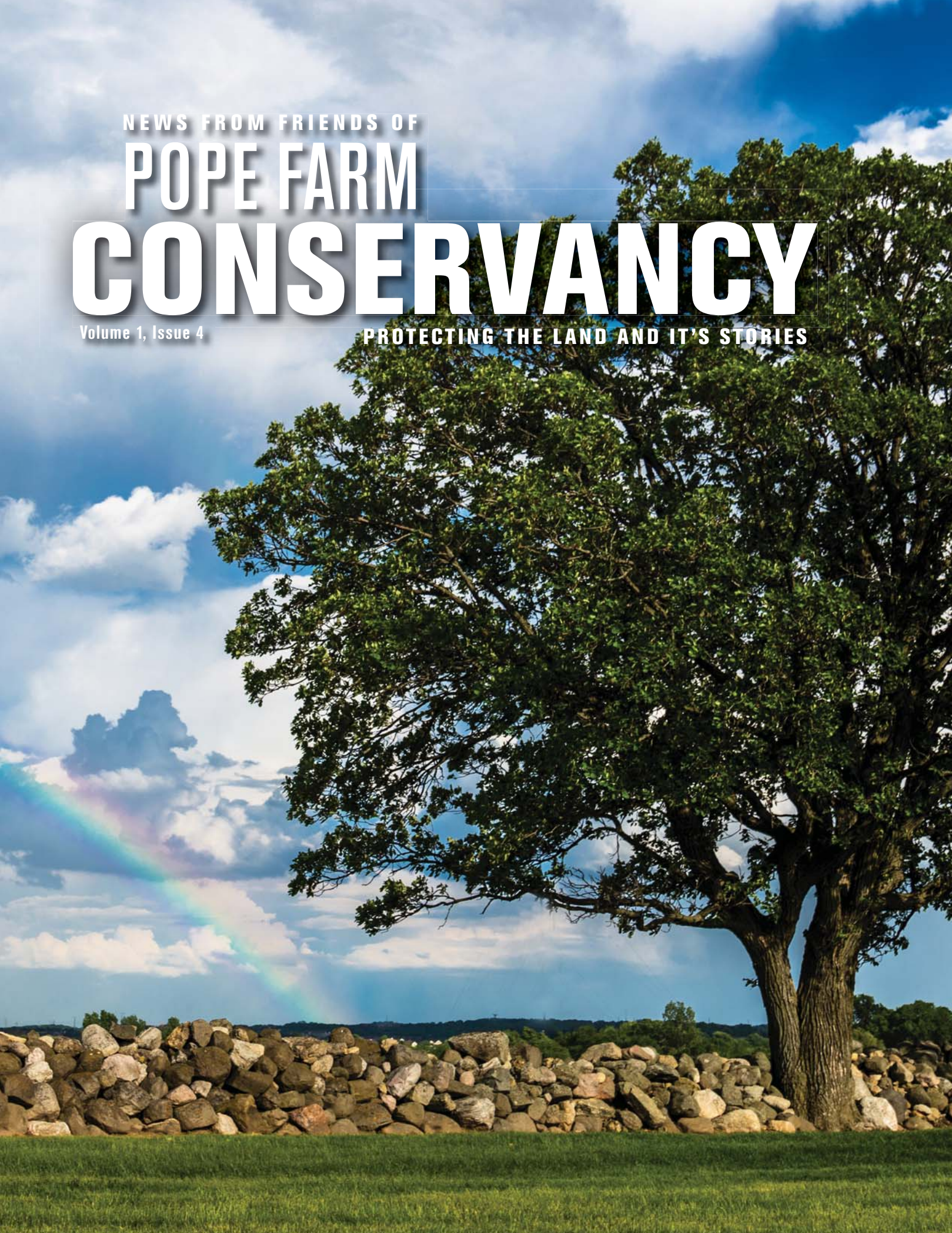


NEWS FROM FRIENDS OF
POPE FARM
CONSERVANCY

Volume 1, Issue 4

PROTECTING THE LAND AND IT'S STORIES



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Thanks to our Volunteers

BY MEL POPE

In 2014 the Friends donated over 3,600 hours of volunteer time. WOW! Thanks to all of you for lending a helping hand! For an organization just two years in the making, this level of participation is nothing short of remarkable. Early in our development, the FOPFC board investigated the subject of volunteers and sought advice from other non-profit groups. It became apparent that the most important aspect of volunteering was to make the experience enjoyable, and that is what we try to do. Our volunteers truly enjoy themselves as they give back to their community.



Your membership is most critical, because without your membership participation FOPFC would not be what it is today. For those members who would like to volunteer FOPFC provides a wide range of opportunities (see page 10). Most of these opportunities can be done with limited time requirements, and some can be done as part of a group or at home on your computer.

Our events committee has enjoyed planning the events and tours for 2015, and they are coordinating a number of great activities for the coming season. Last year over 70 members signed up to be goodwill ambassadors and they handed out information about the conservancy and answered questions. This was done sitting by the Sunflowers on beautiful summer days while we enjoyed each other's company.

The prairie restoration team harvested over 112 species of prairie seeds that amounted to \$4,500 in value. The vast majority of those seeds were planted in Pope Farm Conservancy! There is nothing like enjoying a beautiful fall day in the middle of these beautiful prairies, and knowing you are making a difference.

The education committee is expanding its scope in 2015 and will be improving self-guided and volunteer-led tours. There is so much to learn at PFC. This presents a great opportunity for many members to get involved with research and public speaking. Volunteering to help educate the public about the land and its stories is a very rewarding experience.

The public relations committee has produced the monthly news updates, and the beautiful bi-annual newsletters with volunteers from the graphic arts community. They continue to produce posters, brochures, and handouts. When the events team is ready, the PR committee will contact the press to let them know about upcoming FOPFC events.

The Homestead committee is working on how the Pope Farm Homestead might be preserved and used in the future. We need volunteers who can research various concepts and summarize them for the rest of the committee. You can help shape the future with your participation.

There are many other opportunities: data entry, thank you cards, helping park cars during the sunflower season, answering inquiries by phone or on the internet, working with the school district, and many other volunteer opportunities too numerous to mention.

We hold 5 volunteer social events during the year to thank those members who have given their time. The "volunteer social hours" usually are held in the evenings. We revel about our efforts, and watch one of those beautiful sunsets at Pope Farm Conservancy.

If you are interested in enjoying any of these efforts, please contact me at mel@popefarmconservancy.org. Thanks again to all of you!!

Mel Pope, Chairman
Friends of Pope Farm Park Conservancy

Newsletter Team

Janie Starzewski
Graphic Design by:
Roger and Linda Napiwocki,
Purple Moon Design

Photo Credits

Stephanie Williams, The Pope Family,
Dr. Amy Rosebrough, Mike McDowell,
Dennis Schenborn, Robert Stebler,
Aaron Leist (cover)

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FOPFC Mission

Our mission is to contribute to the enrichment of Pope Farm Conservancy as a community and educational asset. We strive to protect and preserve the balance of the conservancy's unique natural, agricultural and historical features and volunteer as stewards to promote our passive conservancy.

Contact Us

Friends of Pope Farm Conservancy

10333 Blackhawk Road
Middleton, WI 53562
info@popefarmconservancy.org
(608) 620-3306



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THE ICONIC STONE FENCE

The stone fence at Pope Farm Conservancy is one of the last of its kind in the area. It is easily recognized because it is a centerpiece of the conservancy, and has been in thousands of photographs year after year since Pope Farm became a Conservancy.



10

WISCONSIN GEOLOGIC HISTORY

There is geological evidence at Pope Farm Conservancy that can help you understand our geological past.



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2015 EVENTS CALENDAR

Things to do at Pope Farm Conservancy during the summer months.



11

THE ORCHARD ORIOLES

If you want to see Orchard Orioles, head over to Pope Farm Conservancy during late May, June, and early July.

Donate to Friends of Pope Farm Conservancy

I would like to make a tax-deductible donation at the level of:

- Sunflower \$50
- Rock Wall \$100
- Oak Savannah \$250
- Capital View \$500
- Other

Donor Information

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____
 State _____ Zip _____
 Phone _____
 Email _____



Please mail this form and your check (payable to FOPFC) to:
FOPFC, 10333 Blackhawk Rd., Middleton, WI 53526

THE ICONIC STONE FENCE

AT THE POPE FARM CONSERVANCY

BY MEL POPE



The stone fence at Pope Farm Conservancy is one of the last of its kind in the area. It is easily recognized because it is a centerpiece of the conservancy, and has been in thousands of photographs year after year since Pope Farm became a Conservancy. It is listed in records of the State of Wisconsin as an archaeological site representing early European settlement. This has not always been the case.

When the glacier arrived approximately 20,000 years ago, it brought with it a huge

amount of glacial debris including millions of stones. Some of the rocks in the stone fence come from as far away as Canada and Northern Michigan. Sometimes the glacier would move forward at the same rate that its edge melted back, dropping many tons of stone in one place like a conveyor belt. The result was a ridge of glacial debris called a recessional moraine. The stone fence at PFC runs up and over a recessional moraine. When the first settlers arrived on this land in the 1840's—1850's, it was strewn



with rocks. In order to plant crops, it was necessary to remove all of them from the field. This was done with horses and a “stone boat”, <http://popefarmconservancy.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/Stone-Boats-History.pdf>. It took a number of years to remove these rocks, and settlers from both the east and west side of the fence brought the

stones and used them to build the fence on their property line.

The fields “grow” a new crop of rocks every year as the frost heaves them upward during the winter and spring. My Father, Art Pope, believed that about 80% of the stone wall that you see today was built in the 1840’s—1850’s. After the turn of the century mechanized



The Recessional Moraine
Photo: Unknown



Photo taken from Old Sauk Rd of the stone fence 50 years ago. Arrow indicates the end of the fence.

Photos: Courtesy of the Pope Family



Same view today with the stone fence in the foreground

farm equipment became prevalent. It was much easier to move the rocks onto wagons or end loaders and simply dump them into piles or roll them into ravines than to neatly put them on the stone fence. When you are walking in PFC, look down into the ravine by the CCC spillway or along the edge of woods on the Northwest portion of the conservancy and you will see all the stones that were mechanically removed from the fields. Many people have asked me how many rocks I have put on the stone fence over the years. The answer is “not many”. Although I picked many rocks in my time it was with the aid of tractors and end loaders. (I know it is hard for some of you to believe, but yes, I was born after the turn of the 20th century).

After the stone fence was built over 160 years ago, in places it became overgrown with weeds. This rare photo shows the stone fence (in the foreground) about 40



View Southwest to the barn with stone fence in the foreground.

years ago. Note it is overgrown with weeds. Notice the photo from the same position today. As part of an Eagle Scout project the weeds were removed from the stone fence in 2000- 2001. It exposed the beautiful stone fence that we know and see today.

The stone fence ended at the bottom of the hill. Geologists do not believe the stone fence went any further south toward Old Sauk Rd because the silt from the recessional moraine settled in this low area. Therefore rocks were covered with silt and there were very few exposed rocks in this lowland and the stone fence stopped as pictured above. In 2005 stones were added in this area toward Old Sauk Rd by the lower parking lot, and this was done by the Town of Middleton for landscaping purposes. When you start out from the Old Sauk Rd parking lot and begin to walk up the hill, you come to an opening in the stone fence, and this is where the original stone fence begins as it works its way up the moraine some 1,200 ft.

During the development boom of the 1960’s, the landscapers continually offered to take the stones away and clean up the mess “free of charge”. My father was steadfast in his refusal, and many times I am thankful he had the foresight to see something in that old fence that none of us did at the time.

The fence was actually a working stone fence and kept the livestock from crossing from one pasture to another for many years. Then it happened. My father purchased a long legged Rambouillet ram from Wyoming to improve the wool production of our grade ewes.



On his first day in the pasture, the ram casually looked at the stone fence and promptly went right over it. Bad news! The rest of the flock, who up until this time had great respect for the fence, promptly followed the ram over the fence as well. That was the end of the working stone fence. After that incident, fencing had to be put up along the stone wall to make it effective.

Today the stone fence provides the backdrop for 7 different crops and 7 different prairie restoration projects at Pope Farm Conservancy. Students learn about the rocks within it and play rock bingo as they identify the names of the various species. For me, the stone fence is part of a picture frame, framing a beautiful green tapestry which has stood silently for over 160 years. It sits on top of three different water sheds, and overlooks the Capitol and Lake Mendota, the Black Earth Creek valley, and the terminal moraine. Throughout its lifetime, the stone fence has witnessed many stories of the land: from the settlers living nearby, cannons booming while union soldiers trained at Camp Randall, the CCC boys working on the spillway in the 1930’s, to cattle and sheep grazing on the hillside and the development of the west side of Madison.

Today the stone fence has become an iconic symbol of Pope Farm Conservancy, and is preserved for all to enjoy for many years to come.

2015 EVENTS CALENDAR

JUNE

Thursday, June 11th 6:30 - 8:00 pm
The Glacier at Pope Farm Conservancy Tour
Host: Eric Carson, Geologist and Assistant Professor, Wisconsin 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 water-sheds come together (overlooking the city of Madison). Find out from where the rocks came that were used to build the iconic stone fence. The tour will be a fascinating look back in time.

Saturday, June 20th 7:00 - 8:30 am
Prairie and Savannah Birding Tour
Host: Mike McDowell, Photographer and Birding Expert

You will be in for a treat on this tour with Mike McDowell as you learn about the savannah and birds at Pope Farm Conservancy. Bring your camera and binoculars for this 1 1/2 hour trek. Remember to wear comfortable shoes. If you are in need of binoculars, please contact Mike at (800) 289-1132 or mmcdowell@eagle-optics.com.

Saturday, June 20th 1:00 - 3:00 pm
Spring Membership Picnic



The spring picnic will feature the "Surlly Surveyor" who will reenact a look at the pre-settlement landscape of the Town of Middleton and the Pope Farm area through the eyes of John Mullett, Deputy Surveyor for the

U.S. General Land Office, 1833. This program is highly acclaimed, entertaining, and it will be a special treat for the FOPFC membership. Bring your family and friends and join us for a picnic on top of the hill at Pope Farm Conservancy. Please bring a dish to pass. We will provide the beverages, plates & utensils. This is an exciting event NOT to be missed!

JULY

Wednesday, July 8th, 6:30 -8:00 pm.
Prairie and Savannah Walking Tour

Host: Mike Healy, Owner, Adaptive Restoration, LLC
Explore the prairies of Pope Farm Conservancy with a restoration ecologist from Adaptive Restoration LLC. Hear the story of how crop fields and bare ground were restored to one of the world's most rare and biologically diverse ecosystems. Get professional tips on how you can establish and maintain your own prairies, savannahs, and native plant gardens. Join us on this beautiful scenic tour. We will meet at the lower Old Sauk Road parking lot.

Wednesday, July 22nd, 6:30 -8:00 pm
Native American Garden Talk

Host: Dr. Amy Rosebrough, State Historical Society
Learn about the Native American garden that replicates a garden from 1,000 years ago.

Dr. Rosebrough will show us the Native American Garden, and the Settler's Garden at Pope Farm Conservancy. Learn how the Native Americans have influenced modern day agriculture and how they provided themselves with a critical food source. Where does the food we eat come from? Join us to find out! See you there. Amy's talks are not to be missed. They are always delightful!



Photo: Robert Stebler

AUGUST

Saturday August 1st – Sunday August 9th - Sunrise to Sunset
Sunflower Days

(Actual dates may vary depending on peak sunflower bloom)
Nine acres of sunflowers; see over 500,000 sunflowers in bloom. Yes, that was half a million flowers, each with possibly 1000 to 2000 seeds per head. You shouldn't miss this visual phenomenon. It is a magical experience. Come. Bring your family. Bring a friend. Bring your camera. Just come.

Wednesday, August 12th, 6:30 - 8:00 pm
The Annual Pope Farm Conservancy Tour

Host: Mel Pope, FOPFC Chair
This free walking tour of Pope Farm Conservancy will explore the history and features of the conservancy, including seven different prairie restoration projects and a field of Sunflowers. Come and enjoy a 360 degree panoramic view of Lake Mendota, the Capitol, Black Earth Creek valley and the terminal moraine. This is a tour that you won't want to miss!

Sunday, August 16th, 9:00am - Noon
The Pollinators

Host: Susan Carpenter
Susan Carpenter, botanist and educator, has been the native plant gardener at the UW-Madison Arboretum for 12 years. She also leads a bumble bee conservation project that engages students and community members in bee monitoring and pollinator stewardship. Learn about the bumble bees of Pope Farm Conservancy and ways you can support healthy pollinators. We will explore bumble bee habitat, share identification tips, and learn how to document the bumble bees in any area via photography. You will also learn how to contribute photos/data to the Bumblebeewatch.org web portal, an international citizen science project. (Bring a camera to the session if you like.)

SEPTEMBER



Photo: Dennis Schenborn

Sunday, September 20th, 12:00 - 4:00 pm
Pope Farm Conservancy Heritage Day

Take a ride around the conservancy along the Madison area skyline in a wagon pulled by a team of draft horses. Here you can "Walk the History of the Land". Experts

will teach you how the land was formed by the glaciers, and about the first native people and how they grew their food, made stone tools and spotted game at the top of the hill. Learn about the prairies that existed here hundreds of years ago; hear about the first German settlers and their cabin on this site in the late 1800's. See how the Civil Conservation Corp (CCC) and the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) controlled erosion in the 1930's and how important soil is in our lives. Put Sunday Sept 13th on your calendar today! This is a family adventure that folks of all ages will enjoy. This is real history

Sunday, September 27th, 7:30 - 9:00 am
"On The Move", The Migratory Birding Tour

Host: Mike McDowell, Photographer and Birding Expert

This should be an exciting birding excursion with Mike McDowell, capturing the upcoming fall flight behaviors of the bird population at the Pope Farm Conservancy. Bring binoculars if you have them, wear comfortable walking shoes, and dress for the weather. If you are in need of binoculars, please contact Mike at (800) 289-1132 or mmcdowell@eagleoptics.com

OCTOBER

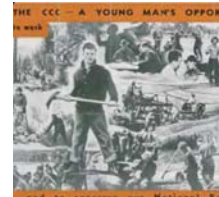


Photo Credit: Wisconsin Historical Society

Sunday, October 4th, 1:00 - 3:00 pm

Fall Membership Picnic

Mel Pope will report on the status of the FOPFC. Our featured speaker will be *Robert Moore, historian and expert on the CCC*. Bob is the author of "Devil's Lake, Wisconsin and the Civilian Conservation Corps". Currently he is researching the CCC in Dane County and the spillway at Pope Farm Conservancy! His talk will be entitled "Pope Farm 1938 — A different kind of army in a different kind of war". It is the story of the Civilian Conservation Corp and the Soil Conservation Service and their depression-era fight against erosion. Bob's research on the CCC is fascinating. Bring your family and friends and join us for a picnic in the Conservancy. Please bring a dish to pass. We will provide the beverages, plates and utensils. Looking forward to see all our members at this great event.

2015
PRAIRIE SEED COLLECTION
AUGUST

August 8th, 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. (Saturday)
August 22nd, 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. (Saturday)

SEPTEMBER

September, 12th, 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. (Saturday)
September, 18th, 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. (Friday)
September, 26th, 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. (Saturday)

OCTOBER

October 10th, 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. (Saturday)
October 24th, 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. (Saturday)
October 30th, 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. (Friday)

NOVEMBER

TBD

WISCONSIN'S GEOLOGIC

BY STEPHANIE WILLIAMS

What's so great about Wisconsin? Just about everything! We have the lakes and rivers, farmlands and forests, as well as some of the oldest and youngest rocks in the world. Wisconsin has changed a lot over the billions of years of its geologic history. And there is geological evidence at Pope Farm Conservancy that can help you understand our geological past. With warmer weather our educational signs are being reinstalled for the year.

The Geologic history of Wisconsin can be broken down into three chapters: The Precambrian, the Paleozoic, and the Cenozoic Eras.

THE PRECAMBRIAN ERA (4.5 BILLION YEARS AGO TO 545 MILLION YEARS AGO)

The Precambrian Era covers the period of time from the formation of the earth approximately 4.5 billion years ago to 545 million years ago. There are no rock specimens from the formation of the earth. The rocks were heated, melted, circulated, and recycled to form the various layers of the earth, including the thin crust on the surface. The magma separated

into different layers that make up our earth. The oldest known preserved rocks are 4.0 billion years old and they occur in northern Canada and in Australia.

The oldest rocks in Wisconsin are found in the northern part of the state. Most of these rocks are igneous, or "fire made". Igneous rocks are formed from hot, molten material called magma. The magma that made it to the surface cooled quickly, and has very small crystals. Examples of fast cooling rocks that can be found in the stone wall at Pope Farm Park include basalt and rhyolite. The magma that didn't make it to the surface cooled slowly, and has larger mineral crystals. The most common slow cooling rock is granite and a little gabbro. Our oldest Wisconsin rock is granite gneiss, a metamorphic rock, and is about 2.8 billion years old. To me it's amazing to see the rocks in the stone wall, and know that many of them are billions of years old!

THE PALEOZOIC ERA (545 MILLION YEARS AGO TO 248 MILLION YEARS AGO)

The Paleozoic Era was very different from the Precambrian Age. During

Paleozoic time, Wisconsin was tectonically stable. Our state was near the equator, and we primarily had shallow tropical seas. The rocks that we find in Dane County, Wisconsin, from this age include the Cambrian (beginning 545 million years ago), through the Ordovician (beginning 495 million years ago).

THE CAMBRIAN ERA (545 MILLION YEARS AGO TO 495 MILLION YEARS AGO)

The Cambrian Period is when the first invertebrates, animals with external skeletons, lived in the seas. At first, Wisconsin was covered by sand dunes and braided rivers. As the sea level rose, a shallow ocean began to cover Wisconsin. Huge deposits of well-washed sandstone were deposited in the shallow seas. We get our drinking water from these sand stone aquifers. Wisconsin lay just south of the equator then, and through time our state has moved to its current northern latitude.

THE ORDOVICIAN ERA (495 MILLION YEARS AGO TO 443 MILLION YEARS AGO)

The Ordovician Period lasted from 495-443 Million Years Ago. As the sand was used up, other materials, such as calcium and magnesium carbonate formed the next rock layers, the Ordovician dolomites. Early Ordovician strata (Prairie du Chien Dolomite) were formed in a very shallow sea (20-30 feet deep). Life was scarce, limited to photosynthetic bacteria.

Then sea level dropped exposing lowland everywhere. The St. Peter

Teaching Display of Rock Specimens

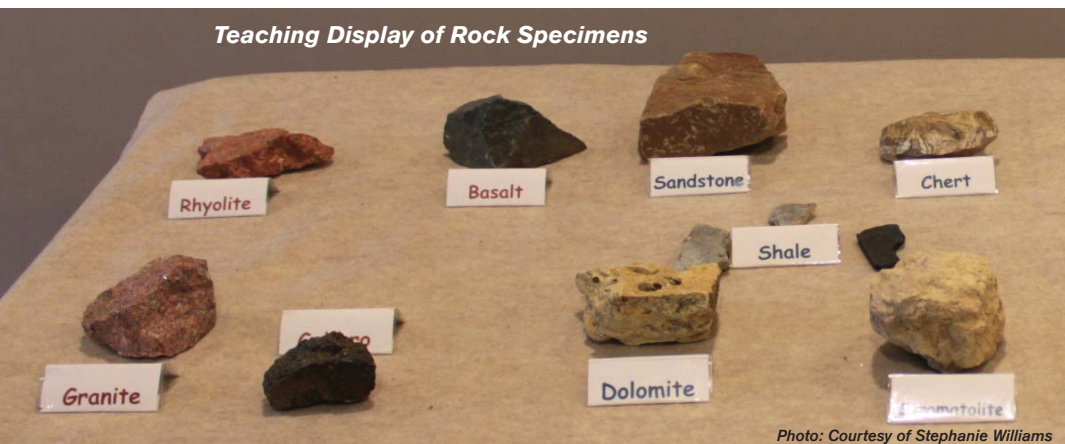


Photo: Courtesy of Stephanie Williams

HISTORY AT THE POPE FARM CONSERVANCY

The story of the glacier

The Earth's climate has gone through regular cycles of warming and cooling during the past 2.5 million years. For much of the past 1 million years, these cycles have been about 100,000 years long. During the cool parts of these cycles, large glaciers expanded to cover much of northern North America, Europe, and Asia. About 26,000 years ago, the most recent of these great glaciers, the Laurentide Ice Sheet, flowed southward through the Lake Superior and Lake Michigan basins and into Wisconsin.

These maps show the maximum extent of glacial ice during the last glaciation about 18,000 years ago.

Did you know that the front of a glacier is called the snout? Above we see the snout of a glacier in Antarctica. This ice mass is flowing from the mountain seen in the background.

By about 10,000 years ago, the ice had melted back into the Lake Superior basin. Although glaciers have covered parts of south-central Wisconsin several times, here at the park evidence has been recognized for only the most recent glaciation.

The last glaciation spanned about 100,000 years and is named the Wisconsin Glaciation because of the very clear geological record in our state. The glacier's maximum advance occurred here in Middleton about 20,000-18,000 years ago. We call this section of the Laurentide Ice Sheet the Green Bay Lobe. This huge ice lobe spread from northern Wisconsin all the way to Middleton. As the ice in the Green Bay Lobe flowed southwest, it plucked rocks from the bedrock, picked up other loose rocks, and ground them against one another. From the north came igneous and metamorphic rocks, and from closer sources came dolomite, limestone, and sandstone. The large rocks were slowly abraded to more rounded boulders, cobbles, pebbles, then sand and silt and clay. Many of the rocks have distinct scratches called striations. Most of this grinding, scratching and polishing took place at the base of the glacier. We call the resulting accumulation of sediment left behind from the base of the glacier till. We call the boulders that have been moved, rounded and scattered by the glacier far from their original location glacial erratics.

The glacier moved the sediment like a huge conveyor belt. At some point the glacier seemed to "stop" because its front was melting at the same rate the ice behind was advancing. But the glacier was still moving the rock debris forward to build up ridges of debris that we call moraines. When moraine builds up at the farthest limit of ice advance, we call this a terminal moraine. The Johnstown Terminal Moraine is seen on the eastern edge of Timber Lane. It can be tens of feet thick. If the glacier pauses as it recedes, we call the ridge a recessional moraine. The moraines at Pope Farm Conservancy are recessional moraines.

Sandstone was deposited across this low land by wind and rivers first and then partly re-deposited by an advancing shallow sea. We find these two rock units under Pope Farm Conservancy. The soil near our upper parking lot is very sandy because of the underlying rock unit.

We have no record in Wisconsin of rocks formed between 360 million years ago and the last several million years. There is a 400 Million year gap in the late Paleozoic, Mesozoic and Cenozoic Eras. Whatever may have been deposited during this long interval was later eroded away. So, sad to say, we have no dinosaur records in Wisconsin. They

probably lived here between 200 and 65 million years ago, but no clues of their being in the Badger State have survived.

QUATERNARY ERA (1.8 MILLION YEARS AGO TO PRESENT)

The Quaternary Period began 1.8 million years ago, and is a time of the growth and demise of large ice sheets, a number of which covered parts of northern and eastern Wisconsin. Today we are very aware of climate change, and the melting of glaciers around the world. Our detailed Wisconsin record of glaciation spans only the past 50,000 years or so. Most evidence of earlier glaciations has been destroyed by erosion.

2015 VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES



Share your passion for Pope Farm Conservancy, and join our volunteer efforts. We are committed to sponsoring educational opportunities at Pope Farm Conservancy, preserving the balance of its wildlife and historical features, and protecting the scenic landscapes and tranquility that make PFC a beautiful experience for all of us. We try to make the volunteer experience an enjoyable one!

Please check the box if you would like more information

<input type="checkbox"/> Seed collection in the prairies throughout late summer and fall	2 hr. sessions
<input type="checkbox"/> Waiver coordinator collects waivers at the prairie on seed collection dates	2 hr. sessions
<input type="checkbox"/> Invasive weed control, help control invasive weeds in the prairies	2 hr. sessions
<input type="checkbox"/> Seed processing, process prairie seeds for planting	2 hr. sessions
<input type="checkbox"/> Photography landscapes, photographing the conservancy with camera	1 hr. month
<input type="checkbox"/> Photography events, photographing events and tours (summer and fall)	2 hr. month
<input type="checkbox"/> Photography field trips, photographing field trips at PFC	2 hr. year
<input type="checkbox"/> Goodwill Ambassador, help hand out information about PFC (sunflower days)	2 hr. shifts
<input type="checkbox"/> Trail Ambassador, monitor trails and notify personnel if concerns or problems	if available
<input type="checkbox"/> Education committee, working on all aspects of educating public at PFC	2 hrs. month
<input type="checkbox"/> Events committee, plan, and coordinate, events, tours, and sunflower days	2 hrs. month
<input type="checkbox"/> Writer, to write articles for the newsletters and news updates	1 hr. month
<input type="checkbox"/> Writer, to write articles about events and tours	1 hr. month
<input type="checkbox"/> Writer to write feature articles about natural subjects, or historical aspects	1 hr. month
<input type="checkbox"/> Writing thank you cards to volunteers and speakers	1 hr. month
<input type="checkbox"/> Food preparation, helping make trail snacks for volunteers	3 hrs. season
<input type="checkbox"/> Food tent, help prepare hot dogs and hamburgers for sale to the public	2 hr. shifts
<input type="checkbox"/> Parking, help park cars during sunflower day's	2 hr. shifts
<input type="checkbox"/> Graphic Design, help design handouts, posters, and brochures	3 hrs. season
<input type="checkbox"/> Historian, research the many stories about the land at PFC	pr. project
<input type="checkbox"/> Public speaking, conducting tours on various subjects at PFC	5 hrs. season
<input type="checkbox"/> Public speaking to groups and clubs off site about PFC	if available
<input type="checkbox"/> Press contact, send PFC events info over the web to news outlets	3 hrs. season
<input type="checkbox"/> Researchers, to research ideas for the Pope Homestead	2 hrs. month
<input type="checkbox"/> Public Relations Committee, planning and coordinating promotion of PFC events	2 hrs. month
<input type="checkbox"/> Administrative, mailing info to members without email	1 hr. month

Please check those items you would like more information on, and mail this to Mel at Friends of Pope Farm Conservancy 10333, Blackhawk Rd, Middleton, WI., or scan and email this to mel@popefarmconservancy.org

Thank you for your interest in advance,

First Name _____ Last Name _____
 Phone _____ or email address _____



THE ORCHARD ORIOLES

IN THE POPE FARM CONSERVANCY

BY MIKE McDOWELL

Photos: Courtesy of Mike McDowell

Springtime is finally here! A grand variety of grassland and savannah songbirds are on their way back to Pope Farm Conservancy for another nesting season. Many people who feed backyard birds know that if you put out oranges or grape jelly you'll attract Baltimore Orioles. But did you know there's another kind of oriole you might see in our neck of the woods? It's the Orchard Oriole!

Perhaps the Orchard Oriole isn't quite as showy, but they're still nice birds to have around. If you want to see Orchard Orioles, head over to Pope Farm Conservancy during late May, June, and early July. By early August they begin to disperse and then migrate during fall to back to places like Honduras, Costa Rica, Panama, and Colombia where they spend the winter.

Before heading out to the conservancy, you'll want to

familiarize yourself with their plumage coloration which varies by age and sex. Mature males sport a deep russet color on their breast, belly, back, and rump with a black tail and head. Adult females are almost entirely lemon-yellow with slightly darker wing feathers. Young or "first-summer" males closely resemble adult females in overall color, but have a black throat similar to what you would find on a Northern Cardinal. Both males and females have a grayish blue pointed beak

As one of their preferred nesting habitats, the best place at the conservancy to find Orchard Orioles is at the oak savanna. Orchard Orioles are slightly smaller than Baltimore Orioles and their songs are quite different, too. Rather than melodious sweeping notes of the Baltimore, listen instead for a sing-song chattering whistle that

sounds a little bit like a House Finch. The males can often be found early morning singing from treetops or an exposed branch.

Once their young hatch, you'll have a better chance to see the adults foraging in the prairie grasses and wildflowers for caterpillars, small moths, and other insects to feed them. Early in the morning just after sunrise is the best time to catch them out in the open.

Of course, Orchard Orioles aren't the only grassland birds that grace Pope Farm Conservancy, so bring a binocular, a field guide on birds, and a the attitude of a curious explorer. A thorough search of the conservancy will yield around 50 or more different kinds of birds throughout late spring and early summer. And if nothing else, it's simply a great place for a scenic and relaxing hike.

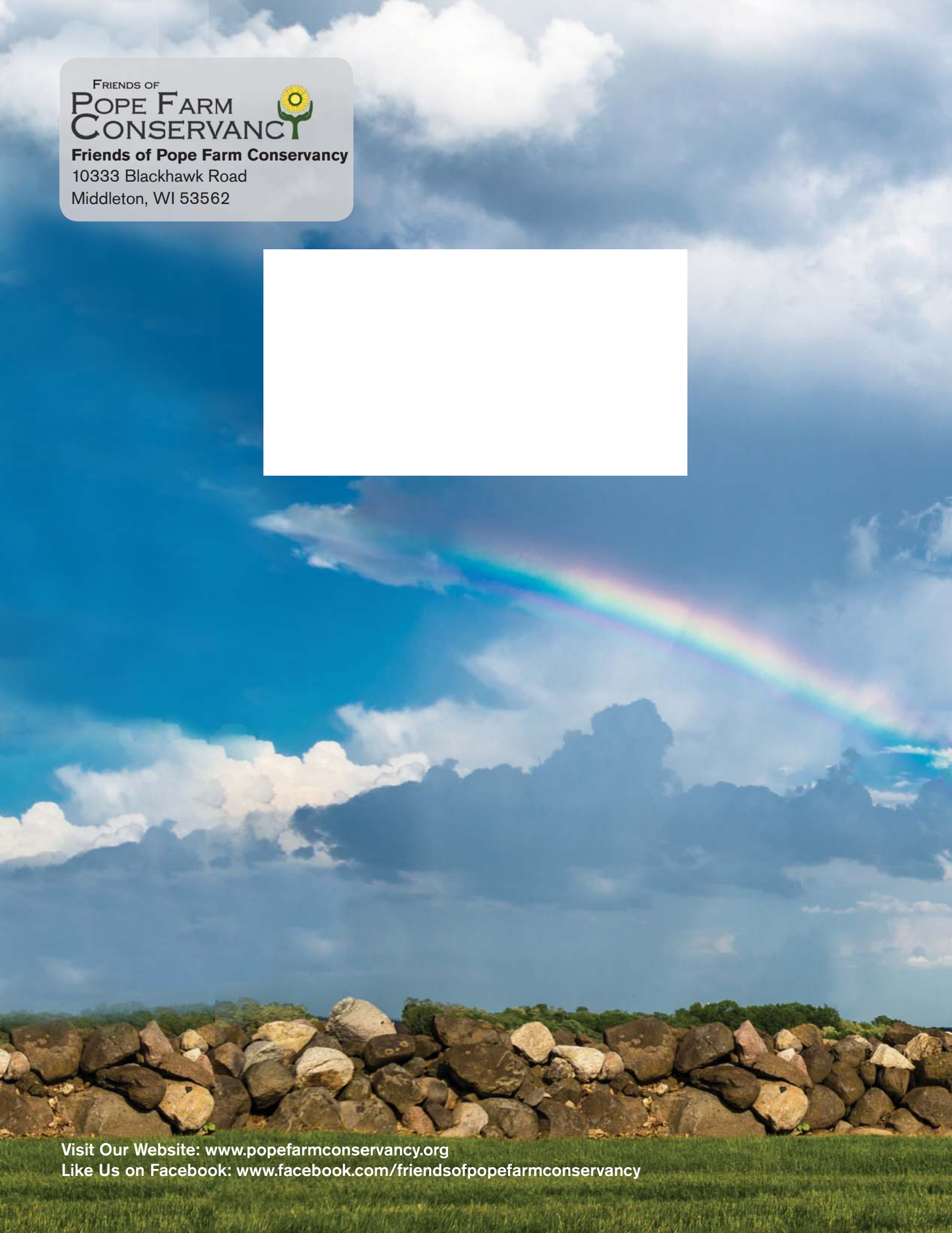
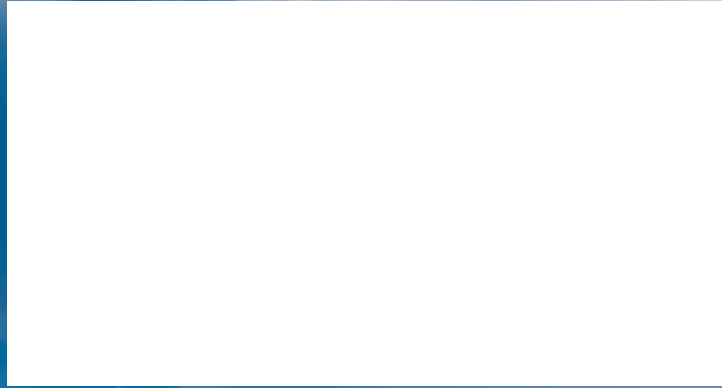
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10333 Blackhawk Road

Middleton, WI 53562



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