



February 2014 News Update for Friends of Pope Farm Conservancy

Pope Homestead Preservation Update

Photo by Barbara Esser

Ideas big and small flowed from approximately 50 people who participated in the January 24th visioning session for the Pope Farm Homestead. The lively gathering was an initial step toward developing a plan for preserving the 15-acre



property that borders Pope Farm Conservancy on two sides. At this meeting, attendees suggested various ways the homestead could be used in the future to enhance the Conservancy and its educational mission. Ideas ranged from supporting classroom field trips to keeping livestock to performing arts, and much more.

After the visioning session, members of the initial Planning Committee engaged in an “affinity diagramming” process, ably led by Dennis Schenborn of the Friends. Ideas were grouped into themes, as a way to organize the ideas. Identified as the overarching theme was preservation of the property, including the barn. Other key themes are education, agricultural history, and community engagement.

Next steps will include mobilizing volunteers to conduct initial research related to the emerging themes. It is too early to say where the process will lead, but everyone on the Planning Committee was thrilled with the turnout for the visioning session and appreciates the participants who offered to help as planning moves forward. Thank you, one and all! To stay informed, please visit <https://www.popefarmconservancy.org/homestead>.

Sunflower News 2015

The Sunflowers will be back “at the top of the hill”



The Sunflowers are on a two year rotation and will be back at the top of the hill along the stone fence as pictured above. After a poor showing in 2014 due to weather and soil conditions, everyone is looking forward to the return of the sunflowers to their favorite location. The sunflowers at the top of the hill have had an excellent track record, and usually bloom in the first part of August.

Winter Fun

Sledding at Pope Farm Conservancy

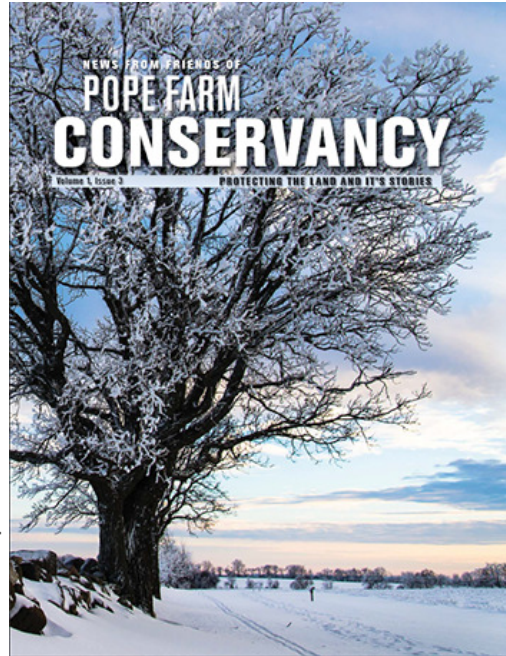


There is still time to go sledding at the conservancy. The best places to go are above the Old Sauk Rd. entrance on the west side of the stone fence. Another place that is quite steep is in the South West corner of the conservancy by the white church off Twin Valley Rd. Many people have enjoyed these areas over the years. Please make sure you do not walk or sled on the groomed ski trails.

Question of the Month

What is the cost of producing the newsletters that we receive in the mail?

We have received many compliments about our newsletters that we mail out twice a year. The quality is outstanding. Without the help of our members, we would not be able to produce a piece like this. The articles in our last newsletter were all written by members of FOPFC (Mel Pope, Amy Rosebrough, Susan Carpenter, Curt Caslavka, Mike McDowell, and Dennis Schenborn). The photos were donated by the authors, and the cover photo was donated by Aaron Leist Photography. Aaron has taken hundreds of shots of the tree featured on the front cover. The tree has been shot in spring, summer, fall, and winter in rain, sunshine, rainbows, and blowing snow. Roger and Linda Napiwocki of Purple Moon Design, both Friends and neighbors of the conservancy, contribute their wonderful graphic arts expertise. We are so thankful for all the contributors on this issue as well as other authors and photographers in the past. Because of their contributions, the newsletter cost is \$290 plus non-profit postage, which is remarkable.



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

Friend of the Month

Stephanie Williams

Thank you, Stephanie! Your volunteer efforts have not gone unnoticed! Stephanie is one of the original organizers of the Friends of Pope Farm Conservancy. She is the chair of the education committee and is stepping down to spend more time with her family after her term runs out this spring. Stephanie will be missed, but she will continue to be on the committee. Stephanie will also coordinate the field trips for the Middleton Cross Plains 4th graders to Pope Farm Conservancy, which she has done for many years. In addition to all the work she has done on the board, she has helped supervise volunteers with seed collection as part of the prairie restoration team. Her commitment to the Friends is remarkable. Thanks to you, Stephanie, for really making a difference!



And a happy field of Sunflowers to you, Stephanie!

Photo of the Month

Pope Farm Bur Oak Sunrise - By Bill Fenske



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/fopfc-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!

