



July 2015 News Update

Native American Garden Talk

Wednesday, July 22nd, 6:30-8:00p.m

Join Dr. Amy Rosebrough of the WI 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 “More Than Food” 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 and find out! Amy’s talks are always delightful and not to be missed. This event is free and open to the public. No registration is necessary.

Big thanks to the many sponsors that make these gardens happen: 4th graders of MCPASD, WI State Historical Society, Town of Middleton, Charles E. Brown Archaeological Society, the UW Anthropology Dept. and FOPFC. Some of the produce even goes to the food pantry!

Photo by Amy Rosebrough



Sunflower Days (August 1-9, 2015)

Goodwill Ambassadors Needed

We are looking for volunteers to be Goodwill Ambassadors during Sunflower Days, anticipated to be in the first week of August. Goodwill Ambassadors enjoy two-hour shifts handing out information about Pope Farm Conservancy, answering questions, and selling merchandise. Last year, we had over 70 Goodwill Ambassadors sign up, and all agreed that it was truly an enjoyable experience.

We are using VolunteerSpot (the leading online sign-up and reminder tool) to organize our volunteer shifts. Here’s how it works in 3 easy steps:

1. Click this link to see our Sign-Up page on VolunteerSpot: <http://vols.pt/2AiyHj>
2. Review the available volunteer spots listed and choose the shift(s) you like.
3. Click the "Sign up!" button. It's easy, and you will NOT need to register an account or keep a password on VolunteerSpot.

Note: VolunteerSpot does not share your email address with anyone. If you prefer not to use your email address, please contact Anna Abbot at (803) 608-0038 and she can sign you up manually.



Sunflower Update

The sunflowers are back at the top of the hill this year. And while it may seem like they're lagging a bit, we're still expecting peak sunflower bloom between August 1-9. Many people have asked why the edges of the sunflower field look so shaggy. Well, it appears the 13-lined ground squirrels that live in the rock wall and along the paths dug up the sunflower seeds this spring. And so we mowed a portion of the border to give it a cleaner look. We even created a special family photo area on the south side of the field where visitors can walk into the sunflower field to take photographs.



Be sure to check our [website](https://www.popefarmconservancy.org) for the latest Sunflower news: <https://www.popefarmconservancy.org>

Annual Pope Farm Conservancy Tour

Wednesday, August 12th, 6:30 – 8:00 pm



Photo by Aaron Leist

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. You won't want to miss this educational and fun tour!

Glacier Talk & Heritage Day

Sunday, September 20th, 2015

On June 11th, the Glacier Tour with Eric Carson was cancelled due to thunderstorms. Eric is a glacial expert, and we're excited to have him presenting at Heritage Day on September 20th. He will talk about glaciers at Pope Farm Conservancy and where the rocks came that were used to build the iconic stone fence. More information will be announced later.

A Successful Savanna Birding Tour

Over 45 Species Spotted!



Photo by Barbara Esser

On June 21st, Mike McDowell led about 50 birding enthusiasts on a wonderful tour of the prairies and fields at Pope Farm Conservancy. All were pleased with the results, and Mike did a fabulous job sharing his birding knowledge and leading the tour.

Members Picnic

Surly Surveyor promises rain check



Unfortunately, the Members Picnic was rained out on June 20th. Just about the time the Surly Surveyor began his speech, thunderclouds and rain chased us from the top of the hill. The Surly Surveyor has promised to come back for a rain check, and we will let you know when this will occur.

Missing Raffle Tickets

Because the Members Picnic ended abruptly due to inclement weather, two of the raffle ticket winners were not announced. If you have the winning ticket, please email mel@popefarmconservancy.org to claim your prize.

- **308398** - Farmer Bill
- **308408** - Free T-Shirt

Volunteer Social + Fireworks



Photo by Barbara Esser

On July 2nd, FOPFC volunteers met on top of the hill to view the spectacular Elver Park fireworks display as well as fireworks from the surrounding areas. It was a pleasant evening with a beautiful sunset. We even enjoyed nature's own version of fireworks courtesy of the thousands of fireflies over the sunflower field.

A Beautiful Evening for the Prairie Walking Tour



Photo: David Peterson

Nearly 25 people joined Mike Healy, Owner of Adaptive Restoration, for a tour of the prairies at Pope Farm Conservancy on July 8th. Attendees enjoyed a beautiful walk through the Conservancy as they learned about prairie restoration and maintenance.

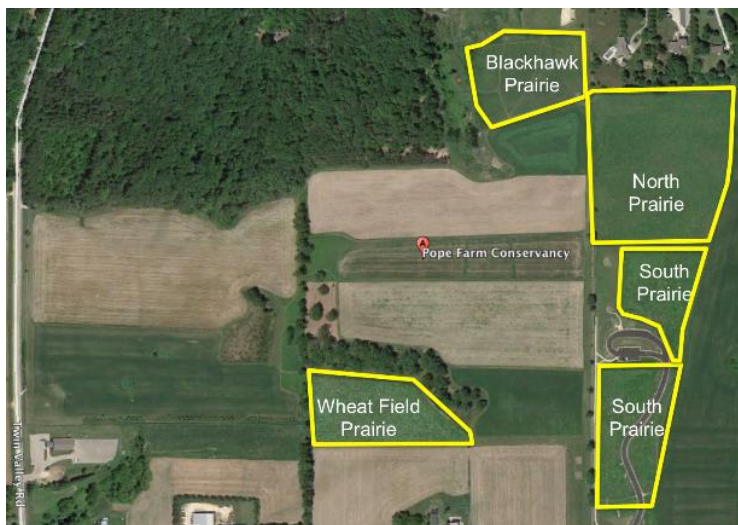
Question of the Month

What is this plant that seems to be prevalent in some of the Prairies?



Photo by Dennis Schenborn

This is White Sage (*Artemisia ludoviciana*). The FOPFC believes it is a threat to three of the Prairies at Pope Farm Conservancy. It spreads by seeds and rhizomes (roots). In the Wheatfield Prairie, 78% of 50 test plots showed the presence of White Sage in 2014. White Sage has also dramatically spread in the South and North prairies from the original seed mix that was planted.



This situation is very rare. We are doing extensive research, have talked to a number of experts, and believe this is uncharted territory. The FOPFC will continue to work on this situation, and we are very concerned about the future of these three prairies that comprise 25 of the 37 acres of restoration at PFC. We will be communicating more information to our membership as it develops. In the meantime, look for the White Sage in the Wheatfield prairie and when you recognize it, you will be able to visualize our concern.

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!

Friend of the Month

Debbie Whitney

Thank you, Debbie Whitney! Debbie is on the FOPFC board and is the chair of the Events Committee. Debbie retired last year and agreed to head up the committee. In the last year the events committee has grown from a team of two to a team of eight, with about 70 goodwill ambassadors that have agreed to help out from time to time. The events team has increased the number of tours from six tours per year to eight, is organizing two member picnics, and will be providing information at Sunflower Days and Heritage Day. This is quite a feat for a new enthusiastic group of volunteers. At home, Debbie also conducts cooking classes with step-by-step instruction for basic technique and variations. We cannot thank you enough Debbie. You have made a difference to Pope Farm Conservancy. If you would like to join the events team, please email us at info@popefarmconservancy.org



And a happy field of sunflowers to you, Debbie!

Photos of the Month

Savanna Sparrow by Susan Flickinger



Susan Flickinger captured this Savanna sparrow on Mike McDowell's bird walk through the Conservancy.

Spiderwort by David Peterson



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!**