

July 2016 News Update

Dear Friends,

This is an exciting time of year at Pope Farm Conservancy. We have several public tours coming up and, of course, the sunflowers will be blooming later this month! We're anticipating thousands of visitors from near and far to come out for Sunflower Days, and we'll need your help to make it a successful event. This is a great opportunity to teach the public about the history of the land and about the different features that make PFC so special and unique. More information about how you can help is included in this newsletter. Thank you again for your support, and we hope to see you soon!

Upcoming Events

SUNFLOWER DAYS!!

July 23 – July 31, 2016

Our Sunflower Days event is only a few short weeks away. Below is a picture of the sunflower field, taken on July 3rd. The Sunflower field is in great shape right now, and it will truly be unique this year. The Sunflowers will be on an east-facing hill, and we are hoping the entire hillside will be golden yellow with each bloom slightly higher than the bloom in front of it.

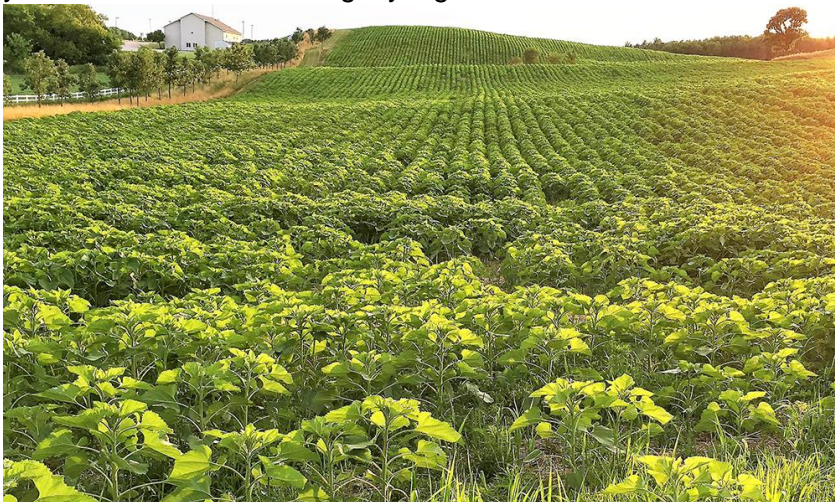


Photo taken by Barbara Esser

**** Please Remember ****

As you consider visiting Sunflower Days, keep in mind that the viewing area will be in the center of the Conservancy and ALL visitors will be required to walk approximately 1-mile (round-trip) to view and photograph the sunflowers. We understand that this is less convenient (and maybe even impossible) for some visitors to get to the Sunflower Field; but good stewardship of the land and soil require this crop rotation.

We will begin posting updates on our website and Facebook page soon, so be sure to check them in the days leading up to the event. <https://www.popefarmconservancy.org/sunflowers/>

Volunteers Needed for Sunflower Days!

The FOPFC sponsors Sunflower Days for the enjoyment of the general public. It is free and provides smiles to thousands of visitors. Along the way, it serves to increase the awareness of Pope Farm Conservancy so that more people will enjoy the land and its stories.

The Friends also use this event as our primary fundraiser. First, we need to pay for the expenses created by Sunflower Days like Insurance, signage, parking paint, and the list goes on. Secondly, we are trying to raise funds to improve the quality of the prairies at PFC, involve the community to help to maintain the conservancy, and work on developing more educational opportunities for people of all ages.



To do this, we need many volunteers over the 9 days of Sunflower Days to help with parking, water sales, retail sales, or just greeting the public. There are over 100 shifts to fill during this 9-day event, Please, please, please, we need your help! The shifts are usually 2 hours in duration, and we will train you. Snacks and water will be provided. It really is a lot of fun!

Volunteers are needed for the following:

Information Table: Will answer questions about the Conservancy and the Sunflowers. We will send information that will provide answers to 90% of the questions that will be asked. You will be a goodwill ambassador for the conservancy and share in the excitement and happiness of Sunflower Days.

Weekends: 9-11, 11-1, 1-3, 3-5, 5-8 (2 volunteers/shift)

Weekdays: 9-11, 11-1, 1-3, 3-5, 5-8 (2 volunteers/shift)

Water Sales: This table will sell bottled water to the public to generate revenue to the Friends of Pope Farm Conservancy. This is a critical part of the FOPFC fundraising effort!

Weekends: 11-1, 1-3, 3-5, 5-7 (2 volunteers/shift) | Weekends: 11-1, 1-3, 3-5, 5-7 (2 volunteers/shift)

Souvenir Table: T-shirts, coffee mugs, tiles, and cards will be sold to the public. Your assistance would be welcome! The proceeds from these sales are part of the FOPFC fundraising drive. All the tables above will be under a canopy.

Weekends: 11-1, 1-3, 3-5 (2 volunteers + 1 committee member)

Weekdays: 5-7:30 (2 volunteers + 1 committee member)

Parking: We *really* need help here! We have spent a great deal of time designing the parking areas so that people can self-park. However, we need many volunteers to monitor overfill conditions and help redirect traffic to other areas if necessary. FOPFC membership is not required to be a parking attendant. Please help us by recruiting your friends, family, neighbors, etc.

Peak Hours:

Weekdays: 10-12:30, 5-7:30 (4 volunteers/shift) | Weekends: 9-11, 11-1, 1-3, 3-5 (4 volunteers/shift)

Non-Peak Hours:

Weekdays: 12:30-2:30, 2:30-5 (2 volunteers/shift) | Weekends: 5-7:30 (2 volunteers/shift)

Go to <http://signup.com/go/9p1cEq> to sign up online. Or email Anna Abbott at anna@popefarmconservancy.org to sign up for one or more shifts.

Upcoming Tours

All tours are free and open to the public. No registration is necessary. We will meet near the lower parking lot on Old Sauk Road.

PFC's Prairies and Savanna Tour

Thursday, July 7, 2016 (6:30 – 8:00 pm)

Host: Mike Anderson

Join us on this beautiful scenic tour of Pope Farm Conservancy's six different prairies, including an Oak Savanna. Hear the story of how crop fields and bare ground were restored to one of the world's rarest and biologically diverse ecosystems.

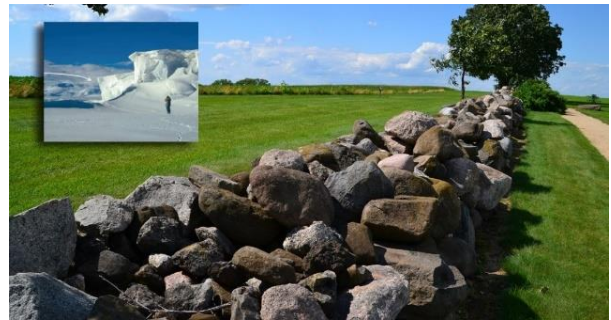


Geology Tour & The Glaciers at PFC

Thursday, July 21, 2016 (6:30 – 8:00 pm)

Host: Eric Carson, Geologist and Assistant Professor, WI 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). And find out where the rocks came from that were used to build the iconic stone fence! This tour will be a fascinating look back in time.



Mel Pope's Annual PFC Tour

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

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.

Photo by Aaron Leist



FOPFC Education Committee Meeting

Tuesday August 23, 2016 (7:00 – 8:30 pm) Town of Middleton Hall

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.

Volunteer for the State Historical Society at Pope Farm Conservancy

Wisconsin Historical Society (WHS) staff are seeking volunteers among the Friends to assist with the Fall 4th Grade event at Pope Farm Conservancy. Duties will include assisting Society presenters and educators by helping wrangle and manage students and chaperones, and serving as understudy presenters in case of illness, emergencies, or for short periods to give Society staff a chance to let their voices recover.

The Fall event will last for three days (weather permitting) with sessions in the morning and mid-day. Students will rotate through a series of stations between the Gardens on Old Sauk Road (each lasting 10-15 minutes) before participating in a role-playing 'survival' game during a hike through the Conservancy. WHS stations include 'Harvesting the Garden and Storing Food for Winter', 'Ancient Technology and Survival', and 'Seeking Shelter'.

Volunteers will be given training materials prior to the event and the opportunity to observe and learn the stations/activities during the event itself. The final schedule has not yet been set, but tentative dates are in the last week of September. If we can get 4 volunteers to help, each can work one day in the spring and one day in the fall.

For more information, contact mel@popefarmconservancy.org.

Past Events

Prairie Savanna Birds Tour with Mike McDowell – June 25th

On a beautiful Saturday morning at Pope Farm Conservancy, Mike McDowell conducted a Prairie Savanna birding tour. When you are on a tour with Mike, it is unforgettable because you see birds you would probably never see on your own. Mike will conduct a second birding tour in September.

Photos by Barbara Esser



Bee and Pollinators Tour with Jeremy Hemberger – June 28th

About 45 people enjoyed a wonderful presentation on the pollinators by Jeremy Hemberger. Jeremy is getting his PHD in Entomology at UW Madison, and is a graduate from Middleton High School. His talk was very educational, and Jeremy brought a couple of his furry friends with him. He attaches radio frequency transmitters to the bees to study their foraging habits. Remarkable!!



Photo by Barbara Esser

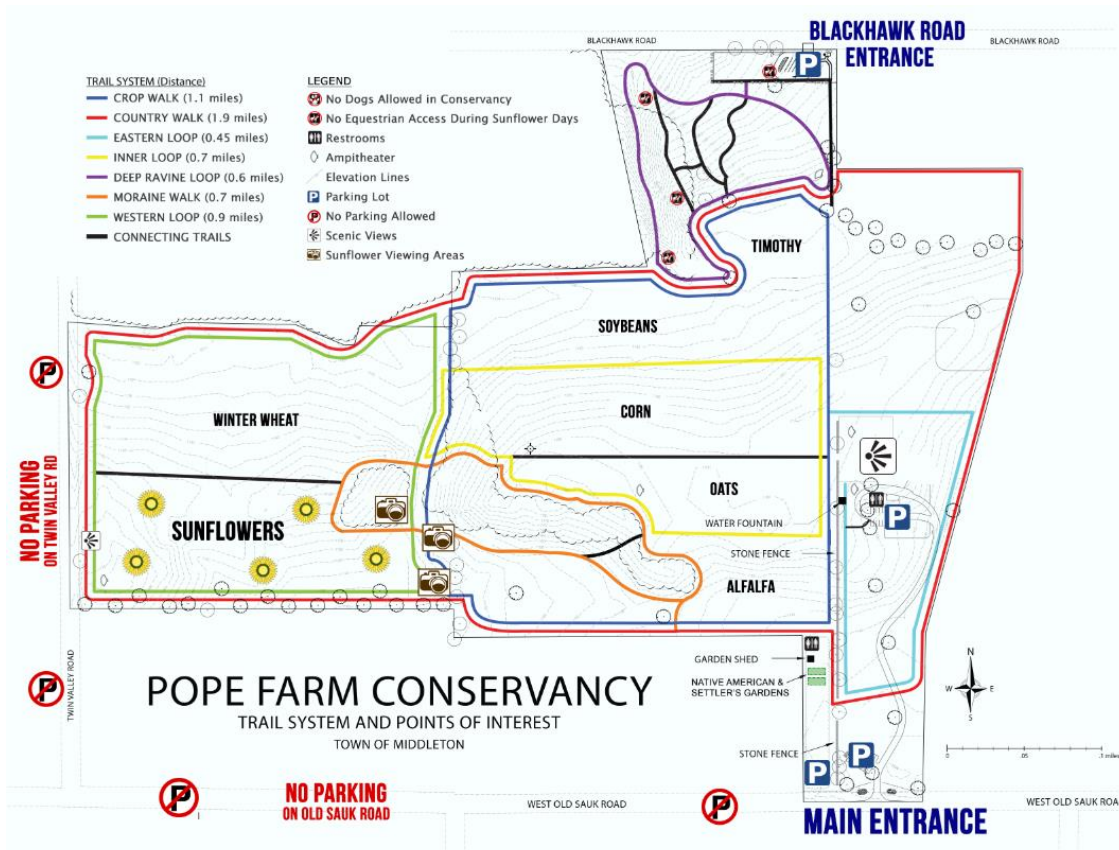
Question of the Month

Where is the best place to view the Sunflowers this year?

The viewing areas for the Sunflower field is in the center of the Conservancy (see map below). At this location you can be elevated enough to shoot photos over the Sunflower field. The best way to reach this area is to park in the lots off Old Sauk and Blackhawk Roads. Some have asked about parking on Twin Valley Road to the West, but the Sunflowers face East and Twin Valley Road is the back end of the Sunflower field. Remember the Sunflowers can get up to 7' tall, and if you enter from Twin Valley Road you will have to traverse the hill all the way down to the center of the Conservancy to look back and see the field. In addition, parking will NOT be allowed on Twin Valley Road because of the danger caused by the topography of the road. So come and enjoy the Sunflowers, and we hope to see you there!

Note: To avoid traffic and parking issues, the best viewing times are from 7:00 – 10:00 am.

Go to www.popefarmconservancy.org/sunflowers/ for full event details, including the exact dates of peak sunflower bloom, plus a detailed map of the sunflower field, parking areas, hiking trails, and more!



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

Thank you, Vina Yang!

Vina is on our Events Committee and has been involved in many FOPFC activities. Vina will be hosting a tour this summer and has volunteered for Sunflower Days in the past as a Goodwill Ambassador. This year, she will help host the Souvenir Table during the Sunflower Day festivities. Vina is also helping with the printing process for the FOPFC. She orders and picks up the printing materials from the printer and designed the events calendar this year. In addition, Vina has volunteered to work in the PFC Prairie Restoration projects in the past. Vina is always there when she is needed, and we cannot thank her enough. She has made a difference to the FOPFC!



And a happy field of Sunflowers to you, Vina!

Photos of the Month



"Sunrise and full moonset over Pope Farm Conservancy June 21, 2016"

Photo by Awni Sarraf

We invite you to share your beautiful photos (past or present) of Pope Farm Conservancy on our [Facebook](#) or [Flickr](#) pages.



"Foraging Fly" by Jim Stewart

Renew Your Membership

Just a reminder...you can now renew your membership securely online using a debit or credit card. Click on the button to the right or 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!**

