

June 2016 News Update

Upcoming Talks/Tours

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

Prairie Savanna Birding Tour



Photo by Mike McDowell

Saturday, June 25, 2016 (7:00 – 8:30 am)

Host: Mike McDowell, Photographer and Birding Expert

Join Mike McDowell on this exciting birding excursion and capture the behaviors of the bird population at 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.

Bees and Pollinators Talk



Photo by Chris Conohan

Tuesday, June 28, 2016 (6:30 - 8:00 pm)

Host: Jeremy Hemberger, UW-Madison Department of Entomology

UW-Madison graduate student Jeremy Hemberger spends his days examining the behavioral patterns of colonies of bumblebees. How does he do it? He tracks them with small radio tags. Cool, huh?!

Join Jeremy at the Pope Farm Conservancy on June 28th to learn about bumblebees, the plants that sustain them, and how their environment affects them. Together, you'll explore his active research project, and see how bumblebees are tracked using radio frequency identification. Additionally, Jeremy will discuss the other, closely related wild bee species that share the Conservancy with the humble bumblebee.

Prairie and Savanna Walk



Photo by Janie Starzewski

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.

Sunflower Days!!

July 23 – July 31, 2016

Sunflower Days at Pope Farm Conservancy is currently scheduled for July 23 – July 31, 2016. The weather has dictated that we plant early, which will result in Sunflower Days being a week earlier than usual. Of course, the sunflowers have a mind of their own and could change our plans, but that is our best timing estimate at this time. More information will follow, and we will begin posting updates on our website soon: www.popefarmconservancy.org/sunflowers



**** IMPORTANT NOTE ****

This year, the crop rotation required that the Sunflower field be located in the "Back Forty," and so the viewing area will be in the center of the Conservancy. That means ALL visitors will be required to hike approximately 1-mile (round-trip) to view and photograph the sunflowers. Please keep this in mind as you consider visiting Sunflower Days! We think it will be worth the effort.

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 approx. 35 shifts to fill during this 9-day event, and we need at least 2 volunteers per shift. Please, please, please, we need your help! The shifts are usually 2 hours in duration, and we will train you. It really is a lot of fun!

Sign Up Online

Go to <http://vols.pt/br7pM9> to sign up online on VolunteerSpot (no need to register an account or keep a password on VolunteerSpot).

You may also contact Anna Abbott directly at anna@popefarmconservancy.org to sign up, or if you have any questions/concerns.

Thank you, in advance, for your consideration!

We Need Gallon Jugs with Screw Caps On

Save Your Plastic Jugs!

We plan to freeze water in gallon jugs with screw-on caps for cooling the water we will be selling at Sunflower Days. We need about 100 gallon jugs to rotate into the cooling tanks. You can help by bringing your empty gallon jugs to 10333 Blackhawk Rd, Middleton, WI (Mel Pope's home). This is on the Blackhawk Rd side of the Conservancy in the woods. Please drop them off in front of the pole barn. We thank you in advance!!

Other Upcoming Events

FOPFC Education Committee Meeting

Thursday, June 30th at 6:30pm, 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:

- How do we identify the stories and story lines?
- What will the subjects be?
- How do we relate those stories to the public?
- How will we present these stories?
- What type of media will we use (video, audio, print, web, etc.)?

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 coming.

Public Meetings that could impact Pope Farm Conservancy

We welcome your support and attendance:

- **Town of Middleton Parks Commission Meeting**
Date/Time: Monday, June 13th, 6:30 pm.
Location: Town of Middleton Hall, 7555 W. Old Sauk Rd, Verona, WI
Topic: Allowing the Home Talent baseball team to use amplifying sound equipment (across the street from the Conservancy) to play music before and during their games, announcements, and their 7th inning raffle. Friends of Pope Farm Conservancy opposes this request because it would have an adverse impact on the tranquility at the Conservancy. Setting this precedent could lead to other clubs and organizations using amplifying equipment on a consistent basis throughout the week during the summer months.
- **Madison Water Utility Board Meeting**
Date/Time: Thursday, June 16th, 5:30 pm.
Location: Town of Middleton Hall, 7555 W. Old Sauk Rd, Verona, WI:
Topic: The location of the Blackhawk Water Tower (across from Pope Farm Conservancy). The Friends are in favor of position #2 or position #4 (see "Question of the Month" below) to keep a key photo corridor open to shoot over the Sunflowers and the Pope homestead. The objectionable locations have been eliminated so this meeting really is informational only.
- **Town of Middleton Board Meeting**
Date/Time: Monday, June 20th (tentative), 7:00 pm.
Location: Town of Middleton Hall 7555 W. Old Sauk Rd, Verona, WI
Topic: Allowing Home Talent baseball team to utilize sound enhancement at games. See above described on June 13th.

Past Events

Archaeology Tour with Dr. Amy Rosebrough - May 18th

About 40 people enjoyed a beautiful evening learning about the Archaeology at Pope Farm Conservancy. Pictured below: Dr. Rosebrough is getting ready to let fly with her ancient Atlatl (spear thrower) as the crowd watches in anticipation. It is rumored that she wounded an unoccupied port-a-pottie.

Photo by Janie Starzewski



Spring Members Picnic - May 22

A great time was had by all at the FOPFC Members Picnic. Great conversation, on a beautiful sunny day! The main attraction was the Surly Surveyor (reenactor Rob Nurre), pictured below. First, he tried to kick us off the top of the hill as “squatters”, and then went into a very entertaining story about the history of the land. The presentation was through the eyes of John Mullett, Deputy Surveyor for the U.S. General Land Office, 1833. His highly acclaimed presentation was entertaining to say the least.

Photo by David Peterson



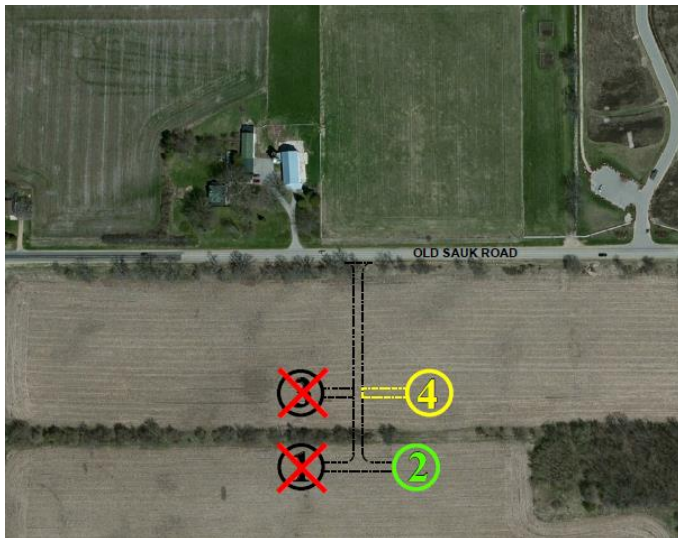
Question of the Month

What is the status of Water Tower location across the road from PFC?

The Water Tower is going to be built across from the Conservancy on Old Sauk Rd. in the spring of 2017. It has been planned for many years, and now the question has arisen as to the exact placement of the tower. The Friends have become involved in the process because we are trying to preserve the viewing and photo shed from the top of the hill across the valley that includes the homestead. The photo below hangs in the main lobby of the UW Hospital on the UW campus. It shows the view we are trying to protect.



We attended a number of meetings and hearings with the Madison Water Utility board, and have gained support from the Town of Middleton. The choices that remain are shown on the map below. You can see that the sites that would interfere with this viewing shed have been eliminated. The water tower will be 170' high (17 stories), and it will certainly have an impact on the landscape, however it appears we will be able to continue photographing this incredibly popular view over the Sunflowers Fields in the future.

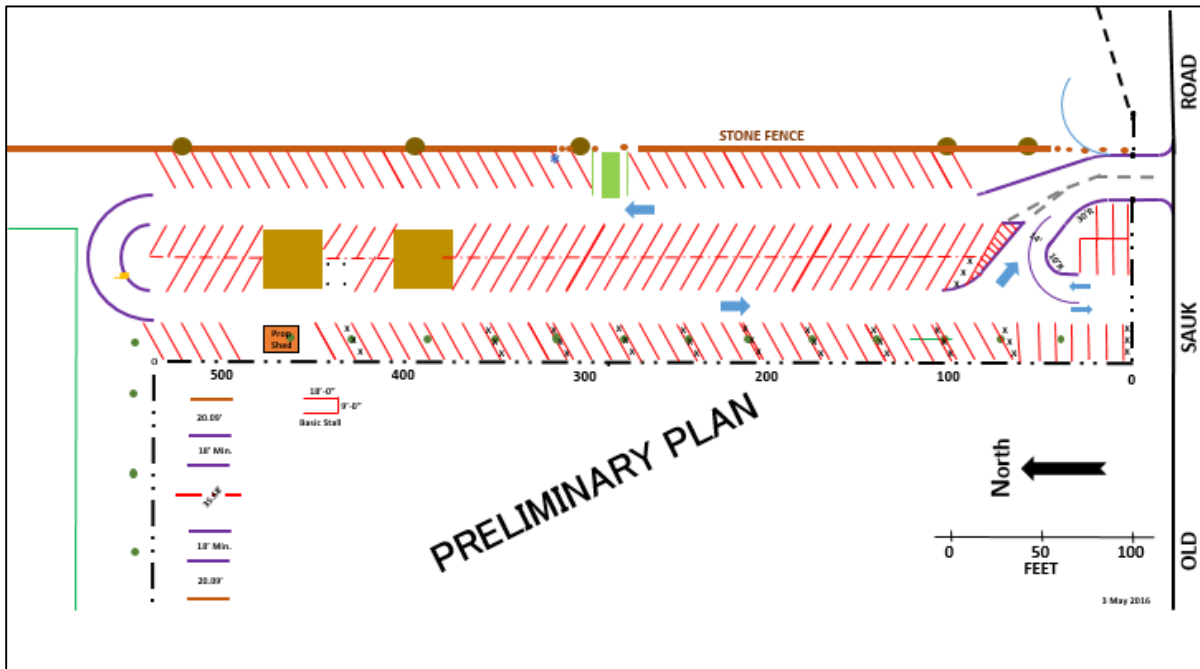


If you have a question for us, please send it to info@popefarmconservancy.org and we will try to answer it.

Friend of the Month

Thank you, Jim Bolitho!

Jim Bolitho's commitment to the Friends of Pope Farm Conservancy is remarkable. Jim has participated in helping park cars for Sunflower Days over the last several years. He has always helped to advocate for Pope Farm Conservancy, and is there when we need him the most. Jim is on the Sunflower Logistics team, and after watching the inefficient way we have parked cars in the overflow parking areas in the past, he took action. Jim is a retired engineer, and has spent countless hours laying out the overflow parking areas for Old Sauk Rd. and Blackhawk Rd. We will use marking paint to put temporary parking stalls in place.



Although the overflow parking plan is not complete, you can see the incredible volunteer work that Jim has done for the Friends of Pope Farm Conservancy. Jim, we cannot thank you enough.



And a happy field of Sunflowers to you, Jim!

Photo of the Month

"April Dawn" by Matt Haynor



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

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!**