



June 2017 Newsletter

Upcoming Events

Birds of the Conservancy Tour

Saturday, June 17, 2017 (7:00 – 8:30 am)

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 birds in the prairies and savanna at Pope Farm Conservancy. Bring your camera and binoculars for this 1.5 hour trek. Remember to 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.



Prairie Savanna Walking Tour

Saturday, July 8, 2017 (9:00 – 10:30 am)

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.

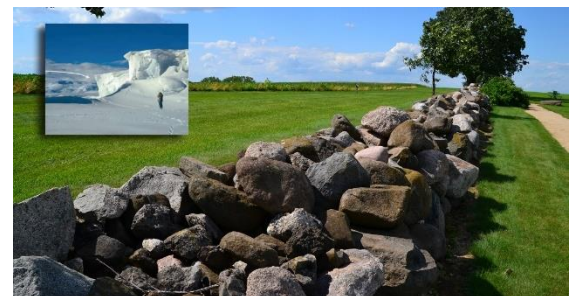


Geology Tour & The Glaciers at PFC (Rescheduled)

Thursday, July 20th, 6:00 – 7:30 pm

Host: Eric Carson, Geologist and Assistant Professor, WI Geological and Natural History Survey

Unfortunately, the Geology Tour on May 10th was rained out... for the third year in a row! So, this tour has been rescheduled for July 20th, from 6:00 – 7:30 pm. Geology is one of the crucial stories of the land at Pope Farm



Conservancy, and we thank Eric Carson for rescheduling. 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.

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

What's New at PFC?

NEW Parking Lane is Here!



The new parking lane is completed. The parking lane can be used for overflow traffic to the conservancy, and long term it will negate the need for an additional asphalt parking lot. It provides better access to interior parking areas during Sunflower Days when the soil is too wet to accommodate traffic. If these fields were not accessible during Sunflower Days, it is estimated that up to 1,100 pedestrians an hour would need to cross Old Sauk Rd. The FOPFC board determined that this scenario would be an unacceptable safety issue. Thanks to Jim Bolitho who spent countless hours surveying and drawing up plans for the parking lane. Thanks to Pinnacle Landscaping and Vierbicher Associates, for their work and in-kind contributions to make this possible.

New Self-Guided Tours Box

The new self-guided tour box is up at the Old Sauk Road entrance. These tours have become very popular. Last winter, we modified and improved them so that all can enjoy. Thanks to Bob Wink for making the box, and Cynthia Shaw for putting on the decals. The Education committee assembled the tour pamphlets. Thanks so much for all your efforts!

Photo by Cynthia Shaw



More of What's New at PFC...

Thank you, Dane County Environmental Council!

This month, we are pleased to announce that the FOPFC will receive a grant from the Dane County Environmental Council for \$1,590. These funds will go toward the prairie burning contract and for additional professional services. The FOPFC will supplement the grant with \$9,715 of matching and in-kind funds. A huge THANKS to Curt Caslavka and Nancy McGill for working on this successful grant application.

The Sunflowers Have Been Planted!



The sunflower field was planted on Saturday, May 27th! The farmer said the conditions were certainly "not ideal" because the ground was wet. No doubt many of the farmers in this area feel the same way. Let's keep our fingers crossed for a good crop this season. We predict that the sunflowers will bloom in early August. Be sure to check our website and Facebook page for the latest sunflower news!

Photo by Janie Starzewski

Upcoming FOPFC Meetings

We welcome everyone to attend the following meetings to observe, offer your viewpoint, or to join these committees if you are interested.

Events Team Meeting

When: June 6th, 2017, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Where: Town of Middleton hall, 7555 W. Old Sauk Rd, Verona, WI (across from the conservancy)

The Events Team will be focusing on Sunflower Days and how to make this event a success. You are needed! This is a great opportunity to offer your thoughts, and to see how the team works. Consider joining this great group of people who have fun giving back to the community.

Sunflower Logistics Team Meeting

When: June 6th, 2017, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Where: Town of Middleton hall, 7555 W. Old Sauk Rd, Verona, WI (across from the conservancy)

We will review the logistics of Sunflower Days. This team will look at parking, signage, and the logistics associated with this incredible event. We have a great time getting ready!

Education Team Meeting

When: June 27th, 2017, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Where: Town of Middleton hall, 7555 W. Old Sauk Rd, Verona, WI (across from the conservancy)

We will begin working on the history of farming on the land where the conservancy is today, and researching the stories necessary to use for the interactive tour. We will be looking at the history of the crops, ownership, buildings, non-tillable land, and the stone fence. These are great meetings and always very educational! We hope you'll stop by.

Past Events

Archaeology Tour with Dr. Amy Rosebrough - May 18th

Dr. Amy Rosebrough led a wonderful tour on the Archaeology of Pope Farm Conservancy on May 18th. Sixty-five walkers joined us to learn about the evidence that was left at Pope Farm Conservancy thousands of years ago. A beautiful May evening, a fascinating topic, and a thoroughly knowledgeable speaker at Pope Farm Conservancy... it doesn't get much better!



Photo by Barbara Esser

Question of the Month

Question: I noticed the Native American Garden fencing was replaced. Are there plans to replace the fence on the Theme garden as well?



Answer: Yes. The split rail fence around the Native American garden was replaced, and the garden was moved slightly to the east. This was done by the Town of Middleton. The plan is to seek approval to replace the fencing around the theme garden in 2018 as well. Both gardens need to be moved slightly to the east to create space for pedestrian traffic and additional parking for Sunflower Days. The fencing itself is over 10 years old and the posts were/are rotting off. The Native American Garden is planted by the 4th grade students from the Middleton Cross Plains Area School District. In the past, the gardens have been tended by volunteers from the State Historical Society. This summer they will be bolstered by volunteers from the FOPFC.

Friend of the Month

Thank you, Martha Zydowsky!

Martha Zydowsky has volunteered for the Friends of Pope Farm Conservancy in many ways over the years. Martha is a mainstay on the events team and has hosted friend's socials, the FOPFC membership picnics, and has been there to help where help was needed. Martha has also helped with Sunflower Days in a variety of support positions, as well as helping on Heritage Day. If that were not enough, Martha has also hosted tours at PFC on behalf of the Friends.

The Friends of Pope Farm Conservancy would like to thank Martha Zydowsky because she has truly made a difference at Pope Farm Conservancy!

And a happy field of sunflowers to you, Martha!

Volunteers Needed

Please consider giving back a few hours a month to make Pope Farm Conservancy the best it can be. Most of the work can be done from your home, and we will train you. The FOPFC is currently seeking:

Administrative Support

Sunflower Days Volunteers (July 29-Aug 6)

- Donation Stations (FOPFC Members Only)

- Info Booth (FOPFC Members Only)

- Parking Volunteers (Open to the Public)

Volunteer Coordinators

If you are interested in helping out in any way, please contact us at info@popefarmconservancy.org.

Other Volunteer Opportunities: We also welcome high school & college students looking to do research projects; master gardeners and nature enthusiasts to assist in the prairies; history buffs to help develop new interactive & self-guided tours; photographers & graphic artists to assist with promotional materials; parking assistants to help at Sunflower Days... and much, much more!

For a full list of volunteer opportunities and position descriptions, go to the volunteer page on our website: <https://www.popefarmconservancy.org/volunteer/>

Photos of the Month

Rainbow over the Heritage Gardens - By Amy Rosebough

"It was an unexpected sight! A little spot shower formed right above the Conservancy. Started pouring with no warning. I ran into the garden shed along with a family that was walking nearby and we waited there for the couple of minutes it took for the rain to move east. The sun came out immediately, and there was the rainbow for everyone to enjoy."



What's Blooming in Prairies - by Janie Starzewski

The wild lupine and red columbine are putting on quite a show in the Oak Savanna prairie right now. You can see the golden alexanders, wild geranium, and spiderwort beginning to bloom, as well.



Photo Credit: We'd like to give credit to Barbara Esser for her picture of the prairie burn from April's Newsletter. Thank you, Barbara!

Renew Your Membership

Just a reminder...you can now renew your membership securely online using a debit or credit card. 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 Online

Are you on Facebook or Instagram? It's a great way to share your pictures and stories with others who "like" Pope Farm Conservancy.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/FriendsOfPopeFarmConservancy>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/friendsofpopefarmconservancy>

**Thank you for joining the Friends of Pope Farm Conservancy!
Our Journey Begins and You are part of it!**

