



## March 2014 News Update for Friends of Pope Farm Conservancy

### UW Erosion Study at Pope Farm Conservancy



After a not so terribly long winter, we are anxious to begin collecting our soil erosion data from the over-wintering UW research plots at the Pope Farm Conservancy. The data collection is part of a winter erosion study being performed by Ed Boswell and Dr. Nick Balster from the UW-Madison Soil Science Department. This study will help our understanding of winter soil dynamics with changing snow cover and its effects on soil erosion and conservation. Part of the project will include collecting rainfall runoff from our plots using metal runoff collectors as pictured above. The runoff collectors will be installed within the plots and remain in place until we have had one or two significant rainfall events. Storm runoff will be collected and analyzed for the amount of sediment detached and eroded during the rain storms and will help us answer some questions regarding over winter snow fall changes and effects on soil structure. Once this data is collected we anticipate removing all of the research equipment and returning the sites to their normal condition. We appreciate all of the positive comments that we have received regarding the research and everyone's consideration in not disturbing the plots.

## 2015 (Tentative) Calendar of Events

The FOPFC Events Committee has been **very** busy planning our 2015 calendar of events, and it's going to be another fun and exciting year! While some of the dates and times have yet to be confirmed, here is a preview of our upcoming events (below). Official dates and times will be announced in our **April** Newsletter. You can also check out our website for the latest event information: <https://www.popefarmconservancy.org/events/2015-events/>

### April

- Full Moon Social

### May

- Archaeology Tour with Amy Rosebrough
- Full Moon Social

### June

- Birds and Savannah Tour with Mike McDowell
- Membership Picnic

### July

- 4th of July Social
- Native American Gardens Tour with Amy Rosebrough
- Prairie and Savannah Tour with Mike Healy

### August

- Sunflower Days
- Annual Tour with Mel Pope
- Bees and Pollinators Tour with Susan Carpenter

### September

- Heritage Day
- Bird Migration Tour with Mike McDowell

### October

- German Immigration with Antje Petty
- FOPFC Fall Picnic
- Full Moon Social

## Pope Homestead Committee Update

### Volunteers Needed

The Pope Homestead committee has been meeting, and we are going to be asking volunteers to help us research various concepts as to how the 15 acre homestead site might be used in the future. Those who signed up at our January meeting will be contacted soon. We need people to go online and search out different concepts that currently exist. If you are interested in helping research some of these ideas, please email us at: [homestead@popefarmconservancy.org](mailto:homestead@popefarmconservancy.org). We could use your help!

## Question of the Month

### When will the prairies be burned?



Prairie Burn in the Pope Farm Conservancy Oak Savannah (2014) - Photo by Dennis Schenborn

The prairies will be burned as soon as the ground cover dries enough to do so. In all probability, it will happen this week or next, barring a late snow storm. We burn the prairies for two reasons. First, prairie plants thrive better after burning (burning promotes new growth). The second reason we burn is to help control weeds. Burning tends to set back some unwanted woody tree and shrub species, and burning is less expensive than if the weeding is done by hand. If you are driving by and see smoke coming from the conservancy stop on by.....it is quite a sight. Because wind and weather conditions make this a last minute decision, we will be posting information about the burns on our Facebook page as that decision is made.

If you have a question for us, please send it to [info@popefarmconservancy.org](mailto:info@popefarmconservancy.org) and we will try to answer it.

## Friend of the Month

### Nancy McGill

Thank you, Nancy! Your efforts have been impressive. Nancy has spent a great deal of time and effort working on the Pope Homestead project. She has planned meetings, contacted volunteers, helped devise strategies, and has been involved in every aspect of this effort. She also has helped by supervising seed collection sessions as part our prairie restoration effort, and helped as a goodwill ambassador during Sunflower days. Her commitment to the Friends is remarkable. Thanks to you, Nancy, for really making a difference!



And a happy field of Sunflowers to you, Nancy!

## Photo of the Month

### Pope Homestead at Sunset by Kim Upton



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](mailto: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!**

