



## FOPFC News Update

**March 2016**

### Sunflower Days Update

Tentative Dates: July 30 - August 7, 2016



Sunflower Days have typically occurred during the first nine days of August, but of course, it is dependent on when the sunflowers actually decide to bloom. This is an unusual year because there is only one weekend during the first 9 days of August. As a result, we could potentially have a parking problem at the Conservancy. In the past, the sunflower field is planted on June 1st. However, this year we will plant them a couple days early so that we have a chance to host Sunflower days starting the last weekend in July and going thru August 7th. Hopefully that will give us TWO weekends during Sunflower days instead of one, and will help smooth out traffic flow and parking issues. We would like to say “mark your calendars,” but do so with a bit of caution because nature will really determine when the sunflowers actually bloom.

Please visit the Friends of Pope Farm Conservancy website in mid- to late July for updated event information. <https://www.popefarmconservancy.org>

## Education Committee Meeting

**March 24th, 6:30 PM, Town of Middleton Hall**

You are invited to attend the Education Committee meeting of the FOPFC. 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.

**Self-Guided Tours:** We are working on several self-guided tours for the public as well as a platform for training FOPFC volunteers. We would like you to use these brochures and provide us with feedback when they become available. The topics that are complete are:

**Seeking volunteers:** We are seeking volunteers who would like to:

- Help develop and write up additional tours
  - Learn about PFC and lead community groups
  - Assist with technology and documenting our local stories,
  - And more... you can help as little or as much as you desire.
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## Events Committee Meeting

**April 7<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 PM, Town of Middleton Hall**

You are invited to attend the FOPFC Events Committee. You can observe or participate as we discuss and plan Sunflower Days and the adult tours for the summer. The Events Committee would like your input as we plan the events for this summer. We really do have a fun time!

**Seeking volunteers Sunflower Days:** We are seeking volunteers who could help from time to time at Sunflower Days, and we will train you. This volunteer effort is very enjoyable, important, and exciting.

- Assist at the retail table
- Assist at the information both, and answer questions from the public, we will help you with this.
- Help supervise the parking, we could use you even if it is for a couple hours
- Help direct people to the Sunflower field
- Help with set up and tear down the signage

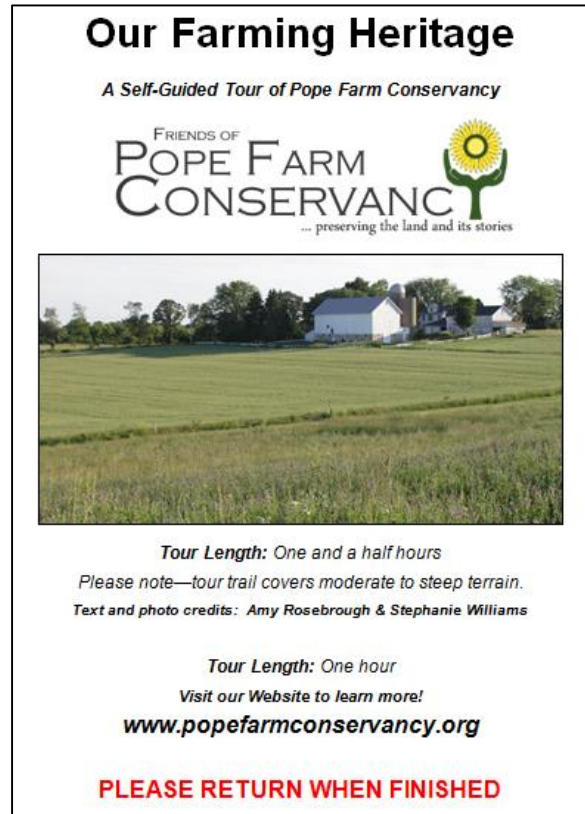
## Self-Guided Tours at PFC

### Coming This Summer!

The Education Committee is working on the development of self-guided tours for the general public at Pope Farm Conservancy. We plan to have five self-guided tour topics available to the public sometime this summer on a “use and return” basis. The topics include:

- Our Farming Heritage
- The Erosion Trail
- Native American Life
- Geology of Pope Farm
- Native Prairies.

We are always striving to help people learn about the land and its stories. It is a great way to tour the Conservancy and learn about different topics. The kiosk has been approved by the Town Parks Commission and the Town Board will review it next week. If all goes well, look for the self-guided tour kiosk by the upper parking lot early this summer. Here is a sample of the self-guided tour booklet cover (below).



## Question of the Month

Are there any new interpretive signs going up this season?



Pictured Above: Spillway under construction in 1938 (before the conservancy)

Photo Courtesy of Mary Dauck Nelson

*Question of the Month (continued)...*

Historian and author Robert J. Moore has written about the CCC for years. Recently he began studying the CCC camp in Mt. Horeb, Wisconsin, and that led him to the spillway at Pope Farm Conservancy. He was able to locate these rare photos of the CCC building the spillway that is now in Pope Farm Conservancy. Mertin Dauck was a member of that CCC crew, and shot photographs of the construction. Mertin was from Cross Plains, WI, and was one of the few local boys in the Mt. Horeb CCC camp. The new interpretive sign will tell the story of the CCC boys from Mt. Horeb and the actual construction of the spillway. Of course, a number of Mertin Dauck's photos will be displayed for all to see. Currently the graphics of the sign are being prepared, and you should see it this summer.

**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**

### **Thank you Diane Smidt!**

Diane Smidt is everywhere at FOPFC. Currently, Diane is on both the Events committee and the Education committee. She acts as a liaison from one committee to the other and plays a valuable role in both. She has helped out during Sunflower Days as a Goodwill Ambassador, helping to park cars, answering questions about the Conservancy, and working at the retail table. She has acted as a hostess at a volunteer social which is much appreciated. If that were not enough, Diane has also volunteered to help in the FOPFC seed collection efforts. Diane Smidt is working hard for the Friends of Pope Farm Conservancy, and has truly made a difference in our overall efforts.



**And a happy field of sunflowers to you, Diane!**

## Winter Hours and Activities

The ski trials and winter activities have ended for the year. We hoped you enjoyed them this past winter! We'd love to hear about your experiences at PFC during the winter months. We welcome you to share a memorable experience or photo on our [Facebook page](#) or send us an email at [info@popefarmconservancy.org](mailto:info@popefarmconservancy.org).

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## Renew Your Membership Online

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



## Photo of the Month

**The spring equinox arrives this weekend! Happy 1st Day of Spring!**



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## 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!**

