



May 2014 News Update for Friends of Pope Farm Conservancy

Friends Help Repair North Prairie

Friends seed damaged area in the North Prairie



A few years ago, Canada goldenrod, an unwanted native prairie species took over the western edge of the North Prairie. To control the extensive patches of this aggressive species, it was sprayed with herbicide. This removed most of the unwanted goldenrod, but also took out some of the desired prairie plants. Earlier this month, the “Friends” hand broadcast a prairie seed mix into this area with the hope to repair this damaged part of the prairie. Over time, this area should return to a beautiful portion of the North Prairie and have a greater diversity of species.

Mark your Calendars!

We have TWO upcoming events on Saturday, June 21st

- **Bird & Savanna Tour (7:00 - 8:30 a.m.)**

Join Mike McDowell for an amazing bird and savanna tour of Pope Farm Conservancy. The hike will take approximately 2 hours, so wear comfortable shoes for hiking and bring binoculars if you have them. If you need binoculars for the tour, please contact Mike McDowell at [800-289-1132](tel:800-289-1132) or mmcdowell@eagleoptics.com. All ages are welcome! The tour is FREE and NO registration is required. We will meet at the Old Sauk Road Parking Lot at 7AM.



Bird Photo by Mike McDowell

- **Members Picnic (1:00-3:00 p.m.)**

The theme at the Spring Members Picnic will be “Seeds – In Dreams and In Nature.” Bring your family and friends, and join us for a picnic in your favorite conservancy. Please bring a dish to pass; we will provide the beverages. The picnic will be followed by a presentation from Mel Pope about the history about Pope Farm Conservancy, and Bill Hinrichs (who farms the land) will be available to talk about the crops (like the sunflowers) and answer any questions. He may even have a piece of farm equipment for you to see!



- **More information about upcoming events can found on our website:**

<https://www.popefarmconservancy.org/events/>

News at Pope Farm Conservancy

What's new since last month...

- Bike Rack at Blackhawk entrance added
- Water turned on
- Cracks sealed in parking lots and driveway
- New regulatory signage has been put up.
- Burnt sign has been replaced
- Planter areas in the front of the Conservancy have been weeded and mulched
- Dead plants in planter areas have been replaced
- 25 Burr Oak trees to screen farm have been planted
- 50 Seedlings on the South Moraine have been planted
- Replacement trees including 10 Sugar Maple, 1 River Birch, and 1 Prairie Crab tree have been planted
- Trails have been repaired with compost and seed and have been fenced off where necessary

- Trimmed the shrubs in the planting area and by the water fountain
- Town has watered the plantings
- All prairies have been burned
- Garlic Mustard has been sprayed in the Ravine
- Rocks that have fallen from the stone fence have been put back on the fence.
- Awaiting outcome of the boundary resolution on the North West side of the conservancy
- The theme garden has been tilled and the new sign is up.

Over 40 Goodwill Ambassadors

Over 40 FOPFC members have agreed to be on the call list to be Goodwill Ambassadors during our summer events and Sunflower Days. They will help disseminate information about PFC and the sunflowers, as well as help sell t-shirts. Training will take place in July. Please e-mail info@popefarmconservancy.org if you would like to become a Goodwill Ambassador.

Thanks for Volunteering

A BIG Thanks to our volunteers this month! We simply couldn't do it without YOU!

- Erin Huemer - Events Committee
- Nancy McGill - Prairie Seed Collecting Supervisor and Events Consultant

Register Now for Prairie Seed Collection

Registration is **NOW OPEN** for our prairie seed collection sessions. Your help is needed to increase the diversity of prairie plant species at Pope Farm Conservancy and improve the overall quality of our prairies. We will be collecting seed throughout the summer and fall months at Pope Farm Conservancy and a few offsite locations (Pleasant Valley, Swamplovers, or Noll Valley). To register, please visit our website at: <https://www.popefarmconservancy.org/events/2014-prairie-seed-collection/> and click the green 'Register Now' button.

Crops and Prairie: A Natural Synergy

Crops and Prairie create something special for wildlife

Photo Courtesy of Jack Sherman

We know that building wildlife habitat obviously has a positive impact on the presence of wild life, and we also know that small grain crops provide an abundance of food for them as well. The combination of crops and prairies provide a synergy that is greater the sum of its parts. Pope Farm Conservancy has 6 different prairie restoration projects including a native shrub display. These provide excellent habitat for wildlife, and bird frequency and diversity have increased year after year since we began this project 9 years ago. In addition to



these prairies, Winter wheat, oats, soybeans, corn, and sunflowers are grown. These small grain crops offer a tremendous food source for the wildlife during the year. **In 2013 alone, we estimate that over 4,000 pounds of sunflower seeds were consumed by the birds, and attracted hundreds of thousands of bees.** This would be a great research project for one of our members. If you are interested, we would love to hear from you! Email us at info@popefarmconservancy.org.

Question of the Month

Why does the upper parking lot close before Sunset?

This is very good question that has been asked often. The gates to the upper parking lot are closed over night (as is the Conservancy). Past experience has shown that when the general public had access to the Conservancy at night, a host of problems occurred. We close the gate to the upper parking lot 20 minutes before sunset while there is enough light to find people who have parked in the upper parking lot. If we closed the gate at sunset we would have to travel up to 8 miles of trails in darkness to find the owners of the vehicles. Signage at the entrance clearly states when the gate will be closing. Most people who frequent the Conservancy know that the gate closing will occur, and park in the lower parking lots if they are going to enjoy the sunset or stay until dark. Exceptions to this occur during the 4th of July and Sunflower Days when the conservancy is open for additional hours. This has been a disappointment to some who parked in the upper parking lot, and had to move their car. Unfortunately, we have not found a better alternative. Please let us know if you have any thoughts on this.

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

Friend of the Month

Dr. Amy Rosebrough

Thank you, Amy! You have been instrumental in Pope Farm Conservancy from the beginning. Amy works at the Wisconsin Historical Society, and has been involved in putting in the Native American and the theme gardens at Pope Farm Conservancy. She has taught thousands of grade school students about the Native Americans, and what they were doing on this land. Amy volunteers her time to take care of those gardens, she has led adult tours for the public about the Archeology at Pope Farm Conservancy (she even shows how the Atlatl was used by the Native Americans), and has helped the Friends gather and spread seed last summer and fall. Amy is on the FOPFC education committee to help improve the overall educational experience for the public.

Amy is a person with many talents and drew an artist rendering of what the upper hillside would have looked like 2,000 years ago. This rendering is displayed as an interpretive sign entitled "What a View" located at the top of the hill. Pope Farm Conservancy would not be what it is today without the work that Amy Rosebrough has done. View Amy's interpretive sign on our website:

<http://popefarmconservancy.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/What-A-View.pdf>



And a happy field of Sunflowers to you, Amy!

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!**