

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

### Up Next...Sunflower Days!

The sunflowers are expected to bloom in approximately 2-3 weeks.



*Photo by Dan Thoftne*

There is still time to volunteer as a Goodwill Ambassador to help with the FOPFC table during Sunflower days. Goodwill Ambassadors will help disseminate information about PFC and the sunflowers, as well as help sell t-shirts. A short training session (optional), will be offered on July 27th, 7:30 p.m. at the Town of Middleton Hall, 7440 W. Old Sauk Rd Hall. We are planning to make this will be an enjoyable experience! Join us then, or contact us at [info@popefarmconservancy.org](mailto:info@popefarmconservancy.org).

So far this year, the crop of sunflowers is looking fair, but not great. The cooler temperatures and the amount of rainfall have inhibited the sunflowers' growth and promoted the weeds. This will probably make the bloom inconsistent as compared to last year. Such is the nature of farming.

Be sure to check our website for the latest sunflower update!  
<https://www.popefarmconservancy.org/>

## Mark Your Calendars...

### Native American and Archaeological Tour

**Wednesday, July 23 (6:00-7:30pm) - Old Sauk Parking Lot**

Join Dr. Amy Rosebrough as she leads us on an unusual and interesting tour of the conservancy. Dr. Rosebrough works in the Archaeology Department as part of the State Historical Society and is an expert on Native American culture as it existed in this area of the U.S. Highlights of this tour include a two Native American demonstration gardens, Native American farming techniques and how they influenced modern day agriculture, the impact of Native agriculture on global diets, and more! Hope to see you there!



### Annual Pope Farm Conservancy Tour

**Wednesday, August 13 (6:00-7:30pm) - Old Sauk Parking Lot**

Bring your friends & family and join tour guide, Mel Pope, on this free walking tour of Pope Farm Conservancy. The tour will explore the history and features of the conservancy, including six different prairie restoration projects and a field of sunflowers. Come and enjoy a 360 degree panoramic view of Lake Mendota, the Capitol, Black Earth Creek valley and the terminal moraine. Hope to see you there!



## Prairie Seed Collection is Underway!

Registration is now open for summer and fall prairie seed collection sessions. We need your help to increase the diversity of prairie plant species at Pope Farm Conservancy and improve the overall quality of our prairies. For a list of session dates/times and to sign up, please go to <https://www.popefarmconservancy.org/events/2014-prairie-seed-collection/>.

## Middleton HS Students Perform Vegetative Analysis at PFC

Four Middleton High school students are engaged in an independent study project this summer in one of the prairies at Pope Farm Conservancy. The students are Rebecca Prosch, Farhat Bhuiyan, Avery Sampson, and Riley Gains and they are entering their senior year this fall at Middleton. The focus of their project is performing a vegetative analysis of the Wheatfield Prairie using random sampling techniques. This means the students will learn to identify about 50 or so different species of prairie plants and weeds. Once they've accomplished this, they will use that information to determine the frequency of each of these species growing throughout the prairie. This is a standard procedure restoration ecologists use to gather information about how a particular restoration is doing. (Continued on next page)

Also involved in this project as mentors are Deb Weitzel (retired Middleton Biology teacher), and Curt Caslavka (active FOPFC board member). In the future we would like to increase the species diversity of this prairie whose seedlings during the first growing season were damaged by drought before becoming established. We intend to reintroduce species not currently present and/or increase selected species now present at low frequencies. The data



*Photo by Dennis Schenborn*

obtained by our students will give us the baseline information we need to move ahead with this particular restoration. Education is an important part of what we do at Pope Farm Conservancy, we are excited to have these students take on this project and we hope other students will want to participate in the future.

## **A Fascinating Birding and Savanna Tour**



*Photo by Mike Healy*

Over 40 people attended the Birding and Savanna Tour on June 21st. The tour was led by Mike McDowell, who identified over 37 species of birds, including a Pileated Woodpecker. Thanks to Mike and all who attended.

## Members Picnic...In Dreams and In Nature

### ...And In Rain!

We want to thank everybody who contributed and attended the FOPFC Members Picnic on Saturday, June 21st. Despite the inclement weather, spirits were high and the potluck lunch was great! As it rained, the picnic and the talks continued for those hardy members who stayed the course. Mel Pope gave a talk on how and why the conservancy came to be, and Bill Hinrichs explained to us how he plants the crops at PFC.



*Photo by Dennis Schenborn*

### Thanks for volunteering as Goodwill Ambassadors at the picnic!

- Dan and Ruth Killelea
- Doug and Kathy Gregory
- Amy Rosebrough
- Dennis Schenborn

## Prairie and Savanna Walk

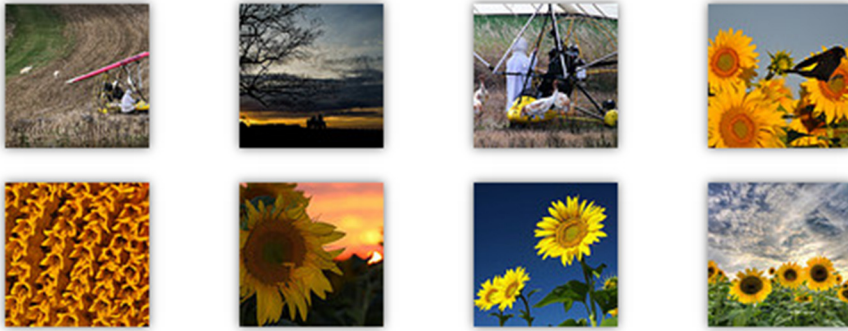
### A tour of all six prairies

Forty people enjoyed a tour of all six prairies on July 9th. Mike Healy, Owner of Adaptive Restoration LLC, led the tour and talked about the Prairie Restoration projects at Pope Farm Conservancy. Thanks to Erin Janssen and Peggy Ahlgren for the Goodwill efforts.



## Join our NEW Flickr Group

And share your photos of Pope Farm Conservancy!



We invite you to join our new photo-sharing community on Flickr. This is a great way for visitors to share all their favorite photos of Pope Farm Conservancy. Our group name is "Pope Farm Conservancy Photos", and our group page can be found here: <https://www.flickr.com/groups/fopfc-photos/>. Your pictures will also appear in the photo gallery on our website.

If you need help joining our group and/or uploading your photos, please visit <https://www.popefarmconservancy.org/photos/> for step-by-step instructions, or send an email to [info@popefarmconservancy.org](mailto:info@popefarmconservancy.org).

## New T-shirts for Sale

Show off your love for a favorite place in a new PFC t-shirt!



The Friends are excited to be selling t-shirts during all of our major events this year, including Sunflowers Days, the Annual Tour, and Heritage Days. The price is \$16 for small, medium, large, and x-large. The price for XXL and XXXL is \$19. We accept cash or check. All proceeds will help support FOPFC and our mission to preserve the land and its stories!

## Question of the Month

### Were you able to see the Rhythm and Booms Fireworks from PFC this year?

As many of you know, hundreds of people have gathered at the top to the picnic area at Pope Farm Conservancy over the years to view the fireworks all over Madison and the surrounding areas. During the fireworks, the Conservancy remains open after dark until after the show is over. This year, we did not promote fireworks viewing because Rhythm and Booms was being moved to Lake Monona...and we simply did not know how that would impact the view from PFC. We are happy to announce that you CAN see Rhythm and Booms! So, next year we will be promoting PFC as a place to see it all during the fireworks season.

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

## Friend of the Month

### Michelle Bartman

Michelle has known about Pope Farm all her life, as she is part of the Pope Family (Mel Pope's daughter). When the Friends were started, Michelle volunteered to manage input into the data base for FOPFC. A year ago, the Friends had about 30 memberships, and today we have 185 memberships comprising over 300 members. Michelle has entered all of the membership information into our database which has taken substantial amount of effort. In addition, Michelle has devised programs to speed up and supplement the database used by the Friends. Michelle teaches high school, and has two children, Teagan 2 years, and Molly 3 1/2 months. We appreciate a very busy lady doing very good things for the Friends of Pope Farm Conservancy!

**Thank you, Michelle!**



And a happy field of Sunflowers to you, Michelle!

## Connect with Friends of Pope Farm Conservancy on Facebook



It has been one year since the birth of the Friends of the Pope Farm Conservancy Facebook page. As of this writing, there are 580 people following the status updates, photos and events of the FOPFC.

The most popular updates, based on how many people click on the status update, include information about the prairie planting and tours. One of the most popular posts, based on the number of clicks on the link, was the Prairie fire in early April 2014. The Facebook page has been a great way to communicate information such as the road paving or the Civilian Conservation Corp Spillway Erosion Project.

Some of the most exciting functions of the FOPFC Facebook page are the great reviews and comments from visitors around the globe! The average rating of the PFC is 4.8 out of 5 stars. Meanwhile Paul C. Dass wrote “I came all the way from India to Madison, and happen to visit your beautiful farm [sic]. This is the most beautiful place that I have ever seen...”

Overall, the Facebook page is becoming a fast growing way to communicate and follow the FOPFC, so, you should too! <https://www.facebook.com/FriendsOfPopeFarmConservancy>

**Thank you for joining the  
Friends of Pope Farm Conservancy!**

**Our Journey Begins and You are part of it!**

