



November 2015 News Update

FOPFC Endorses NHLT Preservation Effort

Preservation of Pope Barn

By Nancy McGill, Natural Heritage Land Trust (NHLT) Volunteer

Many visitors to Pope Farm Conservancy probably think that the lovely old barn and the farm fields close to it are already part of the Conservancy. In reality, those 15 acres are privately owned; although, the landowner would like to see the property preserved in a way that enhances the Conservancy.



For over a year, the Pope Homestead Planning Committee (a group of

Friends members) has been researching how to bring about that preservation. We're pleased to announce that the Friends' Board has recently endorsed efforts by the Natural Heritage Land Trust (NHLT) to seek to acquire the barn and much of the surrounding acreage. In order to determine if such a purchase is feasible, the Land Trust will secure an appraisal of the property's value, as well as a structural evaluation of the barn's condition. When those facts have been gathered, decisions can be made on next steps. If a decision is made to go forward with a purchase, we will turn to the community to raise the needed funds.

Natural Heritage Land Trust is a local, nonprofit land trust for the greater Dane County region. Its mission is land conservation. Over the past 32 years, the Land Trust has permanently protected almost 10,000 acres. Its expertise and record of success will enhance the Pope Barn preservation project.

The Pope Homestead Planning Committee is continuing its research for how the 15 acres could be used to complement the Conservancy's educational mission. For more information please go to: <https://www.popefarmconservancy.org/about-us/pope-farm-homestead-planning-committee/>

Sunflower Harvest

It was a beautiful day for combining sunflowers!



On November 10th, Bill Hinrichs of Hinrichs Farms harvested the sunflowers seeds at Pope Farm Conservancy. The seeds will be sold to a local mill where they are then cleaned, processed and packaged for bird seed.



Pictured above: Bill Hinrichs (left) and Doug Gregory (right). Doug and Kathy Gregory won the raffle at the 2014 Members Picnic, which included a ride in the combine with Bill.

Past Events

Fall Seed Collection, Spending Time in the Prairies

Photo by Barbara Esser

On October 30th, volunteers collected Hoary Vervain, Rattle Snake Master, Wild Quinine, Mountain Mint, Great Blue Lobelia, and Bush Clover. These seeds were harvested from the South Prairie by the Old Sauk Rd. parking lot, and will be processed and replanted in the Paddock Oak Savannah. Pictured above, the volunteers also pick Queens Ann Lace from the Oak Savannah. Volunteers donated approximately 240 hours of their time this year, and collected about 20 different species of prairie plants. Everyone had a great time, and we would like to thank all of you for spending your time in these beautiful prairies with us.



Enjoying the Story of German Immigration to the area



Photo by Mel Pope

On October 15th, Antje Petty, of the Max Kade institute, shared the stories of German Immigration to the area. It was a fascinating talk with many questions. We learned why the immigrants left Germany and came to America, their life and their challenges. Antje shared the story of the Goth family that lived in the area, and of Joachim Goth who lived at the cabin site that was discovered at Pope Farm Conservancy.

Volunteer Full Moon Social

Unfortunately, the last Volunteer Social was cancelled due to inclement weather. But, we want

to thank ALL of our volunteers for a very successful year! We are so very grateful for all you do for the Friends and the Conservancy. We simply could not do it without YOU!

Monitoring the Prairie

In October, the Town Board gave the FOPFC responsibility for managing three additional prairies. Our work in the Wheatfield Prairie began in earnest on November 2, 2015. Curt Caslavka, John Andrews, and Dennis Schenborn selected and laid out six 5 meter x 5 meter test plots to help us evaluate the impact of white sage in the Wheatfield.

Pictured right: Staking out one of 6 test plots in the Wheatfield Prairie.



We are monitoring the relative extent of sage and other species in and adjacent to the test plots. Some of the questions we hope to answer are:

1. Is sage expanding and crowding out other prairie species?
2. Which species compete well against sage and which do not?
3. How can we suppress sage and encourage other species?

This will be a multi-year project and we'll keep you apprised as we learn more.



Pictured above: FOPFC biologists identify species within a test plot and assess relative abundance.

Question of the Month

What's with these signs across the street from the Conservancy?

The City of Madison owns the 17 acre field on Old Sauk Road across the street from Pope Farm Conservancy, and across from the Pope Farm complex. This land was purchased in the year 2000 by the City of Madison, and will be the site of their water tower in the future.



In the late 1990's the City of Madison attempted to purchase the land on top of what today is Pope Farm Conservancy. This was the catalyst that led to the preservation of the land by the Pope family and the Town of Middleton, and shortly thereafter, the City of Madison acquired the land across Old Sauk Rd. for that purpose.

The project is known as The Blackhawk Water Tower, and this elevated reservoir will have the capacity to contain one million gallons of water. The location of the tower itself is planned to be across the street from the Pope Farm homestead. The estimated cost of the project is 3.6 million dollars, and construction is scheduled to begin next year and to be completed in 2017.

The City of Madison Water Utility team and several FOPFC board members have scheduled a meeting later this month to exchange information. Public information meetings will be announced by the City of Madison Water Utility before the end of the year.

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

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!



Friends of the Month

Anna and Wayne Abbott

Anna and Wayne Abbott hold the record of having the biggest impact on the Friends of Pope Farm Conservancy in the shortest period of time. Since last spring Anna has been a volunteer for the events committee and has been responsible for coordinating their volunteers. In addition, she has hosted volunteer socials, and worked tirelessly at Sunflower Days. Wayne volunteered numerous times with the, parking at Sunflower Days and is helping plan for that event next year. If that were not enough, both Anna and Wayne helped set up and tear down the membership picnic last spring, and both have participated in seed collections this fall. A remarkable couple, and a remarkable effort, both of you have made a difference at the FOPFC.



And a happy field of sunflowers to you, Anna and Wayne!

Photo of the Month

Photo By Bill Fenske



Please share your photos of Pope Farm Conservancy for our next "Photo of the Month." Upload your photos to <https://www.flickr.com/groups/fopfc-photos/> or email photos@popefarmconservancy.org.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Wishes for a wonderful Thanksgiving with friends and family!



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!**

