



October 2016 News Update

2016 is winding down, and what a year it has been! Thanks to all of you for making so many good things happen at Pope Farm Conservancy! We are still looking for volunteers to help collect prairie seed on Oct 8th and Oct 22nd from 9:30-11:30am. Seed from a number of wildflowers & grasses will be collected for later planting in the PFC prairies. We also invite you to attend the upcoming Education Committee and/or Homestead Committee meetings to observe or join in the discussion. Scroll down for more info...

What's New at PFC?

The New Garden Shed

The FOPFC and our friends at the Wisconsin Historical Society have a beautiful new shed. The old garden shed was too small and rotting away, and it has been infested with mice for the past several years. The new garden shed is an Eagle Scout project for Will Feller with help from troop 140. This shed has two separate rooms: The Historical Society will use one room for garden tools, hoses, for the gardens and props for MCPASD field trips. The FOPFC will use the other side of the shed for their equipment (motorized cart, shovels, clippers, buckets, etc.). This equipment is used on the prairies that FOPFC manages for the Town of Middleton. We are so very appreciative to Will Feller, and for the excellent work the scouts have done.



A special appreciation goes out to the following who have contributed to the garden shed at Pope Farm Conservancy:

- West Towne – Middleton Rotary Club
- Town of Middleton
- Lycon Inc.
- Dane Lumber
- K&M Concrete and Milo Breunig
- Vierbicher Associates
- The Volunteers of Troop 140
- Twin Valley Farms Inc.
- Friends of Pope Farm Conservancy

UW-Madison's New TV Commercial

A Special Shout Out: Thanks to Heidi Zoerb for suggesting that Pope Farm to be in the new UW commercial. Heidi is the granddaughter of Betty Pope who lives on the Homestead. The opening scene is Pope Farm shot over the stone fence. The filming took place in August after Sunflower Days. Great PR! Here is the link to “The Pulse of UW-Madison:”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nQeXwKmqR-g&app=desktop>

Upcoming Events

Prairie Seed Collection - Sign up today!



There's still time to help collect seed in the prairies at Pope Farm Conservancy!! Seed collection is easy to do, it's an enjoyable way to spend a couple hours in nature, AND it's an investment in the future. The seed that we collect will be planted in other parts of the prairie that need restoration.

Seed Collection Dates:

- Saturday, October 8th 9:30-11:30 AM (THIS SATURDAY)
- Saturday, October 22nd 9:30-11:30 AM

No experience is necessary! To sign up, please email Curt Caslavka at curt@popefarmconservancy.org and let him know which session(s) you will be attending. Be sure to include your name and a phone number, as well.

If the weather is questionable, Curt will contact you to let you know if the session is cancelled. If you have any questions or want to join in the fun, please email Curt at curt@popefarmconservancy.org.

Upcoming Meetings

You are encouraged to attend the following meetings to just observe, offer your viewpoints, or join these committees if you are interested.

Homestead Committee Meeting

When: Wednesday, October 19th, 2016 (7:00 – 9:00 pm)

Where: Town of Middleton hall, 7555 W. Old Sauk Rd, Verona, WI (across from the conservancy)

The Homestead Team is looking at the 15-acre parcel adjacent to the Conservancy that includes the barn, homestead, and outbuildings. This parcel is not part of the Conservancy and this team is trying to save the barn and the land surrounding it from development in the future. Boris Frank will be attending the meeting as our guest. He is an expert in fund raising, and will offer ideas to increase awareness to the public about the property. Please consider coming to the homestead team meeting and offering your ideas. We are in a learning phase and this will be an opportunity to listen and ask questions.

Education Committee Meeting

When: Tuesday October 25th, 2016 (6:30 – 8:30 pm)

Where: Town of Middleton hall, 7555 W. Old Sauk Rd, Verona, WI (across from the conservancy)

Discussion: At 6:00 pm, before our scheduled meeting, please take a couple minutes to stop by the White Church on the corner of Old Sauk Rd., and Pleasant View Rd. The Church will be opened for us to take a quick look inside, and then we will adjourn to the Town of Middleton Hall for our scheduled meeting at 6:30 pm. We will attempt to finalize the German Immigration story so that we can begin building the visuals necessary to use for the interactive tour. We will attempt to begin work on the conservation and preservation story of Pope Farm Conservancy. These are great meetings! If you are interested in history and helping educate the public, please stop by.

Events Committee Meeting

When: To be announced in the November News Update

Where: Town of Middleton hall, 7555 W. Old Sauk Rd, Verona, WI (across from the conservancy)

The 2016 events are coming to a close, and the team will be looking at FOPFC events for 2017. What tours will we offer, and what events will we pursue? This is a great opportunity to offer your thoughts, and to see how the team works.

Thanks to the Prairie Partner Interns



Photo by Barbara Esser

Thanks to the interns this year for their wonderful work in the prairies that are managed by the FOPFC for the Town. Interns Allison Ban-Herr, Kurt Bennett, Allison Earl, Adelyn Hanchette, and Gina Lehner, truly made a difference in the prairies at PFC in 2016, by logging about 250 hours of their time fighting invasives.

Volunteers Needed

Fundraising

The Friends are still looking for someone to work on fundraising for FOPFC. We believe that there are many opportunities that we are missing because we do not have anyone making contacts. You would work closely with the FOPFC board in this effort. If you are interested in talking about this, please contact mel@popefarmconservancy.org.

Administrative Support

As the Friends have grown so has the work load for the administration of the FOPFC. If you would like to help a couple of hours a week it is needed, and would be greatly appreciated. We need someone to help the board with membership and marketing communications, records, financial information, and the overall administration of the organization. If you are interested in talking about this, please contact mel@popefarmconservancy.org,

Past Events

Fall Members Picnic - Sept. 11



The weather was perfect for the Fall Members Picnic this year, and friends enjoyed a picnic on a beautiful afternoon. Mel Pope gave an update on the Friends of Pope Farm Conservancy, including a review of 2016 and a look ahead at the FOPFC goals for 2017. Mel also gave a talk entitled “Stories from a Stone Fence” in which he envisioned what the fence would have witnessed since it was built at this location in the 1840s. A good time was had by all!!

Erosion, Soils, and CCC Talk with Nick Balster - Sept. 13

Unfortunately, the Soils Tour was cancelled due to rainy weather. We hope to see you next year!

Migratory Birding Tour with Mike McDowell - Sept. 24

Mike McDowell lead another great tour to view migratory birds at Pope Farm Conservancy. His knowledge is remarkable, and we walked away with a renewed appreciation for the birds and habitat of Pope Farm Conservancy.



Photo by Robby Sonzogni

Question of the Month

Is the membership of the FOPFC growing?

Yes, the membership of the Friends of Pope Farm Conservancy is growing. Last year our membership grew about 15% to 300 memberships that comprise 530 members over the age of 18. What is remarkable is that the organization is only 4 years old. One of the numbers we are proud of is that the retention rate for our membership is 93%. This means that 93% of our members are renewing from one year to the next. The national average for retention rate for non-profit organizations is 72%. We hope this means that our membership is satisfied with the information they receive, and the projects that FOPFC is doing for the Conservancy. Membership is the key to all we do. Your membership and donations provide the funding for all FOPFC activities that help make Pope Farm Conservancy what it is.

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

Friend of the Month

Thank you, Lee Pray

Lee Pray has volunteered everywhere for the Friends of Pope Farm Conservancy! Lee is the secretary of the FOPFC and is on the board of directors. She helped with parking, and the information and donation tables during Sunflower Days. She has given her time generously. Lee is also the liaison to the homestead committee from the board. Recently Lee has volunteered to help the State Historical Society with the MCPASD field trips that take place at the conservancy! Whenever there is something that needs to be done, Lee is there. Lee Pray has truly made a difference to Pope Farm Conservancy!



And a happy field of Sunflowers to you, Lee!

Photos of the Month

Monarch Migration by Leah Leonhard



"Owl Wannabe" - Red-tailed Hawk by Jim Stewart



We invite you to share your beautiful photos (past or present) of Pope Farm Conservancy on our [Facebook](#) or [Flickr](#) pages.

Fall Membership Drive

Renew Your Membership Today!

Just a reminder...you can now renew your membership securely online using a debit or credit card. Click on the button to the right or go to <https://www.popefarmconservancy.org/membership/> to renew your membership today! 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 last date of your previous membership. We hope you enjoy being a part of our community.

Connect with FOPFC 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 supporting the
Friends of Pope Farm Conservancy!**

