



September 2015 News Update

Upcoming Events

Heritage Day - THIS Sunday

Sunday, September 20, 2015 (12:00 - 4:00 p.m.)

Heritage Day is a great event for the entire family - not to mention a truly educational experience! Take a hayride around the conservancy in a wagon pulled by a team of draft horses. Get stunning views of the beautiful Madison skyline and Isthmus. And listen to talks from our featured presenters who will be positioned at different sites around the conservancy. During the afternoon, you will...

1. Hear how the land was formed by glaciers
2. See native plants from the prairies that existed here hundreds of years ago.
3. Learn how the Native Americans gardened and made stone tools.
4. Visit the site of a late 1800s settler's cabin.
5. See first-hand how the CCC and SCS worked to control erosion in the 1930s Dust Bowl era.

PLUS, Horse-drawn wagon rides! For \$2 per person, take a hay ride along the Madison sky-line in a wagon pulled by hard-working draft horses. Use your imagination and think of the draft horses being used by the settlers to move glacial rocks from the fields in the late 1800s. A brat stand will be open from 12:00 - 2:00 p.m. This is a FREE, family-friendly event. No registration is required. We hope you'll join us for an educational and fun afternoon in the conservancy!



Volunteers Needed: Goodwill Ambassadors are needed for the event to be at the "Friends Table", hand out information, lead visitors to stations, and help park cars. If you are interested in being a Goodwill Ambassador for this event, please contact Anna Abbott at (803) 608-0038 or wayneanna114@gmail.com.

"On the Move" - Migratory Birding Tour

Sunday, September 27, 2015 (7:30 - 9:00 a.m.)

Join Mike McDowell, photographer and birding expert, on this exciting birding excursion, capturing the upcoming fall flight behaviors of the bird population at the Pope Farm Conservancy. Bring binoculars if you have them, wear comfortable walking shoes, and dress for the weather. If you are in need of binoculars, please contact Mike at (800) 289-1132 or mmcdowell@eagleoptics.com. This event is free and open to the public - no registration is required. Hope to see you there!



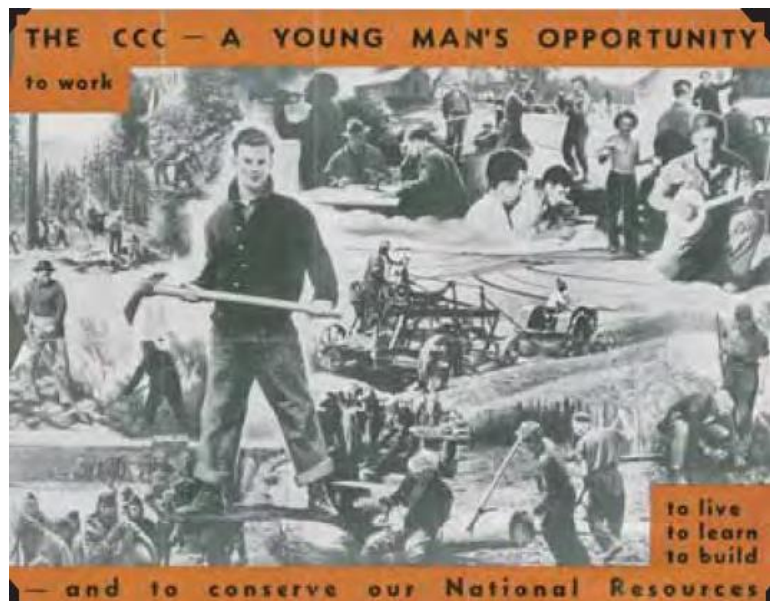
Photo by Mike McDowell

Fall Members Picnic

Sunday, October 4th, 2015 (1:00 - 3:00 p.m.)

Come celebrate fall with the "Friends" on Sunday, October 4th from 1-3pm at Pope Farm Conservancy. Mel Pope will report on the status of the FOPFC. And our featured speaker will be Robert Moore, historian and expert on the CCC. Bob is the author of "Devil's Lake, Wisconsin and the Civilian Conservation Corps." Currently he is researching the CCC in Dane County and the spillway at Pope Farm Conservancy. His talk will be entitled "**Pope Farm 1938 - A different kind of army in a different kind of war.**" It is the story of the Civilian Conservation Corp and the Soil Conservation Service and their depression-era fight against erosion. Bob's research on the CCC is fascinating.

Photo Credit: Wisconsin Historical Society



Picnic Details: We will meet at the top of the hill - parking will be available in both the Old Sauk Rd and the Blackhawk parking lots. No need to RSVP, but please bring a dish to pass. We will provide the beverages, plates and utensils. Family and friends are welcome, too! We will have extra membership forms on hand for anyone looking to join the Friends group.

The German Immigration Tour - “They Came to America”

Thursday, October 15, 2015 (5:00 – 6:00 pm)

Antje Petty of the Max Kade Institute will lead the German Immigration Tour at Pope Farm Conservancy on Thursday, October 15th from 5-6pm. Hear about the story of German Immigration to the area in the 1850-1870's. Learn about why they came here, the “Push-Pull” dynamics that related to all immigrants, and the “Chain Migration.” Learn how they got here—by sea and by land, how they lived here and developed a new community in America. Find out who lived at the German cabin site at Pope Farm Conservancy, and how the First Lutheran Church (built in June 1866 and located at the corner of Old Sauk Road and Pleasant View Road) was part of this German Heritage. And come to know just how many of these German descendants still live in this area. We hope you can join us for this educational adventure at Pope Farm Conservancy. This tour is free and open to the public. No registration is required.



Prairie Seed Collection is Underway

More seed collection sessions to come...Sign up today!

On September 5th, seed collecting took place in the beautiful Blackhawk prairie (pictured above). We need these seeds to expand this prairie and to inter-seed areas that need improvement.



We still need more volunteers to help collect seeds when they are ripe. The seeds of different plants ripen at different times, so we have chosen **7 dates** when we'll be collecting, weather permitting. Our first collecting date was August 22nd, but we have additional dates now through November. For a list of dates or to sign up, please visit the Friends of Pope Farm Conservancy (FOPOC) website:

<https://www.popefarmconservancy.org/events/2015-events/2015-prairie-seed-collection/>

No experience is necessary, but registration is required. We will have team leaders on hand to help you on each of those dates. Please join us – it's fun and it's an investment in the future. Hope to see you in the prairies soon!

Photo by Barbara Esser

Question of the Month

Why are there more signs that tell people to “Please keep off the stone fence”?



The Town of Middleton has wisely put up additional signage to ask people to refrain from being on the stone fence because the previous signage was inadequate. The reason that people are asked to refrain from being on the stone fence is twofold. First, it is very dangerous. The settlers who built the stone fence literally piled rocks on top of one another without regard to safety. Every year some rocks fall down because of weather and frost. It is unstable, especially for kids. The second reason is that it is a State of Wisconsin Archaeological Point of Interest in that it was built by settlers in the 1840s-1850s and is one of the few remaining fences like this in the area. The stone fence has been damaged with people climbing over it. During Sunflower Days the human traffic actually began to flatten the stone fence in some places as the rocks were moved from side to side and in some cases rolled off the fence completely. A bobcat had to be utilized for a period of time to put rocks back onto the fence and to repair the damage. The fence is a historical point of interest, and its iconic beauty is enjoyed by many people in the conservancy. It simply needs to be protected.

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

Kathy and Doug Gregory

Kathy and Doug Gregory have been fans of Pope Farm Conservancy for years. When the Friends of Pope Farm Conservancy were organized, Kathy and Doug as a family became one of its first members, and since then they have always been there for the Friends. Kathy has been on the events team, and has been a goodwill ambassador since the inception of the program. She has coordinated the events with the Middleton Cross Plains Area School District (MCPASD), by taking over packets of flyers to the different schools and their classes. She also has made sure that the FOPFC events are listed on the MCPASD website. Doug has also been involved with the Friends on multiple fronts. He helped lay out the Heritage Day last year, and he was critical in helping the Friends park cars during Sunflower Days this year by taking multiple shifts to help insure all went well. Doug has volunteered to help manage the brat stand for the upcoming Heritage Day this year. If that were not enough the Gregory's let the Friends borrow their tent canopy the last few years. Kathy and Doug Gregory have made a difference, and we want Kathy and Doug to know that they are truly appreciated.



And a happy field of sunflowers to you, Kathy and Doug!

Photos of the Month

Here are your photos of the month. Thank you to all who submitted photos on our [Flickr page](#)!



Photo by Benjamin Peterson



Photo by Chris Conohan

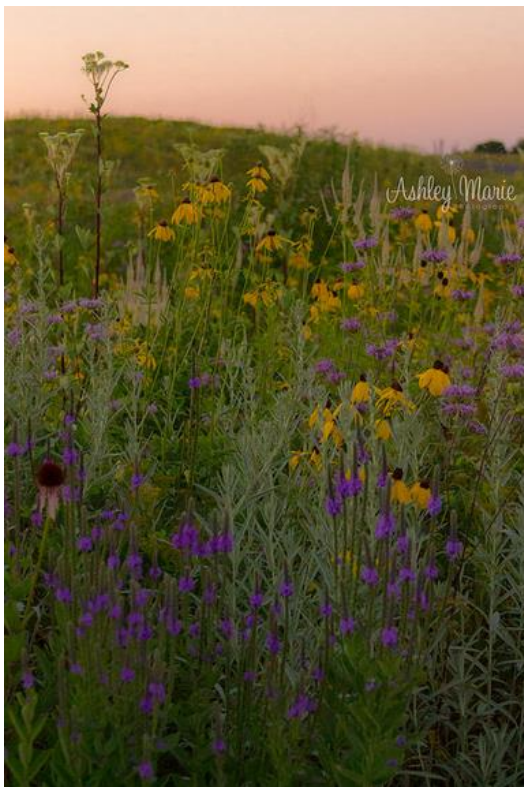


Photo by Ashley Nestell of Ashley Marie Photography

We welcome you to share your photos of Pope Farm Conservancy for our next "Photo of the Month." You can upload your photo(s) to our Flickr page at <https://www.flickr.com/groups/fopfc-photos/> or send them to photos@popefarmconservancy.org.

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!

