



September 2016 News Update

Come "fall" in love with the changing seasons at Pope Farm Conservancy

We have lots of exciting events and activities coming up this month! We hope you'll join us next Sunday, Sept. 11 from 1-3pm for our Fall Members Picnic. We also have two more educational talks/tours, plus several opportunities to collect prairie seed to help with our Prairie Restoration Project. Read on for more details about our upcoming events...

Photo by Jack Sherman



Upcoming Events

Fall Members Picnic

Sunday, September 11, 2016 (1-3 pm)

Host: Friends of Pope Farm Conservancy

Come spend an afternoon among friends! Mel Pope will be recapping what the FOPFC has accomplished in 2016 and what our plans are for 2017. We have worked hard this year, and you should be proud! Friendships were made and strengthened as many of us have gotten to know one another. This is a chance to hang out and congratulate ourselves for a wonderful year at Pope Farm Conservancy.



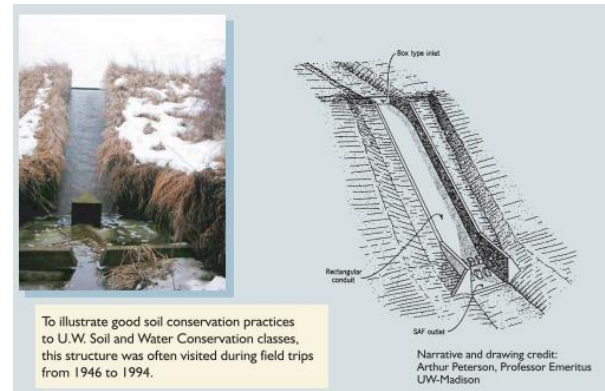
Bring your family & friends and join us for a picnic on top of the hill at Pope Farm Conservancy. No registration necessary.

Please bring a dish to pass. We will provide the beverages, plates & utensils.

Erosion, Soils, and CCC Talk

Tuesday, September 13th, 2016 (5:00 - 6:30 pm)

Join Dr. Nick Balster from the UW-Madison Soil Science Department on this educational adventure at Pope Farm Conservancy. Come and learn what soil is and why it is so critical in our lives. Learn how erosion is a natural process, but one that we should control. Discover how the history of soil conservation at Pope Farm Conservancy is still evident on the landscape today and how it is a lesson for the future. Learn about the Soil Conservation Service and CCC and their integral role they played in the management of soil at PFC.



This talk is free and open to the public. No registration is necessary. We will meet in the lower parking lot by the main entrance on Old Sauk Road.



The CCC Spillway at Pope Farm Conservancy - built in 1938 by men from a camp near Mt. Horeb.

Migratory Birding Tour

Saturday, September 24th, 2016 (7:30 – 9:00 am)

Host: Mike McDowell, Photographer and Birding Expert



Photos by Mike McDowell

Join Mike McDowell on this exciting birding excursion and capture the fall flight behaviors of the bird population at 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.

Upcoming Meetings

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

Events Committee Meeting

When: To be announced in the October 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 committee 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 committee works.

Education Committee Meeting

When: Tuesday September 20th, 2016 (7:00 – 9:00 pm)

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

Discussion: Review the proposed erosion trail, continue development of the German Immigration stories, and begin discussion on the Conservation/Preservation portion of the interactive tour. We will also discuss helping the Wisconsin State Historical Society with the fall field trip for the MCASD 4th graders at Pope Farm Conservancy.

Homestead Committee Meeting

When: To be announced in the October News Update

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

The Homestead Committee 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 committee is trying to save the barn and the land surrounding it from development in the future. Currently the committee is making inquiries as to how other non-profits have run successful campaigns in the past. The Committee is also working on increasing awareness to the public about the long term possibilities for this property. Please consider coming to the homestead committee and offering your ideas. The committee will be meeting this fall, and the date will be announced in the October news-update.

Prairie Seed Collection is Underway!



A message from Curt Caslavka (Prairie Restoration Committee Chair)

The prairies at Pope Farm Conservancy are still young and still in their restoration stage. Our goal is to establish a large variety of different native prairie plants throughout the prairies. To help that process along, we collect certain seeds from places where the plants are well established and then plant those seeds in other parts of the prairie.

That's where you come in! We need your help to collect seeds when they are ripe. The seeds of different plants ripen at different times, so we have chosen 5 dates when we'll be collecting, weather permitting. Seed collection is easy to do, and an enjoyable way to spend a couple hours in nature. We will have team leaders on hand to help you on each of these dates. Please join us – it's fun, and it's an investment in the future.

Seed Collection Dates:

- Saturday, September 3rd 9:30-11:30 AM
- Friday, September 16th 9:30-11:30 AM
- Saturday, September 24th 9:30-11:30 AM
- Saturday, October 8th 9:30-11:30 AM
- 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.

What to bring: Please bring some water and sunscreen. If you have a bucket, container, and/or small pruning shears, please bring them along, as well. If you have not yet signed our Release/Waiver Form, you can download a copy [here](#). We will also have copies of the waiver on site.

What to wear: We recommend wearing gloves, long pants and footwear that covers your feet entirely.

Where to meet: All seed collection sessions will take place at Pope Farm Conservancy. Please meet us at the top of the hill, near the upper Old Sauk Road parking lot.

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.

For more information about the FOPFC Prairie Restoration Project, go to: <https://www.popefarmconservancy.org/events/2016-events/2016-prairie-seed-collection/>

Hope to see you in the prairies soon!
Curt

Past Events

Annual Tour of Pope Farm Conservancy with Mel Pope – August 9th



About 50 people went on the annual tour of Pope Farm Conservancy. The stories of the land were evident as we covered the history of the conservancy, 20 different vegetative plots, Native Americans, European settlers, and the Civilian Conservation Corp...all in 90 minutes. Wow!

Native American Garden Tour with Dr. Amy Rosebrough – September 1st



Amy did it again! She entertained us with stories about the Native American Garden, and the role Native Americans played in Agriculture. The history of plants used by the Native Americans were explained. The Garden of indulgence was a hit. From Lavender to Hops, Amy's garden of indulgence teased the senses of all of us.

Question of the Month

Did the FOPFC make money on Sunflower Days?

Yes, the Friends made money from donations on Sunflower Days. After experimenting the first couple of days, we improved the donation locations, and our retail sales process. After paying for insurance, signage, communication equipment, porta potty rental, inventory, and a host of other expenses, the Friends made a profit that will go toward education, prairie restoration and a number of other worthwhile projects in the conservancy. It is interesting that the bulk of the proceeds will go toward a special fund to mitigate the risk of Sunflower Days. Sunflowers have been planted for 9 years, and unfortunately they have been a "bust" 3 of those years due to a number of factors that are beyond our control. It is called "farming." Only two years ago, only 5,000 people came to Sunflower Days, and the farmer plowed the Sunflowers under as soon as it ended. The crop was lost. The FOPFC board will put enough of the proceeds from this year into a fund to cover our "break even" point in case of an off year in the future.



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, Mike Anderson

Mike Anderson is the “father” of the prairies at Pope Farm Conservancy. Mike owned a company called Biologic when the plan for the conservancy was developed in 2004. His company was chosen by the Town of Middleton to advise the town and introduce prairies into Pope Farm Conservancy. The plan included six different prairies that would feature different types of prairie plants in each. Later, Mike sold his company and retired. He joined the FOPFC when we began several years ago. Mike is a key person in the FOPFC prairie restoration committee. His vast knowledge of prairies has helped guide us in the management of the prairies that we manage for the town. He helps supervise the prairie partner team, and spends countless hours in the prairies trying to control plant species that threaten the prairies at Pope Farm Conservancy. Sometimes you will see him alone working out in the prairies...making them enjoyable for all to see. Mike Anderson has truly made a difference to Pope Farm Conservancy.



And a happy field of Sunflowers to you, Mike!

Volunteers Needed

Fundraising Volunteer

The Friends are 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.

Grant Writing Volunteers

If you have any experience in writing up small grants or would like to learn, we need your help. We know there are monies available in way of small grants, and we need someone to write them and follow up with the grantors. You would be working with the FOPFC board. If you would like more information, please contact mel@popefarmconservancy.org.

Photos of the Month



Photo by Jim Stewart



Photo by Heather Childs Moline

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!**

