



## September 2017 News Update

**Dear Friends,**

Words cannot describe the thanks we owe to so many for helping with Sunflower Days. We estimate that over **92,000 visitors** came to see the Sunflower field this year! We had over **100 volunteers** who logged 1,100+ hours of volunteer time during those 9 days, and over 1,100 hours were spent in preparation for this event. **It was a remarkable effort!**



We also owe a great deal of gratitude to the Town of Middleton. The staff and crew provided fantastic support and we truly worked together to make Sunflower Days a success. Thanks to the Town Board and the Parks Commission, and of course to all the volunteers at FOPFC. This collaborative effort provided smiles to thousands of families, and generated long term interest in Pope Farm Conservancy. We added new members, and we had a lot of fun working together. We should all take pride in what we have accomplished.

Sincerely,  
Mel Pope, FOPFC Chair



Photo credits: Janie Starzewski (upper right), Dave Peterson (above left), and Kristi Pope (above right)

## Fall Members Picnic

**THIS Sunday, September 10, 2017 (1-3 pm)**

Host: Friends of Pope Farm Conservancy

Join us **THIS SUNDAY** for an afternoon among friends! Mel Pope will be talking about the FOPFC and what our plans are for 2018. We have worked hard this year, and 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 RSVP necessary.

**The FOPFC will provide sandwiches, beverages, plates & utensils. Please bring a side dish or dessert to pass.**

Hope to see you there!!

## Soils and Erosion Tour

**Saturday, Sept. 16th, 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.**

Join Ed Boswell 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 the integral role they played in the management of soil at PFC. We will meet in the upper picnic area.



## Prairie Report

### Fall Seed Collection

We had 10 volunteers collect seed from the Wheatfield prairie, Blackhawk prairie, and South prairie on Saturday, Sept 2nd. The weather was perfect, and we were able to collect a significant amount of prairie dropseed and about 3 gallons of sideoats grama grass from Blackhawk. Smaller amounts of other species were collected from the Wheatfield and South prairies. Several prairie plants have yet to flower, and therefore won't be ready to harvest for several weeks.

Additional seed collection sessions have been scheduled for the following dates:

- September 15th, (Friday) 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.
- October 7th, (Saturday) 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.
- October 21st, (Saturday) 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

To sign up to help with Seed Collection, please email [curt@popefarmconservancy.org](mailto:curt@popefarmconservancy.org) and let him know which session(s) you would like to attend.

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. Please join us – it’s fun, and it’s an investment in the future!

## Thank You Prairie Partner Interns!

The student interns from the Prairie Partners Program finished their last day of work at PFC on Aug 7th. It was a great crew this year, and we were able to accomplish a lot, including restoring the west side of the Blackhawk prairie with short grasses and removing weeds in the Savanna. This restoration looks better with time and should continue to do so as we increase it’s diversity by adding more plants and more species.

Photo by Barbara Esser



## The Monarchs Are Coming!

The monarch butterflies are expected to be migrating through this area within the next couple weeks. You may see them in the Pope Farm Conservancy prairies, collecting nectar from the Showy goldenrod, the royal purple-colored asters, and Meadow Blazingstar. This year, the “Friends” have purchased 50 monarch tags and 3 butterfly nets with the intention of capturing, tagging and releasing monarch butterflies at Pope Farm Conservancy as they migrate southward. This is all part of a nationwide effort to better understand these incredible butterflies and perhaps give us clues as to why the populations are in decline. If all goes well, we may be able to purchase additional tags next year and invite members to help us with the tagging.

Photo by Terrie Lomsonv



## Upcoming FOPFC Meetings

We welcome everyone to attend the following meetings to observe, offer your viewpoint, or to join these committees if you are interested.

### Events Team Meeting

**When:** Thursday, September 28th, 2017, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

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

**Discussion Topics:** The Events Team will be creating the 2018 Events schedule. What talks and tours will be given? How can we share the stories of the land with the general public? Come and give us your ideas.

### Education Team Meeting

**When:** Tuesday, October 3rd, 2017, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

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

We have identified the history and land ownership of the various farms comprising PFC, and we are studying the history of the crops and buildings. The German Immigration stories are almost complete. We hope you'll stop by.

## Fall 4th Grade Field Trips

**September 27–29, 2017 \*\* We Need Help! \*\***

We continue to ask assistance from our membership with the Fall field trips at PFC. These field trips involve teaching 4th grade students about Native Americans' contribution to agriculture, and other important lessons in history. **These field trips are just too important to discontinue!** The spring and fall field trips are 3 days long, and we are asking volunteers to help out in a morning or afternoon for 2-3 hours.

Please contact Mel at [mel@popefarmconservancy.org](mailto:mel@popefarmconservancy.org) to sign up or request more info.

Duties will include assisting in presenting, or helping to direct students and chaperones between the stations. This event will last for three days (weather permitting), with sessions in the morning and mid-day. Students will rotate through a series of stations between the Gardens on Old Sauk Road (each lasting 10-15 minutes) before participating in a role-playing "survival" game during a hike through the Conservancy. WHS stations include:

- Harvesting the Garden and Storing Food for Winter
- Ancient Technology and Survival
- Seeking Shelter

Volunteers will be given training materials prior to the event and the opportunity to observe and learn about the stations and activities during the event itself. If we can get **6 volunteers** to help, each can work a day in the spring and a day in the fall.

**This is one field trip that deserves to continue. Don't miss this opportunity to work with children and teach at our educational conservancy!**

## Pope Farm Annual Tour Recap

The Pope Farm Conservancy Annual Tour, led by Mel Pope, took place on August 22, 2017. With a storyteller's gift of words and the magnificent backdrop of the conservancy, Mel provided a discourse on the ethic by which he was raised. "My father always said, 'When you own land, you don't own it forever but only for a split second. It's your duty to make it better and pass it on.'" As the roughly 75 tour attendees viewed the prairies and trails, accompanied by Mel's narration, they likely came away with a stronger understanding of the conservancy's educational mission and the sense that the ethic of stewardship remains intact.

Photo by Jane Ilgen



## Question of the Month

**Question:** How well did the parking scheme hold up during Sunflower Days?



**Answer:** The parking was excellent. All told, we parked over 27,800 vehicles and when we were open, we were able to park them all within the confines of the Conservancy. This not only made things more efficient, it was a huge safety factor because we kept people off the surrounding roads. The parking lane held and the regrind asphalt worked beautifully. There was no rutting. Of course, we had excellent weather, and only had to close once and delay an opening due to wet weather. We have not observed the parking lane when we have had excess rainfall. Much credit goes to FOPFC member **Jim Bolitho** who spent countless hours designing and implementing the entire parking scheme for Sunflower Days.

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

## Friends of the Month

### Thank you to ALL the Sunflower Days Volunteers!

We want to thank ALL the Sunflower Days volunteers for the remarkable effort planning and executing Sunflower Days. We estimate that over 100 volunteers logged in 1,135 hours on site during this special event and another 1,102 hours were needed for preparation. Remarkable planning, and a great job during the event. Most of all, we had fun doing this, and many have commented they cannot wait to do it again. In the end, we have promoted the conservancy, increased our membership, and have generated funds to do good things at Pope Farm Conservancy.

### Sunflower Days could not happen without the following people:

Wayne Abbott, Anna Abbott, Jerry Anderson, Judy Anderson, Pat Anderson, Sally Andrews, Maxine Austin, Fred Bartman, Jan Berger, Jim Bolitho, Bethany Brander, Ron Brys, Pam Brys, Mary Burmeister, Jim Byrd, Maria Callis, Curt Caslavka, Chris Conohan, Ann Conroy, Tom Crozier, Deb Dieter, Dennis Dresang, Barbara Esser, Mick Faulhaber, Mitch Feiler, Jack Ferreri, Trel Gimber, Colleen Godfriaux, Meg Gores, Laurence Goss, Sharon Goss, Doug Gregory, Nancy Gunder, Chad Halverson, Moira Harrington, Mary Hiteman, Ravina Horner, Jane Hyer, Greg Hyer, Jane Ilgen, Erin Janssen, Linda Josheff, Ann Kale, Cj Keuhl, Karl Knuth, Bill Kolar, Jean Kollash, David Kollash, Gillian Kunert, Judy Landsman, Sara Ludtke, Carolyn Malina, Dave Manion, Stacey Meanwell, Heather Messer, John Neumann, Nancy Nicholson, Mary Odell, Dan Olson, Paul Patentaude, Nicole Patrick, Katie Payne, David Peterson, Doug Piper, Kristie Pope, Mel Pope, Brian Pope, Grant Pope, Reagan Pope, Lee Pray, John Pray, Tony Prazza, Karen Prochaska, Stan Richardson, Carolyn Ridgely, Amy Rosebrough, David Rudin, Jan Schenk, Cynthia Shaw, Mark Sieger, Diane Smidt, Robby Sonzogni, Bill Sonzogni, Janie Starzewski, Louise Stephenson, Brett Veerman, Ann Walser, Marsha Wendt, Jody Weyers, Debbie Whitney, Eileen Williams, Bob Wink, Claire Wyhuske, Tracy Yaktus, Vina Yang, Katie Yapp, Lauren Yoshino, Martha Zydowsky, Danny, Gini

(If we have missed anyone on this list, we sincerely apologize)



**And a happy field of Sunflowers to you, Volunteers!**

## Special Thanks!

And a very special thank you goes out to **Bill Hinrichs**, the farmer who planted the Sunflower field (twice this year) and let us use the hay field for parking. He continues to experiment and improve the Sunflower field every year.

We also want to thank the following corporations for their donations: **MG&E Foundation, Pinnacle Landscaping Inc., TDS, Brownpoint Reserve, Vierbicher, Kwik Trip on Mineral Point Rd., and Eagle Optics**. A big thanks to **Tom Murphy**, from St. Francis football, who let us use their machine to stripe the parking stalls, and we had to do it twice, and to **IBEW** who loaned us their donation stations.

Without these efforts, Sunflower Days would not be what it was.

## Photos of the Month



Photo by Jon Okerstrom



Photo by Dave Miess



Photo by Paolo Veglio



Photo by Curt Lundeen



Photo by John Urban

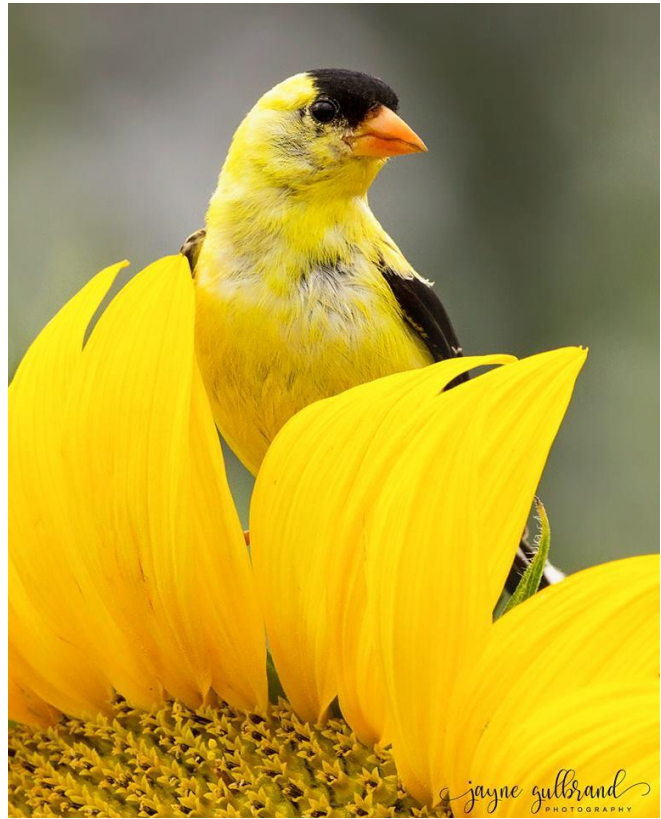


Photo by Jayne Gulbrand

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](mailto:photos@popefarmconservancy.org).

## Renew Your Membership

**Just a reminder...**you can now renew your membership securely online at [www.popefarmconservancy.org](http://www.popefarmconservancy.org) using a debit or credit card. We also accept checks by mail; please make checks payable to FOPFC and send to FOPFC, 10333 Blackhawk Road, Middleton, WI 53562. If you have already renewed your membership, THANK YOU for your support. For questions regarding your membership, please email [info@popefarmconservancy.org](mailto:info@popefarmconservancy.org).

## Connect with FOPFC Online

**Website:** <https://www.popefarmconservancy.org/>

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/FriendsOfPopeFarmConservancy>

**Instagram:** <https://www.instagram.com/friendsofpopefarmconservancy>

**Flickr:** <https://www.flickr.com/groups/fopfc-photos/>

**Thank you for joining the  
Friends of Pope Farm Conservancy!  
Our Journey Begins and You are part of it!**