



August 2017 Newsletter

Upcoming Events

Sunflower Days

August 12-20, 2017

Sunflower Days will be a bit unusual this year. As you may know, the sunflower field was planted twice this year. The first planting was determined to be a failure; however, we will see some sporadic blooming from the first crop, mainly on the west end of the field. This will occur *before* our scheduled Sunflower Days event.



The second planting was more successful, but due to cool wet weather, the crop will not be as spectacular as other years. This is what farming is all about! Part of the field will need to be “sculpted,” meaning that the weedy areas (on the east end) will need to be cut down to produce the best photo opportunities.

There will still be plenty of sunflowers for photo opportunities, and the “peak bloom” for the majority of the field is projected to be during Sunflower Days from August 12-20. Hope to see you there!

More Event Info and FAQs: <https://www.popefarmconservancy.org/events/sunflower-days/>

**** Volunteers Needed for Sunflower Days ****

We need many volunteers over the 9 days of Sunflower Days! There are over 100 shifts to fill during this 9-day event. Please, please, please, we need your help!! The shifts are usually two hours in duration, and we will train you. Snacks and water will be provided. What better way to spend your time than in front of thousands of sunflowers! **Come enjoy all the smiles with us!**

Sign Up online at <http://signup.com/go/CSZEBnr> (Add'l information & shift descriptions below)

Pope Farm Annual Tour

Tuesday, August 22nd, 2017 (6:30 – 8:00 pm)

This tour of Pope Farm Conservancy, led by FOPFC Chair Mel Pope, has it all! Join Mel on a fascinating exploration of the many features of the conservancy, including Geology, Erosion, and 20 different vegetative plots. Mel will share with you the stories of people who came here, from Native



Americans to German Immigration to the Civilian Conservation Corp. Along the way, you'll see a breathtaking 360-degree panoramic view of Lake Mendota, the Capitol, Black Earth Creek valley and the terminal moraine. You might even see a few sunflowers. This is a tour that you definitely won't want to miss!

Fall Seed Collection

Registration is now open for summer and fall prairie seed collection sessions. We need your help to increase the diversity of prairie plant species at Pope Farm Conservancy and improve the overall quality of our prairies. Seed collection will take place on the following days:

- September, 2nd (Saturday) 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.
- 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.

[Sign Up Online](#) or email Curt Caslavka at curt@popefarmconservancy.org and let him know which session(s) you would like to attend.

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.

Education Team Meeting

When: Thursday, August 24th, 2017, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Where: Town of Middleton 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.

Events Team Meeting

When: September 2017 (exact date TBD)

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

The Events Team will be looking at 2017 Sunflower Days, and how it can be improved for 2018.

Help Save the 4th Grade Field Trips

Budget cuts will impact spring and fall field trips at PFC

The Wisconsin Historical Society has to discontinue its efforts to hold MCPASD field trips every spring and fall. We would like to thank them for their incredible efforts, and we seek volunteers to help take over this wonderful presentation about Native Americans' role in agriculture, and other important lessons in our history. The spring and fall field trips are 3 days long, and we ask the you help out in a morning or afternoon for 2-3 hours during these field trips.

Duties will include assisting in presenting, or helping to wrangle and manage students and chaperones. The Fall 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 the stations/activities during the event itself. The final schedule has not yet been set, but tentative dates are the last week of September or the first week of October. 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!**

For more information, contact mel@popefarmconservancy.org.

Volunteers Needed for Sunflower Days

Have fun and enjoy all the smiles with us!

The FOPFC sponsors Sunflower Days for the enjoyment of the general public. It is free and provides smiles to thousands of visitors. Along the way, it serves to increase the awareness of Pope Farm Conservancy so that more people will enjoy the land and its stories.



Along with online donations, the Friends use this event as our primary fundraiser. First, we need to pay for the expenses created by Sunflower Days like insurance, signage, parking paint, and the list goes on. Secondly, we are trying to raise funds to improve the quality of the prairies at PFC, involve the community to help to maintain the conservancy, and work on developing more educational opportunities for people of all ages. To achieve these goals, we need many volunteers over the 9 days of Sunflower Days! There are a variety of tasks, from parking to selling water, or just greeting the public. There are over 100 shifts to fill during this 9-day event that comprises about 400 volunteer time slots. Please, please, please, we need your help!! The shifts are usually 2 hours in duration, and we will train you. Snacks and water will be provided. It really is a lot of fun!

Volunteers shifts include:

Main Table: Will include water sales, Souvenir Sales and information. We will send information to volunteers so that questions can be answered. You will be a goodwill ambassador for the conservancy and share in the excitement and happiness of Sunflower Days.

Each day shifts will be: 10:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m., 12:30-2:30 p.m., 2:30-4:30 pm, 4:30-6:30 p.m., 6:30-8:30 p.m. (2 volunteers will be needed for each shift)

Donation Tables: These tables will have a donation jar, and information about the Sunflowers. As a goodwill ambassador, you will help greet visitors on their way to visit the Sunflower field. We will provide further information so questions can be answered. This is a critical part of the FOPFC fundraising effort! Each day shifts will be: 10:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m., 12:30-2:30 p.m., 2:30-4:30 pm, 4:30-6:30 p.m., 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Parking: We really need help here! We have spent a great deal of time designing the parking areas so that people can self-park. However, we need many volunteers to monitor overfill conditions and help redirect traffic to other areas if necessary. FOPFC membership is not required to be a parking attendant. Please help us by recruiting your friends, family, neighbors, etc.

Each Day shifts are 2 hours long from 8:00 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Please see schedule online.

Online sign up is easy! Simply go to <http://signup.com/go/CSZEBnr> and select the shift(s) you like. No need to register an account or keep a password. SignUp.com does not share your email address with anyone. If you prefer not to sign up online, please contact Anna Abbott at anna@popefarmconservancy.org

Past Events

Geology Tour with Eric Carson, July 20th

By Martha Zydowsky

On July 20, approximately 35 people attended a talk by Eric Carson, glacial geologist, on the unique geology at Pope Farm Conservancy. Eric is on the faculty of the UW Department of Geoscience and the



UW-Extension Department of Environmental Sciences. He works as a geologist with the Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey. His specialty area is glacial geology. Eric started by providing general information on the Wisconsin glaciation period which ended approximately 10,000 years ago. He then narrowed the focus to the glacial geology at Pope Farm Conservancy.

Pope Farm Conservancy is significant because it is located adjacent to the Johnstown Moraine which is a terminal moraine for the last glacier in Wisconsin. From the amphitheater at the top of the hill, the moraine is visible to the west of the Conservancy. The moraine abuts the driftless area in Wisconsin which was never covered by the glacier.

In addition to the Johnstown Moraine, Pope Farm Conservancy offers views of watersheds that were built up during the Wisconsin glaciation period with silt and glacial debris.

The iconic rock wall at the Conservancy is comprised of rocks deposited by the glacier. Eric identified many of the rocks and their original location prior to the glacial ice movement. He pointed out scratches on the rocks which occurred during the long slow movement of the glacier.

Eric's presentation was fascinating. His conversational style and humorous anecdotes made glacial geology clear and understandable for attendees new to the topic. Several attendees requested we bring Eric back next year for another presentation.

For more information on the Wisconsin glaciation period and glacial geology in Dane County, go to the UW-Extension Wisconsin Geological and Nature History Survey website at <http://wgnhs.uwex.edu/>. There are numerous maps and articles on the website. Of special interest are the booklet *Landscapes of Dane County, Wisconsin* and the generalized glacial geologic map of Dane County, Wisconsin.

Question of the Month

Question: Did the heavy rains in July cause damage at the Conservancy?



Answer: Yes, indeed. The toll was heavy in the Conservancy, as it was exposed to one of the worst storms in the last 20 years. The Oat field was flattened, trees went down, limbs were broken, and the screening trail along the stone fence was washed away. Erosion, in the form of mud, crossed the trail along the woods on the north side of the Conservancy, and the CCC spillway was in full form as torrents of water rushed down the hillside and thru the deep ravine. The heavy rains have had an impact on the crops, and the sunflowers are not an exception. The amount of rain has not been good for them, and the sunflowers are battling the weeds because of this unusual weather.

Friend of the Month

Thank you, Maria Callis!

We are so very fortunate to have someone like Maria Callis as part of the FOPFC. Maria is on the Education Team, and is the go to person who coordinates the FOPFC volunteers that provide support for the 4th grade field trips. (See article on page 2). She has helped present to the students who attend these field trips, and has volunteered to do research as part of the Education Team. Recently she spent time tracking down who historically owned the land that we know as PFC today. Did you know that the Conservancy used to be part of a Winnebago Indian reserve? In addition, Maria has volunteered to help with parking and with the tables during Sunflower Days. There is no question that Maria Callis has made a difference at Pope Farm Conservancy.

And a happy field of sunflowers to you, Maria!



Photo of the Month

"A butterfly finds an early bloomer."

Photo by Barbara Esser

We invite you to share your photos of the sunflowers this month, to be featured on our Facebook page and/or next newsletter! You can upload your favorites to [Facebook](#), [Flickr](#), or [Instagram](#). OR email your photos to janie@popefarmconservancy.org



Renew Your Membership

Just a reminder...you can now renew your membership securely online at 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.

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!

