



December 2017 News Update

Sunflower Harvest

The Final Crop at PFC is Harvested

On November 22nd, the Sunflowers were harvested at Pope Farm Conservancy. Harvesting the Sunflowers represents the last of the harvesting in the Conservancy in 2017. The season is officially over. This year the farmer harvested 3,600 lbs. of Sunflower Seed (down from 5,400 lbs. last year).



The first planting failed, and it was not possible to use pre-emergent weed control on the second planting. This, combined with the 13-lined ground squirrels, had a negative impact on the Sunflower Crop in 2017. We planted the second planting 10 days later than usual, and it is remarkable what those 10 days can mean to the harvest yield.

Photo (above) by Lee Pray
Photo (top right) by Jane Ilgen

PFC Sunflower Seeds for Sale – Sold Out!

On Saturday, December 2nd, the Friends sold 3,600 lbs. of Sunflower Seeds in 90 minutes! Unfortunately, we only had 120 30-lb. bags to sell because of inferior yield this year. But luckily, members of the FOPFC had an opportunity to purchase bags of seed an hour before we opened the sale to the general public. After the Friends paid the farmer for the seed, we basically broke even from the sale. The purpose of the sale is actually to help the farmer cover his costs of growing the Sunflowers. This is so important because the farmer does not have a market here to sell the crop, and is already losing money planting and harvesting the Sunflower Field. Thank you so much to the volunteers who made the sale a huge success!!



Friends Add a Clovis Point For Show & Tell at PFC field trips

Photo: Maria Callis

Thanks to the kindness and skill of volunteer Jerry Goth, the Friends are now the proud owners of a replica Clovis point, one of many objects in a new teaching collection that will be used during the twice-annual 4th Grade field trips to the Conservancy.



Clovis points were made by early Native American hunters 13,500 – 10,000 years ago

during the last Ice Age. The stone points were attached to short pieces of wood, bone, or ivory, which were then socketed into long but flexible darts that hunters threw using atlatls or spear-throwers. Hunters used these distinctive tools to hunt everything from small game to mammoths.

In previous years, students have had access to a Clovis point owned by the Wisconsin Historical Society. Because of staffing cuts, the Wisconsin Historical Society is no longer able to participate in the field trips and the FOPFC has taken over their lesson plans.

We were very lucky to know Jerry Goth who learned how to make arrow heads as a boy. Not only is it rare to find someone with Jerry's knowledge and abilities, he had a supply of Hixton orthoquartzite from Black River Falls at hand. Hixton orthoquartzite, sometimes called 'sugar stone' for its appearance, was quarried and traded by Native Americans for over 10,000 years and accurately can be said to be Wisconsin's first mining export. Some of the finest Clovis points found in Wisconsin are made from the white and sparkly stone.

The Clovis Point is 4 ½" X 1 ¼", and it is remarkable piece of work. The Friends and the 4th graders in the Middleton Cross Plains Area School District owe a huge thank you to Jerry Goth for making this possible.

Upcoming FOPFC Meetings

There is no shortage of ways to get involved with the FOPFC. We welcome everyone to attend the following meetings to observe, offer your viewpoints, or to join these committees if you are interested.

Events Team Meeting

When: TBD, February 2018

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

Discussion Topics: The Events Team will be finalizing the 2018 Events schedule, contacting the speakers, and determining what we will sell at Sunflower Days. Please stop in and share your thoughts & ideas!

Education Team Meeting

When: Thursday, January 11th, 2018, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

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

Topics: Seeking help with the production of the German Immigration stories, researching the history of the land, including ownership, crops, buildings, and other interesting features.

Question of the Month

Question: What happened to the Pope Farm Conservancy sign on Old Sauk Rd?

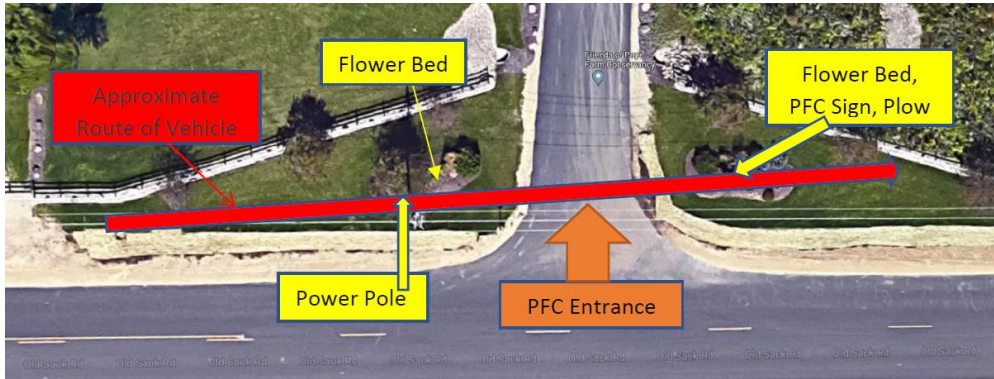


Above: Photo of Pope Farm Conservancy Sign before accident (Photo credit: Jane Ilgen)



Photo of the Old Sauk Road entrance, taken November 2017

Answer: A wayward car destroyed the front end of Pope Farm Conservancy last month. It was reported that there were no injuries, and of course that is the most important outcome of any accident. A vehicle was heading East along the front of the Conservancy and the driver lost control. The car went into the first flower bed, and went completely thru a power pole. It crossed the main entrance at PFC, hit the second flower bed, took out the PFC sign, and the single bottom plow that had been donated to the Town by the Pope family.



The signage and landscaping damage will be replaced, and volunteers are putting new handles back on the plow. This area of Old Sauk Road has seen a tremendous increase in traffic over the last several years. With the addition of the water tower, further development, and possibly a school in the next several years, it is very important to slow down and drive safely.

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

Winter Activities at Pope Farm Conservancy



Just a reminder... The Conservancy is OPEN daily from sunrise to sunset during the winter months. Should we get snow accumulations this winter, visitors are welcome to come and enjoy winter activities, such as snow shoeing, cross country skiing, hiking, and sledding. Once the trails are groomed, please walk off to the side of the trail so it remains intact for the cross-country skiers. Thank you for your cooperation!

Friend of the Month

Thank you, Dave and Jean Kollasch!

Dave and Jean Kollasch have been a positive fixture in The Friends of Pope Farm Conservancy. Dave has helped with Sunflower Days and is always willing to help put in multiple shifts with the parking when needed. Jean is on the events team and is always there when a need arises. Jean has helped host tours of the Conservancy, and has volunteered to help put on the FOPFC members picnic. Jean volunteered to help the Friends put on the field trips for the Middleton Cross Plains Area School District last fall, and has reached out to seek volunteers for other events. Jean also has volunteered to help with Sunflower Days, and to share her knowledge of the Conservancy with many visitors. Both Dave and Jean volunteered for Heritage Days, and the list of their volunteer work goes on, including weeding the Sunflowers, and seed collection in the Prairies. Dave and Jean are very involved in growing Gladiolas, both with heading the national organization and judging gladiola competitions, and occasionally they share some of their beautiful flowers with the volunteers of FOPFC. Dave and Jean Kollasch have made an impact on the success of the Friends of Pope Farm Conservancy, and deserve a huge “thank you” from all of us.



And a happy field of Sunflowers to you, Dave and Jean Kollasch!

Thank you, Supporters!

As the year comes to a close, we'd like to take this opportunity to thank our members, donors, and dedicated volunteers for all their support and hard work this year. What we've accomplished together is quite amazing! You can read all about the FOPFC's 2017 accomplishments in our upcoming newsletter, which will be mailed out in January. In the meantime, we want to wish you and your loved ones a very safe and happy holiday season! And we look forward to the many exciting events and projects to come in 2018.

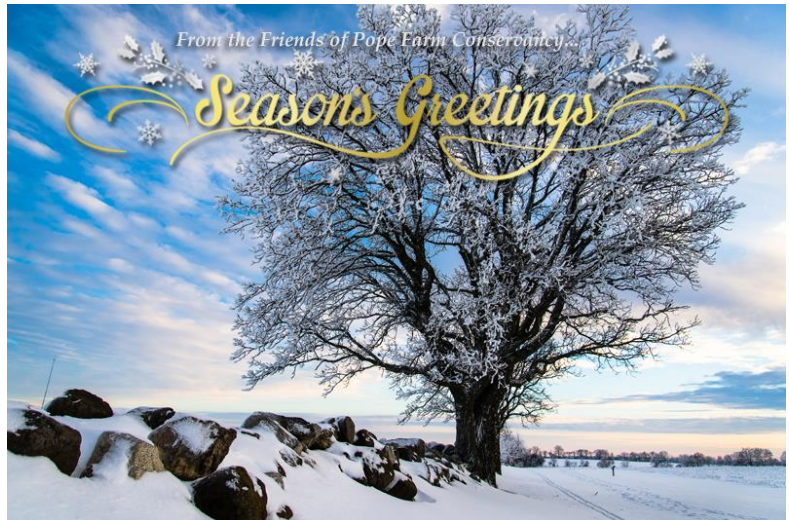


Photo by Aaron Leist

If you would like to make a year-end contribution, we accept online donations at <https://www.popefarmconservancy.org/donate>, or you may send a check (payable to FOPFC) via mail to FOPFC, 10333 Blackhawk Road, Middleton, WI 53562. *All donations are tax-deductible.*

Winter Membership Drive

Give the Gift of FOPFC Membership

When you give a gift membership, your friend or family member will be welcomed into the Conservancy's family of dedicated individuals committed to enhancing the educational opportunities at Pope Farm Conservancy, preserving the balance of its wildlife habitat and historical features, and protecting its scenic landscapes and tranquility for the enjoyment of the public.

As a Conservancy member, your gift recipient will receive:

- A personalized card announcing your special gift, delivered via USPS
- Monthly email updates on the Conservancy
- Updates on upcoming activities, events and volunteer opportunities
- Our semi-annual printed newsletter, filled with stunning photos, as well as informative and insightful articles about PFC's history, educational programs, and its many plants and animals.



To gift a membership to a friend or loved one, simply download & print our Gift Membership Form: https://www.popefarmconservancy.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/FOPFC_Gift_Membership_Form-2017.pdf and send the completed form along with a check (payable to Friends of Pope Farm Conservancy) to FOPFC, 10333 Blackhawk Rd, Middleton, WI 53562.

Renew Your Membership

Just a reminder... you can now renew your membership securely online at <https://www.popefarmconservancy.org/membership> 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 supporting the Friends of Pope Farm Conservancy!
Our journey is ongoing and you are part of it!

