



November 2017 News Update

Seed Collection Wrap Up

Seed collection for 2017 has come to a close. This year, we successfully collected enough seeds to use in the prairies that are managed by FOPFC for the Town of Middleton. Much work has been done in the beautiful Blackhawk Prairie (pictured below). Volunteers collected seed from Little Blue Stem, Side Oats Grama grass, and Prairie drop-seed, which will be used to reseed the western edge of the Blackhawk Prairie.



Photo by Mike Anderson

Thanks to all who made 2017 seed collecting a success!

NEW Interactive Tours in the Works

Education Team members are working on a 3- to 4-year project that enhances the stories of the land at Pope Farm Conservancy for the public. They have identified 6 different locations within the Conservancy to expand the information. The team started with the German Cabin site, and developed 11 stories (listed below) that will be posted on our website and can be accessed by any mobile device.

Education Team completes first set of interactive tour topics:

- THE GOTH FAMILY
- LEAVING GERMANY – REASONS FOR EMIGRATION
- COMING TO AMERICA – REASONS FOR CHOOSING MIDDLETON, WISCONSIN
- THE JOURNEY
- EARLY GERMAN SETTLERS IN WISCONSIN – MIDDLETON
- BUILDING A LOG CABIN
- FARMING – A FAMILY AFFAIR
- SCHOOLS
- LANGUAGES
- CHURCH
- SOCIAL LIFE



Left to right: Carl Goth with his wife Sophia (previously Stolte), his brother Joachim, and their mother, Hanne Sophie Goth.

Dea Kruger, a media specialist from the Middleton Cross Plains Area School District and Lyd Young, a Clark Street Community School student, are working on the next steps for the German cabin site. Using resources gathered by the Education Committee and Antje Petty from the Max Kade Institute, they are designing supplements for the Friends website that will help educate the public. Some of the additional resources being considered include video footage of Goth descendants, maps related to the early settler's journey, a variety of images, and possible audio recordings. Once completed, they will be posted on the FOPFC website, and can be accessed online as visitors tour the Conservancy.

The team has begun work on the History of the Land, looking at past owners, buildings, farming techniques, and vegetation. We are discovering so many interesting stories on our journey. Please feel free to come to our next meeting. It is very interesting and enjoyable.

Thanks to the Education Team!

The next Education Team Meeting will be held on Thursday, November 30th from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. at the Town of Middleton Town Hall, 7555 W. Old Sauk Rd, Verona, WI (across from the Conservancy). All are welcome to attend!

Sunflower Harvest - Coming soon! Check our website and Facebook for updates



*2015 Sunflower Field Harvest,
Photo by Janie Starzewski*

The exact date to harvest the 2017 Sunflower crop has not yet been determined. It will depend on a lot of factors like the weather and moisture in the seeds. The Sunflower Field is typically harvested in early to mid-November, but we usually only have about a 24 to 48-hour notice when this occurs. When we know the exact date and time of harvest, we will post an update on our website and Facebook page. If you can make it, it's worth coming out to see! The kids will love it, too.

Pope Farm Conservancy Sunflower Seeds For Sale - Coming soon!

Pope Farm Sunflower Seeds will be available for sale immediately after the harvest, sometime in mid- to late November or early December. Last year, 5,400 lbs. of sunflower seeds were sold in one afternoon at the Conservancy.

This is high quality black oil sunflower seed...great for the bird feeder...AND makes for a very special holiday gift, too!



The Friends are selling the seeds to help the farmer cover his costs, since there is no local market for the seeds. The Friends do make a small amount of profit to help offset our costs of labeling, etc.

Be sure to check our website and Facebook for updates! We will also email our membership when we know the exact dates and times of the sale.



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: Wednesday, November 8th, 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 viewpoint!

Education Team Meeting

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

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

Question of the Month

Question: Why is there gravel laying on the grass by the upper parking lot?



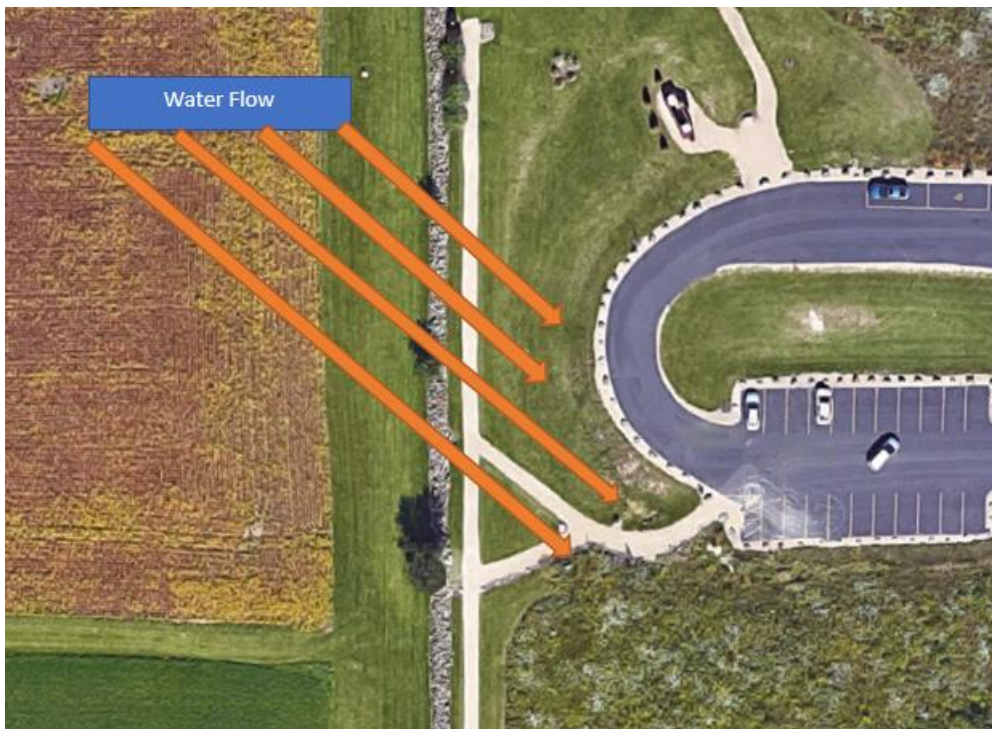
Answer: This is certainly a problem, and is unsightly to say the least. The problem is caused during heavy rainfall that erodes away the screened trail. The Town of Middleton has been dealing with this issue for a long time, and every time we have a rain event, they have diligently tried to put the trail back together.

The gravel is not only costly; it is an eyesore as well. The Town budgeted funds to fix this problem in 2018. The problem is that this is a very complicated “fix,” and the Town has been working with the Friends to find an option that will solve the problem. There are a series of problems that are complex

and probably unknown to the casual visitor to the Conservancy. This hilltop has had a history of erosion for over a hundred years. The top of the hill has a layer of topsoil about 8” to 10” thick. At the bottom of the hill the topsoil is 6’ to 8’ deep! Obviously, a significant erosion issue. The Civilian Conservation Corps realized this in the 1930s, and put in the spillway to control some of this erosion, and insisted that contour methods of farming be used on the hillsides.

In 2014 as part of a proposed Eagle Scout project, Tim Bauer (an engineer) visited the site during a heavy rainstorm. What he found surprised all of us. Huge amounts of water were flowing through the stone fence from the top of the hill, and this was the source of water that was taking out the screened trail.

Water flows through the Stone Fence



To complicate matters, the stone fence is a State of Wisconsin Historical point of interest and needs to be protected. The stones in the fence were stacked very carefully by hand, and if you were to tear it apart and rebuild it mechanically, it would never look the same again. If you divert the water directly to the South it will go into the lower overflow parking areas that already have issues with water accumulation. This leads to a third option that the natural flow of water is left as is, and the trail be relocated, or firmed with a stronger surface where it is needed. The stone fence has stood for over 165 years, and will be fine if left alone.

The source of the gravel you see on the ground is a bit more complicated than it first appears. The Town of Middleton has done an excellent job trying to deal with this. It will be interesting to determine what the long term “fix” will be in 2018. In the meantime, we all thank you for your patience, as we work together to carefully rectify this problem.

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, Maxine Austin and Dennis Dresang!

Max and Dennis have volunteered in so many ways for the Friends of Pope Farm Conservancy. Max and Dennis have been on the Homestead team since day one. They have helped provide ideas and input into how best to preserve the 15 acres and the barn. Dennis has offered his expertise in putting a strategy together for the Homestead project. Max and Dennis walk the Conservancy frequently when they are in town, and have provided real time information when something is amiss and needs attention. Max has volunteered to help with both weeding and seed collection in the Prairie Restoration projects. During Sunflower Days, both Max and Dennis help with parking, donation tables, and wherever they are needed. And—they signed up to do it multiple times! Max and Dennis have made a huge difference to the Friends of Pope Farm Conservancy.

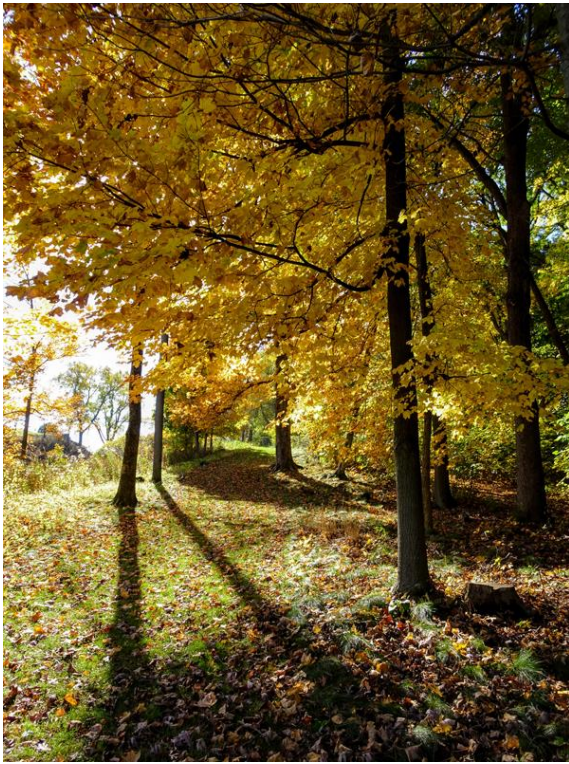


And a happy field of Sunflowers to you, Maxine and Dennis!

Photos of the Month

Pope Farm Conservancy takes on a whole new look this time of year. If you typically only visit during the summer months, we recommend coming out to walk the trails. There's lots to see... fall foliage, migratory birds, mature crops, and more! Come experience the beauty of autumn at Pope Farm Conservancy.





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](#) or [Facebook page](#), or send them 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 [http://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 is ongoing and you are part of it!

