



August 2018 News Update

Upcoming Events

FOPFC Members Brunch

Saturday, August 18th, 2018 (10:00 - 11:30 AM)

Make plans to join your fellow "Friends" on Saturday, August 18th from 10:00-11:30am at Pope Farm Conservancy for our Annual Members Picnic. Bring the entire family and come enjoy a delicious brunch at the conservancy. FOPFC Chair, Mel Pope, will highlight the events of the past year and talk about the group's goals for the future. In addition to Mel's report, the Friends will be the first to hear about a new interactive education technology initiative to be rolled out at the conservancy later this year.



No registration is necessary. A light summertime brunch will be provided by the Friends. ** We will meet at the top of the hill. ** Hope to see you there!!

Also that morning from 8:00-9:30am, just prior to the Friends' brunch, we are hosting a [nature photography session](#) with John McComb from the Camera Company (details below). Bring your camera and learn some tips for photographing the natural beauty of the conservancy.

Rain date for both the Friends' meeting and the nature photography session is August 25. For questions or to volunteer for this event, please contact Martha at events@popefarmconservancy.org.

Upcoming Talks & Tours

Annual Tour of Pope Farm Conservancy

Tuesday, August 7th, 2018 (6:00 – 7:30 pm) * Meet at the top of the hill *



Bring your friends, family and neighbors and join archaeologist Dr. Amy Rosebrough of the WI Historical Society on a fascinating exploration of Pope Farm Conservancy. Learn about the Conservancy's unique history, geology, prairies, soils, glacial features and 20 different vegetative plots. Amy will share the stories of the people who lived and worked on the land over thousands of years. 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. This is a tour that you won't want to miss!

This event is free, family-friendly, and open to the public. No registration needed.

**** We will meet at the top of the hill. ****

About the Speaker: Dr. Amy Rosebrough is an archaeologist in the Division of Historic Preservation and Public History at the WI Historical Society and a long-time volunteer with Pope Farm. She has been instrumental in putting in the Native American and the theme gardens at Pope Farm Conservancy. She has taught thousands of grade school students over the years and has led adult tours for the public, as well. Amy is on the FOPFC education committee to help improve the overall educational experience for the public.

Nature Photography Hike

Saturday, August 18th, 2018 (8:00 – 9:30 am) * Meet at the top of the hill *



Photo by Eileen Williams

Join us for a beautiful nature photography hike, led by John B. McComb. John has been a wildlife/outdoor photographer, instructor and photo group/nature guide for over 10 years. He will give us a brief talk on basic photography composition in nature and wildlife, then lead us on a hike around the conservancy. Take advantage of this opportunity for an excellent photo shoot! No registration required. Bring your photo gear and dress for the weather. Good shoes or boots, long pants, and bug spray are recommended.

This event is free, family-friendly, and open to the public.

** We will meet at the top of the hill. **

About the Speaker: John B. McComb is a wildlife/outdoor photographer, instructor and photo group/nature guide. For the past 10 years, he has been roaming throughout southern Wisconsin, discovering and capturing our state's beautiful parks, rivers, wildlife and scenery. For the past 2 years, he has worked full time teaching various photography classes and seminars and leading group photo outings.

Fall Migration Birding Tour

Saturday, August 18th, 2018 (8:00 – 9:30 am) * Meet at the top of the hill *



Host: Mike McDowell, Photographer and Birding Expert

We invite you along on a leisurely walk through the Conservancy with birding expert Mike McDowell. This is your chance to witness the fall flight behaviors of the bird population at the conservancy. You will learn techniques to help you enjoy identifying and observing birds in their preferred habitats. Please bring binoculars if you have them, wear comfortable walking shoes, and dress for the weather. If you are in need of binoculars, contact Mike at (800) 289-1132 or mmcdowell@eagleoptics.com.

This tour is free and open to the public – no registration is necessary. We will meet in the lower parking lot.

About the Speaker: Michael Allen McDowell has been observing and documenting the avifauna in the Middleton area since the early 1990s. He began leading field trips for Madison Audubon in the spring of 2002 and has observed almost 300 bird species in Dane County. Mike is probably best known for his AMAZING bird photography which can be found on the web at www.birddigiscoper.com. His photographs have appeared in newspapers, magazines, calendars, and were even featured on a Wisconsin state license plate and a local beer label! [Read more...](#)

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 our committees if you are interested.

Education Team Meeting

When: Thursday, August 23rd, 2018, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Where: West Middleton Lutheran Church, 3763 Pioneer Rd, Verona, WI 53593

Discussion topics: Review final German Immigration story boards, review progress on the history of the land, review upcoming MCPASD field trips this fall, and review how we can interact with the new Soils on the Move project.

Volunteer Opportunities

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. All seed collection sessions are open to the public and will take place at Pope Farm Conservancy. No experience is necessary, but we ask that you register in advance. Please email Curt Caslavka at curt@popefarmconservancy.org and let him know which session(s) you will be attending.

Upcoming sessions:

- Saturday, August 25th, 2018 (9:30 to 11:30 AM)
- Saturday, September 15th, 2018 (9:30 to 11:30 AM)
- Wednesday, September 26th, 2018 (9:30 to 11:30 AM)
- Wednesday, October 10th, 2018 (9:30 to 11:30 AM)

More information can be found on our website:

<https://www.popefarmconservancy.org/events/prairie-seed-collection/>

Other Recent Events

Prairie Tour on July 14th, 2018

Photo and copy by Katie Yapp

On Saturday, July 14, community members and Friends of Pope Farm Conservancy joined Mike Anderson on a beautiful scenic tour of the conservancy's six different prairies and restored Oak Savanna. Mike guided 27 tour participants around the conservancy as he explained how the prairies were created and nurtured throughout the years to create biologically diverse ecosystems. As the tour progressed through the conservancy, Mike discussed the key differences between the six prairies, highlighting how and where the many different native plants thrive. Engaged tour participants had many questions, including how to address invasive species without threatening local ecosystems. A huge thank you to Mike and everyone who attended the tour!



Question of the Month

Question: Will the FOPFC host Sunflower Days in the future?

Answer: This letter was sent to the Town of Middleton last month, and explains the FOPFC position on its future involvement with Sunflower Days.

July 18, 2018

Cynthia Richson
Chair, Town Board, Town of Middleton
7555 West Old Sauk Road
Verona, WI 53593

RE: Friends of Pope Farm Conservancy/Sunflower Days

Dear Cyndi:

As you know, the Friends (FOPFC), with the permission and support of the Town of Middleton, have been hosting the annual Sunflower Days event for the past several years. This year, the FOPFC declined to host the event because of our unresolved concerns regarding the large number of attendees, the inadequate parking caused by the large number of attendees and the safety issues which we believe would result from off-site parking.

After discussion by the Town Board, the Board also decided that it would not go forward with its own hosting of Sunflower Days for 2018 with the result being that no such event is occurring this year. Looking to the future, the FOPFC has carefully analyzed the amount of effort and the number of volunteers required by our hosting of the event. Most recently, by our calculations and records, we required approximately 2,500 hours of volunteer work in order to host the event. We compared that with approximately 700 hours of volunteer work for Prairie Restoration and approximately 400 hours of volunteer work dedicated to education. We compared these committed hours of volunteer time in these three separate categories with the purpose and mission clause set forth in both our bylaws and our 501(3)(c) application and concluded that we have significantly strayed from our mission statement. Our Board of Directors has discussed this at length and concluded that we need to refocus our time and effort on our purpose and mission statements which emphasize prairie restoration and education. This realization caused our Board to decide that it was no longer appropriate for the FOPFC to host Sunflower Days in the future. Having made this decision at the Board level, we also wanted to promptly communicate this decision to the Town of Middleton Board so that it would have ample time to do its own planning with respect to potential future Sunflower Days events.

If you have any questions about this, please do not hesitate to contact me at your convenience.

Very truly yours,

Mel Pope

Mel Pope, Chairperson
Of the Friends of the Pope Farm Conservancy, Inc.

If you have any additional questions/concerns, please email us at info@popefarmconservancy.org.

Friend of the Month

Thank you, John Andrews!

John Andrews has been a mainstay of the Prairie Restoration Team for several years. John is a retired Plant Pathologist from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and has been instrumental in offering advice in a variety of ways. John has volunteered to supervise seed collections and weed control efforts in the prairies managed by the Friends. John is a past member of the TOM Parks Commission, and at one time he was the liaison between that organization and the FOPFC. Over the years John has helped supervise tree planting, trimmed young trees, and offered advice on a number of the crops that you see at the Conservancy. Several years ago, John volunteered to help put together the interpretive sign for the Timothy field. His expertise has been invaluable over the years, and his efforts have truly made a difference at Pope Farm Conservancy. We all owe John a huge thanks for his efforts!



Happy Trails to you, Mike!

Photos of the Month



Prairies in full bloom - Photo by Awni Sarrif



Pollinators busy at work - Photo by Steve P.



Sandhill cranes, just one of many bird species at PFC



The Perfect Picnic Spot – Photo: Janie Starzewski

You can upload your photo(s) to our Flickr page at <https://www.flickr.com/groups/fopfc-photos/> or email them to janie@popefarmconservancy.org.

Connect with FOPFC online

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

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.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!**