



October 2018 News Update

Upcoming Events at PFC

Last Seed Collection of the Season

Wednesday, October 10th, 2018 (9:30 – 11:30 a.m.)

Please join us for the last seed collection effort of 2018 on **Wednesday, October 10th from 9:30-11:30am**. We need your help to increase the diversity of prairie plant species at Pope Farm Conservancy and improve the overall quality of our prairies. This final session is open to the public and will take place at the conservancy.



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. No experience is necessary but we ask that you sign up in advance. Please register online at:

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

OR, you can email Curt Caslavka at curt@popefarmconservancy.org to let him know you are coming.

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

Hope to see you there!

Fall Middleton/Cross Plains School District Field Trips Scheduled for October 3rd, 4th, and 5th



Many thanks to all the volunteers who stepped forward to help with the Fall field trip this year. Fourth graders from all six of the schools in the Middleton Cross Plains School District will attend the event. Dr Amy Rosebrough from the State Historical Society has revamped the presentation to the students, and more than 15 volunteers have signed up to help over the 3-day event. Special thanks to the Education Team which has put a tremendous amount of time into this effort!

We look forward to reporting on these field trips in the November News Update.

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 join our committees if you are interested.

Events Team Meeting

When: Wednesday, November 7th, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

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

The Events Team will make final decisions on the 2019 line up of Tours/Talks/Events.

Education Team Meeting

When: Thursday, October 16th, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

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

Discussion topics: The Education Team will work on the “history of the land” interactive tour project and review initial drafts of those stories. We will also review the results from the MCPASD field trip, and how we can improve.

Past Events/Tours

Prairie Seed Collection

Although it has been a wet fall, the Prairie seed collection has gone well this year. Volunteers have collected seeds from the following: Pale Purple Cone Flower, Butterfly Milkweed, Golden Alexander, Purple and White Prairie Clover, and Wild Indigo. These seeds will be used to plant a portion of the Hillside Prairie that has been taken over by Brome Grass.

We invite you to join us for one final seed collection session on **Wednesday, October 10th from 9:30-11:30am.**

Please register online at:

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

OR, you can email Curt Caslavka at curt@popefarmconservancy.org to let him know you are coming.



Fall Migratory Birding Tour September 9th, 2018

Photo and article by Bill Sonzogni

On a cool but beautiful morning (September 9), Mike McDowell led a group of 10 on a birding trip through the Conservancy. Mike, who has been leading these walks in the spring and the fall for many years, is an expert birder and photographer. His ability to identify birds by their sound and flight pattern is truly amazing, and is a testament to his many days afield.

On this trip, about 35 birds were identified. Highlights included a scarlet tanager, juvenile bluebirds that were probably fledged on the conservancy, a red tail hawk that was observed hunting and capturing its prey, and several species of warblers. The warblers spotted include palm, redstart, bay-breasted and magnolia. Despite being harassed by mosquitoes at times, all had fun and learned a great deal about conservancy birds.



Monarch Butterfly Tagging 2018

Photos by Barbara Esser,
Article by Janie Starzewski

Approximately 35 volunteers participated in the 2018 Monarch Tagging Project at Pope Farm Conservancy. From Sept. 8th through Sept. 21st, volunteers tagged and released close to 200 monarch butterflies at the conservancy.

The tagging took place mainly in the Wheatfield prairie and the North and South prairies, where we found the butterflies nectaring on the Showy Goldenrod and New England asters.

We captured the monarchs using quality butterfly nets, then very carefully placed a tag, or sticker, over the large, mitten-shaped cell (discal cell) on the underside of the hindwing of the monarchs. The butterflies were promptly released to continue on their journey to Mexico.



Each tag contains a number that identifies the monarch. Along with the number, we record the date & location of the tagging and whether its male or female. Later on, when a person sees or recovers a tagged monarch, he/she can report it on the MonarchWatch.org website. The majority of the recovered tags are obtained in Mexico. Later this winter, our volunteers can look up the tag ID of the monarchs they tagged to see if, where, and when those monarchs were recovered.



The Monarch Tagging Project is all part of a nationwide effort to better the dynamics of the monarch's spectacular fall migration through mark and recapture, and to perhaps give us clues as to why the populations are in decline. "Anything we can do at Pope Farm to help with this research is important," said Curt Caslavka.

Special Thanks:

- To Madison Audubon Society for donating the tags
- To Curt Caslavka for organizing this project
- To our Project Supervisors: Kim Patullo, Beth Rahko, Valerie Hoch, Mike Anderson, and Janie Starzewski
- To all the volunteers to participated in this project!!

Question of the Month

Question: What is the status of the screened trail to the picnic area?

Answer: The screened trail has had problems for years and with the last flooding, the Town has decided to make a more lasting repair. The screened trail was laid down in 2005. For the first five or six years, there were no problems with it, even during heavy rains. Over time, the trail was not maintained correctly and grass along the side of the trail grew to the point that, when there was a heavy rain event, the water could not sheet off the trail. Instead, water would continue along the trail and pick up momentum, creating a trough-like effect. This created the conditions for erosion.



Over the years the trail has been “repaired” so many times that the actual pitch of the trail has changed in places, and that has exacerbated the problem. In October, the trail will be redone with the proper pitch so that water will sheet over the trail. In addition, some small earthen berms will be put into place to redirect some of the water before it gets to the trail. A long-term maintenance program will go into effect to ensure that water continues to sheet off the trail in the future. This is a “stepped” approach to the problem, and the trail will be carefully observed to see if further action will be required. A big thank you to Jim Bolitho (FOPFC) for all his work researching this problem, and to the Town of Middleton for their responsive action.

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

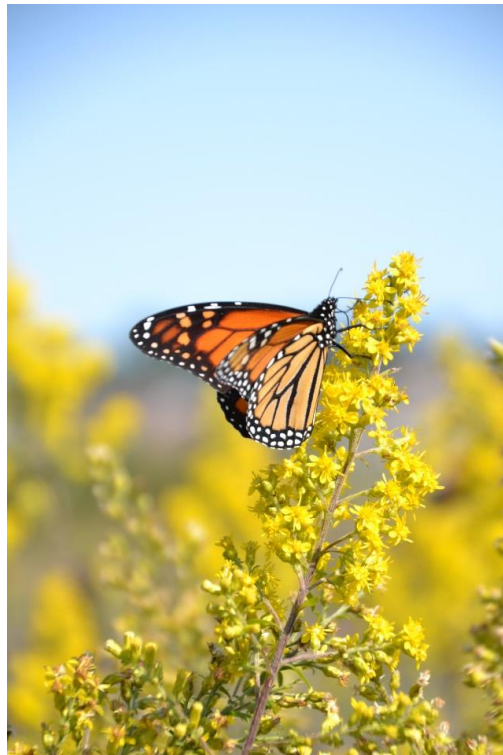
Friend of the Month

Thank you, Kim Patullo!

Kim has been very involved with the FOPFC Prairie Team for the last several years. Kim is not only on the Prairie Team, she has helped supervise volunteers at seed collection and weeding sessions. Kim has been invaluable to the team. In addition, Kim recruited and led a number of Master Gardeners into the prairies to treat the Pale Indian Plantain plants that have become dominating and invasive. This fall, Kim also led volunteers in tagging Monarch Butterflies as part of the 2018 tagging project. We appreciate Kim’s upbeat personality and her commitment to helping preserve the natural world at Pope Farm Conservancy!

Photos of the Month

If you would like to share a picture from your visit to Pope Farm Conservancy, please email your photo(s) to janie@popefarmconservancy.org.



Renew Your Membership

Just a reminder...you can now renew your membership online:

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

Or download our printable membership renewal form and mail your us your form & check.

https://www.popefarmconservancy.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/FOPFC_Membership_Volunteer_Renewal_Form-2017.pdf

If you have already renewed your membership, THANK YOU! As a member of FOPFC, you will continue to receive monthly updates on the Conservancy, bi-annual newsletters, notification of education tours and special events, and invitations to help us in our volunteer efforts. Memberships are good for one (1) calendar year from the last date of your previous membership. We hope you enjoy being a part of our community.

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!

