



November 2018 News Update

Recent Events

Recap of Middleton Cross Plains 4th Grade Field Trips

Imagine you lived on the land at Pope Farm Conservancy 1000 years ago. Would you be able to survive the long cold winters using only what nature provided and your own creative ideas? That was the question posed to 4th graders from Sunset Ridge, Park, Sauk Trails, Elm Lawn, Northside and West Middleton elementary schools at the field trips held at Pope Farm Conservancy on October 3, 4 and 5.

With expert coaching from Dr. Amy Rosebrough of the Wisconsin Historical Society, volunteers from the Friends of Pope Farm Conservancy led the students in interactive lessons where they learned to gather wild food, how tools were made, and how food was grown and stored 1000 years ago. After the lessons, the students participated in a Seasonal Round game and used their new knowledge to see if they could make choices that would have helped them survive a winter of long ago. The 4th graders were great listeners and learners – and survivors! We had three fun and informational days.



Photo by Barbara Esser

Pictured above are two of the three learning stations at the 4th Grade field days. On the left, Maria Callis leads students through the Wild Foods station where they learned how Native American people gathered food 1000 years ago. Trel Gimber (on the right) demonstrates the technology used by Native Americans.



Photo by Barbara Esser
Above: Kristie Pope and Carol McAdow demonstrate how food was grown and stored.



Photo by Barbara Esser
Above: Dennis Dresang, Barbara Esser, and Maxine Austin are shown holding the team mascots used to escort the 4th graders from station to station.

What's New at Pope Farm Conservancy?

Screened Trail has been repaired



Over the years, grass has built up along the sides of the trail and has prevented water from sheeting off of it. Consequently, water has continued to erode the screenings and has made quite the mess at PFC. In addition to regrading the trail, natural swales were put in key locations to divert the water away from the trail. The Town of Middleton hired Pinnacle Landscape to do the work at PFC. Thank you for your patience!

Exterior gates to PFC have been built

To help prevent further vandalism, the Town of Middleton has installed two new security gates at PFC. The gates are located at the Old Sauk Road main entrance to PFC and the Blackhawk Road parking entrance (pictured below). Given the problems with vandalism in the past, the FOPFC encouraged the Town to restrict parking at the Conservancy at night when the Conservancy is closed. Most of the vandalism, such as the use of Molotov Cocktails, lighting accelerants in the parking lots, flares, theft, and damage to the interpretive signs, has occurred after dark. When the Town of Middleton has determined the dates and hours the gates will be put into use, we will relay that information to you.



Blackhawk Road exterior security gate

Old Sauk Rd. exterior security gates

We are thankful to the Town of Middleton for taking this action!

NEW Interactive Tour Project Released

"German Emigration" Videos are complete!

The FOPFC Education team has been working on this interactive tour project for several years, and have recently completed the first story — “German Emigration to the Town of Middleton.” The interactive tour project is designed so that people can access further information about Pope Farm Conservancy features as they walk around the conservancy. Visitors will be able to use their smart phones to scan a bar code, which will link the videos posted on the FOPFC website here:

<https://www.popefarmconservancy.org/plan-your-visit/interactive-tours/>

The first story in this Interactive Tour Project is about “German Emigration to the Town of Middleton.” It has 8 parts, and includes 8 short videos. These videos are only 2-4 minutes in length and provide fascinating insight in the lives of the people from Mecklenburg, Germany who settled in the Pope Farm Conservancy neighborhood in the mid-19th century.

The next story the Education team is working on is about the “History of the Land.” In the past, the land at Pope Farm has been a Winnebago Indian Reserve, has been owned by families with different nationalities, and has finally become a Conservancy. We are hoping to complete the “History of the Land” story in 2019. The process of working on several more stories is scheduled after that. If you like history, please think about visiting the upcoming Education team meetings. See meeting information below.



Congratulations to the Education Team on this great project!

Please check this out... It is terrific!

The videos are available to view on the FOPFC website:

<https://www.popefarmconservancy.org/plan-your-visit/interactive-tours/>

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.

Events Team Meeting

When: Wednesday, November 7th (TOMORROW) 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: Tuesday, November 13th, 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 4th Grade field trip, and how we can improve.

Question of the Month

Question: Has research been done to determine the economic value of Friends volunteer work for the Conservancy?

Answer: Yes. The Friends have been in existence for approximately 5½ years. To help determine the value of our volunteer efforts, we reached out to Dane County to learn how it determines the value of county volunteers. That led us to the independent sector that puts a dollar value on volunteer time. The current value is \$24 per hour for volunteers in the State of Wisconsin. You can view how that value is derived at the following website at <https://independentsector.org/>. We took the historical data from the independent sector and applied the per-hour rate for that year against the number of volunteer hours contributed by the Friends. We also included grants awarded to the Friends, contributions, and printing and promotion.

The following is a summary of the value created by the FOPFC for Pope Farm Conservancy since our beginning.

Volunteer hours 2013 -2018 (21,138)	= \$488,333
Grants awarded to FOPFC	= \$7,338
Contributions in kind suppliers	= \$14,100
Direct contributions by FOPFC	= \$22,600
Printing, Mailing, Promotion of PFC	= \$22,316

Value created by FOPFC since inception = \$554,687

The Friends have added value to the Conservancy by facilitating increased usage, developing educational programming and lesson plans, field trips, capital improvements (parking lane, garden shed), getting grants, equipment, leading prairie restoration and seed collection, providing information to the public, self-guided tour pamphlets, interactive education displays, signage, and much more. Although there are thousands of “hard cost” savings for the Town, most of this value is beyond what normally would be spent at the Conservancy. This value has created a higher level of quality and outreach that make Pope Farm Conservancy the very special place that it is.

A huge thanks to all of you for your memberships and for your efforts. We all should be proud of what we have created!

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

Friend of the Month

Thank you, Katie Yapp

Katie is a person of many talents who has been so very helpful over the last couple of years. Katie is in charge of volunteer administration on the Friends of Pope Farm Conservancy board of directors. She is working on how to integrate information from our members to the various team chairs. She has helped generate volunteer interest and participation. In addition, Katie is on the events team and provides valuable input including how to interact with social media. In the past Katie has volunteered for Sunflower Days, has helped host tours, and has helped with the annual membership picnic. We thank Katie for all she has done—she truly has made a difference at Pope Farm Conservancy!



Happy Trails to you, Katie!

Photos of the Month



The Blackhawk Prairie boasts some impressive color in the fall.



Visitors to Pope Farm Conservancy enjoy a picnic on a beautiful fall day in early October.



Lone tree, prairie and stone fence at Pope Farm Conservancy. Photo by Eileen Williams



Autumn is here in the Oak Savanna

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!



Beautiful Fall Colors at Pope Farm Conservancy
Photo by Hayley Schreiter