



July 2018 News Update

Upcoming Talks & Tours

Prairie and Oak Savanna Walking Tour

Saturday, July 14th (9:00-10:30am) * Meet in the lower parking lot *



Join Mike Anderson on a beautiful scenic tour of Pope Farm Conservancy's six different prairies and a restored Oak Savanna. Come hear the story of how crop fields and bare ground were restored to two of the world's rarest and biologically diverse ecosystems. This is your chance to ask prairie restoration and management questions and learn to identify native plants.

This tour is free, family-friendly, and open to the public. We will meet in the LOWER parking lot near the Old Sauk Rd entrance.

About the Speaker: Mike Anderson has been actively managing and restoring Wisconsin's native plant communities since 1991. His involvement with Pope Farm began in 2003 when he wrote a plan for converting the farm's agricultural land to native prairie and savanna. Following the Town's acceptance of the plan, Mike planted Pope Farm's first prairie – the South Prairie – in the spring of 2004. This was followed by the planting and management of four additional prairies and savannas. Mike stays involved with PFC as a Friend.

Annual Tour at Pope Farm Conservancy **Tuesday, August 7th, 2018 (6:00 – 7:30 pm)**

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 event is free, family-friendly, and open to the public. No registration needed.
**** We will meet at the top of the hill. ****

Nature Photography Hike **Saturday, August 18th, 2018 (8:00 – 9:30 am)**

Grab your camera and join wildlife/outdoor photographer, John McComb, for a beautiful nature photography hike at Pope Farm Conservancy. We will meet at the top of the hill for introductions and a short talk on basic photography composition in nature and wildlife. We will find many subjects to photograph at the conservancy, including insects and pollinators, birds, rolling landscapes and fields of crops and prairies. Bring your photo gear – this should be an excellent shoot! Dress for the weather and be prepared for mud/wet trails and insects. Good shoes or boots and long pants 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.

SAVE THE DATE

FOPFC Annual Picnic... BRUNCH! Saturday, August 18th (10:00 - 11:30 AM)

Make plans to join your fellow "Friends" on Saturday, August 18th from 10-11:30AM at Pope Farm Conservancy for our Annual Friends Picnic! Bring the entire family and come enjoy a delicious BRUNCH at the conservancy. Hosted by the Friends of Pope Farm Conservancy. More information to come!

For questions or to volunteer for this event, please contact Martha at events@popefarmconservancy.org.



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: Monday, July 16th, 2018 (6:30 – 8:00 p.m.)

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

Discussion topics: The Events Team will be discussing & planning for the Friends' Annual Picnic Brunch on August 18th. Please stop in and share your thoughts & ideas!

Prairie Partners 2018

The Friends of Pope Farm Conservancy is excited to be participating in the Prairie Partners program for the third year in a row. Together with the Friends of Pheasant Branch, UW Arboretum, Friends of Lakeshore Nature Preserve, Natural Heritage Land Trust, and Madison Audubon Society, this highly successful program provides an outstanding opportunity for students interested in restoration ecology to learn while they work. Each summer, five interns are selected to participate in the program. Their duties include invasive



species control, seed collection, trail maintenance, biological monitoring, etc. at various sites within the greater Madison area. They not only gain field experience in habitat restoration and management, but they are helping to restore and protect some of the most beautiful and productive habitat in south-central Wisconsin. This summer, we welcome 5 incredibly talented and hard-working individuals. They are pictured on the previous page from left to right: Jackson Pertzborn, Tanner Pettit, Henry Wiedmeyer, Siena Muehlfeld, and Daniel Joannes. We are very happy with the result of their work together. If you happen to see them out in the prairies, stop by and say HI!

Photo credit: Barbara Esser

***NEW* Youth Summer Camps at Pope Farm**

Aldo Leopold Nature Center pilots two weeks of summer camps on West Side

Photos by Melissa Salisbury

For two weeks at the end of June, Pope Farm Conservancy and Blackhawk Ski Club were home to the "Westside Explorers," Aldo Leopold Nature Center's newest summer camps on Madison's west side.



From June 18-22, the "Top to Bottom" campers, ranging in age from 7 to 9, spent their mornings learning about geology and glaciers, followed by an afternoon knee deep in and around Black Earth creek and its surrounding watershed.



Then from June 25-29, the "Living off the Land" campers learned a lot about being outdoors! They built shelters, cooked meals over a fire, learned to navigate with a compass, practiced basic knot tying skills, and found traces of wildlife, but learned how to 'Leave No Trace.'



They also learned about the three sister plants (squash, corn, and beans) in the Native American Gardens. Pope Farm Conservancy provided an excellent "outdoor classroom" where these campers could explore how our ancestors, from indigenous peoples to pioneer settlers lived off the land in this unique area.

The Friends of Pope Farm Conservancy helped facilitate this new partnership, and Blackhawk Ski Club graciously shared their beautiful ski chalet as a base of operations.

We hope to see these camp programs continue at Pope Farm again next summer!



Recent Events

Geology Tour on June 7th, 2018

Photo and copy: Anna Abbott

About 40 people enjoyed a great talk presented by Eric Carson, Glacial Geologist at the Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey. Pope Farm, with its moraines and watersheds, provided a beautiful and unique backdrop for Eric's informative talk. Thanks, Eric!



Bee & Pollinators Talk on June 12th, 2018

Photo and copy: Anna Abbott

Susan Carpenter, UW Arboretum outreach specialist, helped attendees of our Bees and Pollinators talk understand how important native habitats, such as those at the Conservancy, are for pollinators. The federally endangered rusty patched bumble bee is one of the pollinators that has been identified as living at PFC in 2018 and in recent years. Susan encouraged participants to get involved with a fun hobby of photographing and identifying bees. Bees are the most important of pollinators, she said. There are 400–500 kinds of wild bees found in Wisconsin. They vary in size and lifestyle, with 80–90% being solitary versus social colony type. Even within a species, there is a wide



range of coloration and unique markings found among the Queen, workers and males. This makes identification difficult, yet interesting. Susan encouraged growing native plants to provide pollen and nectar sources and creating habitat such as that found at the Conservancy. She also suggested monitoring bumble bees by photographing them and submitting pictures to the Wisconsin Bumble Bee Brigade (WDNR). <http://wiatri.net/inventory/bbb/>

Birding Tour on June 16, 2018

Photos and copy: Jane Ilgen

Early risers who attended our Birding Tour shared a wonderful morning at Pope Farm Conservancy with Mike McDowell and his incredible birding skills. Mike helped us use both our ears and eyes to find birds in the Conservancy. By the end of the morning, we had seen—or heard—39 species!



Question of the Month

Question: What is the status of additional security at PFC?



Molotov Cocktail PFC



Accelerant in Parking Lot PFC

Answer: On July 2nd, the Town of Middleton Board approved the addition of security gates at PFC to prohibit the parking of vehicles in the Conservancy at night. The vote was Richson, Oberle, Connell and Renteria in favor and Stemrich abstained. Prior to the vote, the Town Public Works Committee had recommended that the Town Board put in additional gates, and the Town Parks Commission was opposed to this concept.

A huge thank you for those of you who attended the Town of Middleton Board meetings on this issue. There was an excellent turn out from the Friends, and those of you who attended had a positive long-term impact on the Conservancy

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

Friend of the Month

Thank you, Mike Faulhaber

Mike Faulhaber, is one of our most enthusiastic Friends. Mike has been a parking supervisor for Sunflower days, attending meetings and helping with preparations. He also volunteered on numerous shifts to ensure the success of the event. Mike has offered to help organize our volunteer efforts with the West Town–Middleton Rotary Club and has solicited volunteers in that effort. Last year Mike offered to help with corporate fund raising for Sunflower Days and has always enthusiastically volunteered for the betterment of the Conservancy. In the past he has participated in discussions about events, the homestead project and others, and has truly made a difference to Pope Farm Conservancy.



Happy Trails to you, Mike!

Photos of the Month



Butterfly Weed - Photo by Barbara Esser



Lots of blooms in the Hillside Prairie - Photo by Janie Starzewski



Spiderwort is a charming, old-fashioned native plant and can be found in several of the prairies at Pope Farm Conservancy. Photo by Janie Starzewski

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!**

