



August 2019 News Update

Sunflower Days

As most of you know, the Friends of Pope Farm Conservancy are not involved in Sunflower Days this year. It is entirely a Town of Middleton event. The FOPFC Board has decided not to take a public position on how the Town is running the event except that the Board wishes that the conservancy could have remained open and free to members of the public who wished to visit parts of the conservancy other than the Sunflower fields.

The Pope Family has separate concerns with the Town's management of Sunflower Days. The Pope Family believes that the Town has commercialized the event in violation of an agreement between the Town and the Pope family. If you want to read more about the Pope Family's position please go the family's website: www.protectpopefarmconservancy.com

Art and Betty Pope's granddaughter, Michelle Pope-Bartman, has also posted an extensive statement explaining the family's position on her public Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/mebartman>

Upcoming Events

"Stories in Stone"

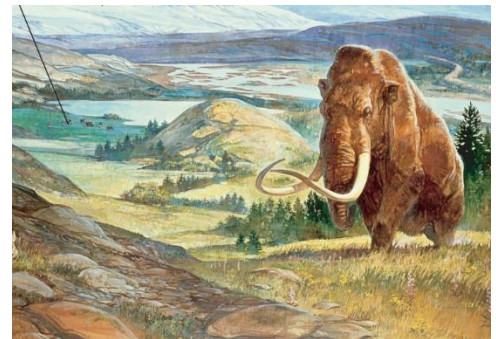
Geology Fun for the Whole Family

WHEN: Saturday, August 17th, 2019 (10:00-11:00AM)

WHERE: Pope Farm Conservancy - Meet in the lower parking lot

GUEST SPEAKER: Brooke Norsted, UW-Geology Museum

Join us for "Stories in Stone" with Brooke Norsted, Assistant Director of the UW-Madison Geology Museum. Travel through time and discover the unexpected history of Wisconsin's geological past, including volcanoes, tropical seas, and mastodons! We will look at specimens in the conservancy's iconic stone fence and talk about the deep stories that our state's rocks tell. After the presentation, complete your visit with a walk through the conservancy and observe many different rock formations along the way.



Free and open to the public. No registration necessary.

Late Summer Nature Photography Workshop

WHEN: Saturday, August 24th, 2019 (7:30-8:30AM)

WHERE: Pope Farm Conservancy
Meet in the lower parking lot

PRESENTERS: Photography Partners from PhotoMidwest

Our photography partners from PhotoMidwest will be at the conservancy to provide tips and advice on taking great nature photos. We'll learn how to capture the beauty of late summer in the early morning light. The prairies and oak savanna will be at their peak, and, if we're lucky, we'll encounter butterflies, birds, and more along the way. Bring your camera and bug spray.

Free and open to the public. No registration necessary.



Prairie Restoration Work Days

The FOPFC Prairie Restoration Team is recruiting volunteers again this year to help collect prairie plant seeds and remove invasive species, in efforts to increase the diversity of prairie plant species at Pope Farm Conservancy and to improve the overall quality of our prairies. 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.



This year's collected seed will be used at Pope Farm to interseed a small portion of the Hillside Prairie that now consists of smooth brome grass.

FOPFC Seed Collection 2019 will take place on the following dates:

- Saturday, August 24, 2019 (9:30 – 11:30 am)
- Saturday, September 14, 2019 (9:30 – 11:30 am)
- Wednesday, September 25, 2019 (9:30 – 11:30 am)
- Wednesday, October 9, 2019 (9:30 – 11:30 am)

Please join us — it's fun, and it's an investment in the future! All sessions are open to the public. Groups are welcome, too. If interested, please email Curt Caslavka at curt@popefarmconservancy.org.

More Events to Come in September!

- [Monarch Butterfly Tagging](#)
Early to mid-September (Actual dates TBD)
- [Archaeology Tour at Pope Farm](#)
Presenters: Dr. Amy Rosebrough, State Historical Society
Thursday, September 19, 2019 @ 6:30pm

Check out the full line-up of talks & tours on our website: www.popefarmconservancy.org

Past Events

Good Bugs and Bad Bugs Talk

Photo and Story by Robby Sonzogni

Over 20 people came out on Saturday, July 20th to hear about bugs from Phil Pellitteri. As a distinguished Faculty Associate Emeritus in the UW-Madison Entomology Department, Phil had many interesting facts to share about the bugs we saw. We identified aphids, ants, spiders, Japanese beetles, monarch butterflies, and longhorn beetles, among others. He also gave us tips on controlling unwanted pests in our gardens. The gorgeous prairies were enjoyed by all.



What's New at PFC?

Friends propose to provide 6 new interpretive signs on man-made and natural erosion

The FOPFC Board approved funding for 6 new interpretive signs that would explain the story of erosion on the land. The Friends Education Team will be presenting this proposal to the Town of Middleton Parks Commission in August to seek its approval.



Pictured Left: CCC Spillway in 1938 (today the spillway is located at the PFC and is still functional)

Photo courtesy of Mary Dauck Nelson

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: Tuesday, August 13th, 2019 (6:30 – 8:00 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 work on suggestions to improve the erosion story and ideas for promotion of our German Immigration video series.

Question of the Month

Question: What’s New with the Friends?

Answer: The Friends plan to develop new educational content for Pope Farm Elementary School students.



Pictured Above: Rendering of Pope Farm Elementary School (east side)

The Friends are planning to focus their efforts on developing educational content in the future. Pope Farm Elementary School is scheduled to open in the fall of 2020 and the Friends see the opening as an excellent opportunity to focus on helping to educate students about the stories of the land and the environment. We have met, and will continue to meet, with school officials to offer our help. The Friends view this as an exciting journey in partnership with the Middleton Cross Plains Area School District. With the possible addition of Pope Farm Middle School in the future, the new site would be home to approximately 1,400 students. This will offer our very talented volunteers many rewarding experiences to make a difference for the next generation. We also want to help enhance the surrounding lands and make them “field-trip friendly,” which would provide additional opportunities for the FOPFC volunteer base. We will be announcing more about our exciting future plans in next month’s update.

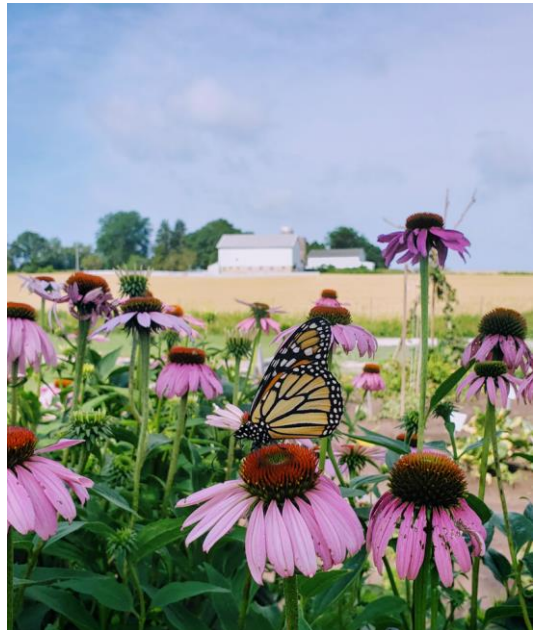
Friend of the Month

Thank you, Amy Rosebrough!

Dr. Amy Rosebrough has worked tirelessly for 14 years to enhance the educational aspects of Pope Farm Conservancy. Amy works at the State Historical Society and was instrumental in developing the Native American and Theme gardens at the conservancy. The gardens are her passion, and she plants and tends them every year. She has given talks to the public about how the Native Americans lived and practiced agriculture here in southern Wisconsin. Amy helped develop the curriculum for the 4th grade field trips, and trains the Friends on how to present this information to the students. She has volunteered countless times for many other projects conducted by the FOPFC. Amy has been an incredible educational resource. She has helped develop interpretive signs, and is part of the Education Team and has truly made a difference to Pope Farm Conservancy. Thank you, Amy!!

Photos of the Month

We'd love to see photos from your visit to PFC. Send us your "summer-time" photos, and we'll share them here with our membership. Please email photos to janie@popefarmconservancy.org



Photos by Jim Stewart (monarch caterpillar) and 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!

