



## March 2019 News Update

### Recent Events

#### Winter Photography Hike on March 2nd

Twenty community members and volunteers gathered at Pope Farm Conservancy on March 2nd for a winter photography workshop and hike. Hosted by the FOPFC and members of PhotoMidwest, the event started with an overview of the conservancy and tips and tricks on how to take great winter photos. The group then walked along the rock wall, stopping to take pictures of plants poking thru the fresh snow, the prairies, trees, and the conservancy landscape.



Photo by LoriRenee Photography

A huge thank you to John, Jim, and Lisa (pictured below) from PhotoMidwest for sharing their knowledge and expertise.



## Town of Middleton to Hold Sunflower Days

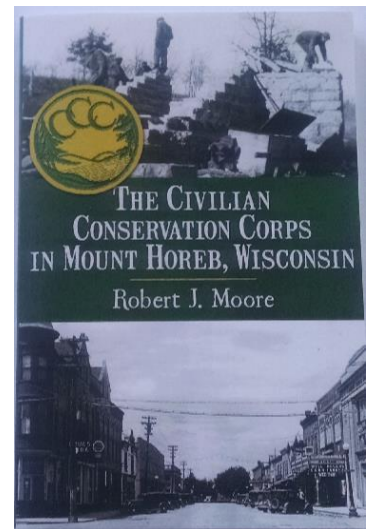
The Town of Middleton announced that it will sponsor Sunflower Days this summer. The Town has hired Race Day Events company to put on Sunflower Days. Race Day Events’s original proposal to the town was met with heavy opposition because it included bands, alcohol, bouncy houses, and church services. The Town of Middleton board decided that those items were not appropriate for a Town-sponsored event in the Conservancy. The final plans are not complete at this time. The Town is attempting to raise funds, and visitors will be charged an entry fee. Read more in this recent Middleton Times-Tribune article: <http://www.middletontimes.com/articles/2019/03/01/sunflower-days-officially-back-2019>. We will also post more information on our website as we know more in the coming months.

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## CCC at Pope Farm Featured in New Book by Robert J. Moore

Robert J. Moore has completed his fascinating book on the Civilian Conservation Corps in Mount Horeb, Wisconsin. The book features the work done by the members of the CCC in the 1930s and discusses why these men came to southern Wisconsin as part of President Roosevelt’s “New Deal.” There are a number of photos of the Spillway that is located at Pope Farm Conservancy that show how it was constructed.

This is a great book and it gives a flavor of local history on a topic that has almost been forgotten. Robert Moore spoke at the Friends’ annual meeting several years ago and talked about his research. You can purchase this book for \$17.50 at Mt. Horeb History Museum in downtown Mt. Horeb; Schuberts Restaurant in downtown Mt. Horeb; the Barnes and Noble website; and Amazon online.



Pictured below: The CCC Spillway Construction Crew and Installation Photos Courtesy of Robert J. Moore



## 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, March 5th, 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.

### Events Team Meeting

When: Tuesday, March 26th, 2019 (6:30 – 8:30 p.m.)

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

Discussion topics: The Events Team will finalize the 2019 line up of public talks/tours and begin to identify and confirm speakers/presenters. We are looking to recruit more volunteers to join the Events Team this year. If you enjoy organizing and/or promoting events, please consider attending one of our meetings to learn more.

## FOPFC's New Logo

You may have noticed that the FOPFC has NEW logo that now includes the iconic stone fence and oak tree at Pope Farm Conservancy. After the difficult decision not to host Sunflower Days last year, we were able to refocus our efforts on projects that better aligned with our mission: to enhance the educational opportunities at Pope Farm Conservancy, preserve the balance of its wildlife habitat and historical features, and protect its scenic landscapes and tranquility for the enjoyment of the public.



And that's exactly what the Friends did! In 2018, we offered 7 educational tours/talks, administered self-guided tour programs, hosted the 4th grade fall field trips and for 3 days educated students about Native Americans, and Land Formation. We produced a series of 8 educational videos about “German Emigration” for an interactive tour of PFC, and we researched, designed, and installed additional signage to share the history of the land. We managed 4 prairies at Pope Farm Conservancy for the Town of Middleton, coordinated volunteer efforts to help control invasive species in the conservancy, assisted the Town of Middleton to fix the erosion problem along the stone fence, and tagged over 200 monarch butterflies to track them through their migration to Mexico.

As a visual reaffirmation of our purposes and goals, we chose to replace the sunflower with the historic stone fence in the shade of a majestic oak tree. We are excited to share our official new logo with you! The new logo was designed by our graphic artist volunteer, Linda Napiwocki of Purple Moon Design, LLC. Thank you, Linda!

## Question of the Month

**Question:** Will Sunflower Days Benefit Pope Farm Conservancy financially?

**Answer:** The answer depends on whether the Town of Middleton uses anticipated profits to add value to Pope Farm Conservancy or uses them to defray the cost of maintaining the Conservancy at its present level.

The Town of Middleton expects to make a profit sponsoring Sunflower Days 2019 at Pope Farm Conservancy. The Town is required to spend any profits made in the Conservancy on the Conservancy. However, it is possible the Town will choose to use the net proceeds to defray the cost of maintaining the Conservancy at its present level. The Town of Middleton currently maintains the Conservancy as part of its overall obligation to maintain all town-owned parks, trails, and conservancies. If the Town chooses to use Sunflower Days profits for the maintenance and development work it already does at Pope Farm Conservancy, it may benefit Town of Middleton taxpayers. However, since the Town is obligated to maintain the Conservancy whether it holds a Sunflower Days or not, it is not contemplated that Sunflower Days will benefit the Conservancy financially. Unless the Town uses the profits to do something for the Conservancy that it does not currently do, there will be no financial benefit to Pope Farm Conservancy.

Please email your questions or concerns to [info@popefarmconservancy.org](mailto:info@popefarmconservancy.org).

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## Friend of the Month

Thank you, Michelle Bartman!

Michelle Bartman has been working behind the scenes with the Friends since the inception of our organization. Michelle has been entering all of the membership data into the Friends computer system for almost 6 years. She sends out information to our members for their renewals, keeps track of our donors, modifies the mailing lists, tracks volunteer preferences, and sends updated membership lists and actions to the rest of the FOPFC team. She also helped migrate to our new software package several years ago. This position has been critical to the success of the Friends, and Michelle Bartman has really made things work for the rest of us. Michelle, you truly have made a difference to the Friends of Pope Farm Conservancy!



Happy Trails to you, Michelle.



## Photos of the Month

Here are some stunning photos taken by Lori Renee, one of the Winter Photography workshop on March 2nd.



Photo by Photo by LoriRenee Photography



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## **Connect with FOPFC online**

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

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/FriendsOfPopeFarmConservancy>

Flickr: <https://www.flickr.com/groups/fopfc-photos>

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**Thank you for supporting the Friends of Pope Farm Conservancy!  
Our journey is ongoing, and YOU are part of it!**

