



## September 2019 News Update

### Upcoming Events

#### **Archaeology Tour at Pope Farm Conservancy**

**WHEN:** Thursday, Sept 19th 2019 (6:30-7:30 p.m.)

**WHERE:** Pope Farm Conservancy

**SPEAKER:** Dr. Amy Rosebrough, WI State Historical Society

Join Dr. Amy Rosebrough from the WI State Historical Society for a spectacular archaeological walking tour of sites in Pope Farm Conservancy. Learn how the land was sculpted by the glaciers, and hear how the Pope Farm land usage has changed over time, from the early Paleo-Indians to the late 19th century European settlers and beyond. Amy's talks are always a delight! And it's great learning experience for ALL ages!



Free and open to the public. No registration necessary. We will meet in the lower parking lot.

#### **Native American Spirituality and Care for the Earth Talk**

**WHEN:** Saturday, October 5, 2019 (1-2 pm)

**WHERE:** Pope Farm Conservancy

**SPEAKER:** Katherine Heskin, Edgewood College professor

Indigenous peoples believed that the earth and all things on it were sacred — living expressions of the Great Spirit, the nourishing Mother we call Earth. Join us as Katherine Heskin, an Edgewood College professor who is part Native American, helps us see the land through the eyes of this area's earliest inhabitants and shares the spiritual wisdom they offer us in this time of environmental challenge.



Katherine is a theologian and adjunct professor at Edgewood College who has taught Native American spirituality for more than 20 years. She previously taught a native spirituality class at her alma mater, Dominican University.

This presentation is free and open to the public – no registration is necessary.

## **Past Events**

### **"Stories in Stone" - Geology Presentation on August 17, 2019**

Photos and Story by Jane Ilgen

Brooke Norsted from the UW-Madison Geology Museum captured the interest of the more than 30 people who attended our geology talk on a Saturday, August 17th. It was a beautiful day and families of all ages came to enjoy Brooke telling us about the geological history of our state. She moved a heart shape around a state map marking interesting facts. A closing fun fact placed us right on top of the hill at PFC. She told us that if we had been standing there 20,000 years ago, we would be standing on ice and from there we could follow the ice path right to the north pole. Pretty cool! Special thanks to Robbie and Mel for setting up the picnic tables.



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### **Late Summer Nature Photography Workshop with PhotoMidwest on August 24th, 2019**

Photos: Jim Thornbery

It was a perfect late summer morning for our Late Summer Photography event. Our partners from PhotoMidwest provided tips and shared best practices for getting the best photos of the landscape, prairie plants and gardens, as well as the birds and bees in the conservancy. Over 30 photographers attended the event.



A big thank you to the volunteers from PhotoMidwest for running the workshop and sharing photos! And thanks of all of the photographers who attended. Working in partnership with volunteers from groups like PhotoMidwest provides a unique opportunity for the Friends and others who attend the events in the conservancy.

More photos on next page...



Please know we'll definitely offer a program like this again next year, maybe more than once.

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## Volunteer Appreciation Event

August 22nd, 2019

On August 22nd, the FOPFC Board hosted Friends of Pope Farm Conservancy volunteers for an evening of recognition and thanks. Approximately 40 friends gathered at Common Ground in Middleton for a light supper and friendly conversation. Some folks met for the first time after spending months, perhaps years, collaborating via email. It was nice to finally put faces to names.



We are so thankful for ALL the wonderful volunteers who give their time and talents to the Friends.

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## Pope Farm Explorers Complete Summer Camp at PFC



Photo courtesy of Aldo Leopold Nature Center

For two weeks in August, you may have seen groups of school-aged children exploring the trails at Pope Farm Conservancy. These were the "Pope Farm Explorers," who were attending Aldo Leopold Nature Center's west side summer camp for 7-9 year olds. These full day camps met at the chalet at Blackhawk Ski Club and used that site as a base of operations as they explored and learned on the 105 acres of Pope Farm Conservancy as well as the 60 acres that encompass the Blackhawk Ski Club property.

Campers learned how all curiosities and experiences in nature can tell a story. They spent time nature journaling and telling tales around a campfire. They also studied a stream ecosystem in the Black Earth Creek, explored the short and tall grass prairie ecology, investigated the oak savanna and had fun in the forest while learning about trees.

This is the second summer that Aldo Leopold Nature Center has held summer camps on the west side, and they were able to expand the program to reach even more students this summer. We're happy that Pope Farm can provide a space to connect children to nature and foster a love for the natural world.

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## **Volunteer Opportunities**

### **Monarch Butterfly Tagging**

The Monarch Tagging Project at Pope Farm Conservancy is a great and fun way to get involved and give back. This is the third year that the Friends are participating in this project. And it's 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.



All ages welcome! No experience necessary. Volunteers must register in advance to ensure we have enough tags for everyone.

**Click the link below to sign up online:**

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409044DAEAC22A5FE3-monarch1>

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### **Prairie Restoration Work Days**

The FOPFC Prairie Restoration Team is recruiting volunteers again this year. Volunteers will help collect prairie plant seeds and remove invasive species in efforts to increase the diversity of prairie plant species at Pope Farm Conservancy and improve the overall quality of our prairies. Seed collection is easy, and an enjoyable way to spend a couple of hours in nature.



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

- 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 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](mailto:curt@popefarmconservancy.org).

## **MCPASD 4th Grade Fall Field Trips** **September 24 - 26, 2019**

The Middleton-Cross Plains Area School District (MCPASD) 4th grade field trips at Pope Farm Conservancy will take place on September 24th, 25th, and 26th this year. These field trips involve teaching 4th grade students about Native Americans' contribution to agriculture, and other important lessons in history.



The Friends need additional volunteers to help make these field trips a success! There are many ways you can help, including guiding and directing students and chaperoning between the stations. Over the 3 days (weather permitting), we'll hold sessions in the morning and mid-day on September 24, 25, and 26. Students will rotate through a series of stations between the Gardens on Old Sauk Road (each lasting 10-15 minutes) before participating in a role-playing "survival" game during a hike through the Conservancy. Learning stations include: "Wild Foods", "Harvesting the Garden and Storing Food for Winter" and "Ancient Technology and Survival." Volunteers will be trained prior to the event.

Please contact Doug Piper at [dlpiper0413@gmail.com](mailto:dlpiper0413@gmail.com) if you would like to join us and lend a helping hand. Don't miss this opportunity to "give back" to our children and to help them to learn about the natural world!

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## **What's New at PFC?**

### **Pope Farm Elementary School Ahead of Schedule**

According to the team at J.H. Findorff and Son, Inc., "The construction of the school is moving along very well and we are ahead of schedule." The new elementary school is scheduled to open in the Fall of 2020.



Photo by Janie Starzewski

## **Upcoming FOPFC Meetings**

There are no meetings scheduled at this time. The Education Team will be focusing on the 4th grade field trips in September. The Events Team plans to meet again in October or November (date TBD) to discuss planning & scheduling talks/tours for 2020.

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## **Question of the Month**

**Question:** When can we see the monarchs migrating at Pope Farm Conservancy?



Pictured above: Four monarchs nectar on the old field thistle in the Wheatfield prairie.

**Answer:** If you visit Pope Farm Conservancy in early to mid-September, you're likely to see an increase in the number of monarch butterflies floating around in the prairies. As they begin the long journey south to Mexico, they need to fuel up by drinking nectar from a wide variety of flowers, such as milkweed, Showy goldenrod, New England aster, and old field thistle. The prairies at Pope Farm provide ample nectar sources for the butterflies. The best chance of seeing these masses of monarchs are in the North and South prairies (from the top of the hill to the lower parking lot) and in the Wheatfield prairie (along the southern portion of the conservancy).

## **Friend of the Month**

**Thank you Dione Tyler!**

Dione has volunteered to do the data entry function for the Friends of Pope Farm Conservancy. Every month all the new information about memberships, donations, and membership renewals need to be entered into the FOPFC computer system so that the information is both accurate and current. Dione loves to work on spreadsheets and this is a great match for both her and the Friends. After the system is updated, Dione sends out the summary information to the appropriate board members. Her work is very much appreciated by the Friends of Pope Farm Conservancy! Thank you, Dione!

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## **Photos of the Month**

We'd love to see photos from your visit to PFC. Please feel free to share your photos on our Facebook page, or send to [info@popefarmconservancy.org](mailto:info@popefarmconservancy.org).



Photo by Janie Starzewski



Photo by Laurie Zoerb



## 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!**

