

December 2020 News Update

Welcome December



*“Now is the time of fresh starts.
This is the season that makes everything new.*

There is a longstanding rumor that Spring is the time of renewal, but that's only if you ignore the depressing clutter and din of the season. All that flowering and budding and birthing--- the messy youthfulness of Spring actually verges on squalor. Spring is too busy, too full of itself, too much like a 20-year-old to be the best time for reflection, re-grouping, and starting fresh.

For that you need December. You need to have lived through the mindless biological imperatives of your life (to bud, and flower, and show off) before you can see that a landscape of new fallen snow is THE REAL YOU.

December has the clarity, the simplicity, and the silence you need for the best FRESH START of your life.”

— Vivian Swift, *When Wanderers Cease to Roam: A Traveler's Journal of Staying Put*

Pope Farm Events Update

2021 Spring Events - Mark Your Calendars!

The FOPFC Events Team has begun planning for early 2021. So far three online Zoom presentations are in the works for March and April. These headliners include:

- **Pope Farm Conservancy: A Learning Lab for Elementary School Kids**

Monday, March 29, 2021 @ 7:00 PM

Presenter: Alex Schutz, Science Specialist at Pope Farm Elementary School

- **Planting, Growing and Feeding: Forward Garden in 2021**

Saturday, April 10, 2021 @ 2:00 pm

Presenter: Matt Lechmaier, Forward Garden Farm Manager

- **Attracting Eastern Bluebirds to Your Yard**

Tuesday, April 27, 2021 @ 7:00 pm

Presenter: Pat Ready, Director of the Bluebird Restoration Association of Wisconsin

These virtual presentations are free and open to the public. Be sure to check our website in the coming weeks for the registration links and detailed event info. You do not need a Zoom account to participate, just an email address to sign up.

Stay tuned for more events in 2021!

Do you have ideas for event topics and/or presenters that would be a good fit for a virtual format? Please send your thoughts to Martha Zydowsky at mzydowsky@charter.net or better yet, participate in the next Events Committee meeting in November. On-line, of course. More info at the end of this newsletter.

Upcoming FOPFC Meetings

Our Education and Events Teams are now hosting their monthly meetings online via Zoom. We welcome you to participate in these meetings from the comfort of your home.

Education Team Meeting – ONLINE

When: Tuesday, January 19, 2021 @ 6:30pm

Where: Online via Zoom - Email Doug Piper (dlpiper0413@gmail.com) to get the meeting link.

Discussion topics: Continuation on the history project and updates on plans with the school as available.

On the Land Updates

Winter Information Reminder

REMINDER: Pope Farm Conservancy is open from sunrise to sunset year-round. The Blackhawk Parking lot off Blackhawk Road is typically closed through the winter months, so we recommend parking in the lower parking area off Old Sauk Road.

NOTE: If the lower parking lot is full, it is permissible to park in the Pope Farm Elementary School parking lot when school is not in session.



Above: A short path leads from the Pope Farm Elementary parking lot to the eastern border of the conservancy.

Once the snow begins this winter, visitors are welcome to come and enjoy winter activities; snow shoeing, cross country skiing, hiking, and sledding. If the trails are groomed, please walk off to the side of them trail so they remain intact for the cross-country skiers.

In Other News: Covid-19 Shutdowns

- Effective November 23rd, the Town of Middleton Town Hall is currently closed indefinitely due to the increase in COVID-19 cases. Town Hall staff will be working remotely.
- Effective mid-November, the schools within the MCPAS District have been closed due to the increase of COVID-19 cases. All school personnel are working remotely until further notice.

Stories of the Land Update

The Civil Conservation Corps & Erosion stories have gone into production. The CCC played a big role within the Conservancy in the 1930s by building the spillway that has been the long-lasting solution to erosion affecting this area of the Conservancy. Robert Moore, a local expert on the CCC developed the copy which covers several different facets of this story that's rich in history; understanding the Spillway structure, the Depression which sets the context for the story, the players including the CCC and Soil Conservation Service in Dane County, the Mount Horeb CCC Camp, the boys of the CCC, and finally the Legacy of the CCC.



Above: Construction of the CCC Spillway at Pope Farm Conservancy

Once the copy has been prepared, scripts are written and timed out by Doug Normington so that they can be put to video. Photos and other graphics have been sourced to make the story come alive. The end product will be 6 dynamic educational videos that tell stories about the history of the land that is Pope Farm Conservancy today. Anticipated completion is spring 2021.

After several years of hard work with a few fits and starts a la pandemic, the **History of the Land** narrative is complete. The result is a 225-page compilation of research, stories, photos, maps, remembrances, and other tidbits that has been organized by the three farms that once made up the land that is now the Conservancy. The History of the Land will be made available to view on our website by year's end.

The content for the **Geology and Land Formation** story has now been completed, and appropriate photos are being reviewed to help tell the story at Pope Farm Conservancy. Dr. Eric Carson from the Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey at the U.W. is assisting the Friends in this project.

FOPFC Logo Merchandise for Sale

Now available for the Holiday season!

The Friends of Pope Farm Conservancy has a new online store with apparel and merchandise! Thanks to Bonfire.com, we are now selling a number of products with our unique logo printed on them. Products include t-shirts for all ages, sweatshirts, hats, tote bags, and mugs. When you place an order, your items will be printed and shipped directly to you or a friend. A portion of every sale will go directly to the FOPFC.

Visit our online store today

at <https://www.bonfire.com/store/fopfc/>

If you have questions, please email Janie at janie@popefarmconservancy.org.



Give the Gift of FOPFC Membership

Looking for the perfect gift for a friend or loved one? Consider giving the gift of FOPFC membership. As a FOPFC member, the gift recipient will receive:

- A personalized card announcing your special gift, delivered via USPS
- Monthly email updates on the Conservancy
- Updates on upcoming events, public talks/tours, and volunteer opportunities
- Our semi-annual printed magazine, filled with stunning photos, as well as informative and insightful articles about PFC's history, educational programs, and its many plants and animals



How to give a Gift Membership:

- Complete the [Online Membership Form](#). *Be sure to select "Gift Membership" under 'Membership Type'.*
- Download our [Gift Membership Form](#) and mail your completed form and check (payable to Friends of Pope Farm Conservancy) to FOPFC, 10333 Blackhawk Rd, Middleton, WI 53562.

Please contact Lee Pray at info@popefarmconservancy.org with any questions.

Happy Holidays

We wish everyone a very safe and happy holiday season!



As this long and trying year comes to a close, we'd like to take this opportunity to thank our members, donors, and dedicated volunteers for all your support and hard work this year. You can read all about the FOPFC's 2020 accomplishments in our upcoming news magazine, which will be mailed out in early January. In the meantime, we want to wish you and yours a very safe and happy holiday season! And we look forward to the many exciting events and projects to come in 2021.

If you would like to make a year-end contribution, you can donate online at www.popefarmconservancy.org/donate, or send a check (payable to FOPFC) to FOPFC, 10333 Blackhawk Road, Middleton, WI 53562. All donations are tax-deductible.

Thanks again for your continued support!

Connect with FOPFC Online

Website: <https://www.popefarmconservancy.org>
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/FriendsOfPopeFarmConservancy>
Flickr: <https://www.flickr.com/groups/fopfc-photos>

Renew Your Membership: <http://www.popefarmconservancy.org/membership>

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

