



August 2021 News Update



“This morning, the sun endures past dawn.
I realise that it is August: the summer’s last stand.”

— Sara Baume, *A Line Made by Walking*

Photo by Avelleyra Paula

Upcoming Programs at Pope Farm Conservancy

Wildflowers in the Conservancy: Prairie Tour & Workshop

Saturday, August 14, 2021 at 10am

Speaker: Jeff Steele from Wild Ones Madison

Join the Friends and the Madison Chapter of the Wild Ones on this one-hour guided tour of the restored prairies of Pope Farm Conservancy. August is a great time to experience a prairie ecosystem and see many flowers in full bloom. This pleasant walk will serve as an introduction to prairie ecology and plant identification. Those who attend can also ask restoration experts for hints and tips for starting their own “pocket prairies.” Bring your camera, water, sunscreen, and good walking shoes.



This program is FREE and open to the public. No registration required.
We will meet in the lower parking lot off Old Sauk Road.

Visit our event webpage: <https://www.popefarmconservancy.org/events/prairie-savannah-walking-tour/>

FOPFC’s COVID-19 Safety Guidelines: As of August 1, 2021, masks are not required at FOPFC’s programs; however, if you have recently been exposed to someone with Covid-19 or are feeling unwell on the day of a program, please do not attend to ensure the safety of other attendees.

Volunteer Opportunities

Monarch Tagging at Pope Farm Conservancy

This is the fifth year that the Friends will be conducting its Monarch Tagging Project at Pope Farm Conservancy. We invite you to participate in this citizen science project to help search for, capture, tag, and release migrating monarchs. It's a great experience for the whole family! No experience necessary. Registration required.



2021 Dates/Times for Monarch Tagging:

- Sunday, September 5th, 12-2pm
- Tuesday, September 7th, 12-2pm
- Wednesday, September 8th, 1-3pm
- Thursday, September 9th, 12-2pm
- Friday, September 10th, 1-3pm
- Tuesday, September 14th, 1-3pm
- Wednesday, September 15th, 1-3pm

Registration is now open! Go to the link below to sign up in advance so that we may plan accordingly and notify you of any changes. There is a limit of 6 volunteers per session. We typically work in pairs, so we ask that all volunteers please wear masks during this activity. Contact Curt Caslavka at curt@popefarmconservancy.org if you have questions.

Registration link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0d4dafaa2ca0ffc61-fopfc>

Prairie Restoration Work Days

The FOPFC Prairie Restoration Team is once again recruiting volunteers for Seed Collection and Prairie Work Days at Pope Farm Conservancy. Volunteers will help remove invasive plant species and collect prairie plant seeds. Our goal is to use the collected seed to increase the diversity and quality of prairie plant species at Pope Farm Conservancy. Please join us — it's an investment in the future, and it's an enjoyable way to spend a couple of hours in nature!



2021 Dates/Times for Prairie Work Days:

- Friday, August 20, 9-11am
- Wednesday, September 22, 10am-12pm
- Wednesday, October 13, 10am-12pm

All sessions are open to the public. No experience needed. Groups are welcome, too. Tools will be provided. Please bring your own gloves, water, mask or face covering, sunscreen and bug spray. Wear long pants and footwear that protect your feet. Contact Curt Caslavka at curt@popefarmconservancy.org if you have questions.

Registration link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0d4dafaa2ca0ffc61-prairie>

Recap of July Programs

The History of the Land Talk with Mel Pope - July 21st

A beautiful evening immersed in the past



It was a beautiful evening on July 21st, and Mel Pope covered 192 years of history of the land that is now Pope Farm Conservancy. From the III treaty of Prairie Du Chien in 1829 to present day, we learned about many stories that occurred on the land. As the German Immigrants pursued their dreams in America, they came across this heavily glaciated land. It was a wonderful talk, and gave all of us a different appreciation for the land we call Pope Farm Conservancy.

Nature Photography Workshop - July 24th



After an absence last year due to Covid, our partners from PhotoMidwest were back at the Conservancy on July 24th to provide guidance and how-to, on taking nature photographs. Sean and the team from PhotoMidwest gave an interesting presentation and helpful advice to the attendees. After the presentation, people had an hour to wander around the conservancy and practice what they learned.

A big thank you to PhotoMidwest from the Friends!

Property & Operations Update

The Ravine Slopes at the Conservancy to Be Repaired



Above: Flood damage from excessive rain in August 2018

The Town of Middleton board has approved a project for repairs to eroded slopes on the east side of the ravine at Pope Farm Conservancy. A fence is also to be installed next to an eroded slope on the west side. Severe damage to the slopes occurred in August 2018 as the result of record rainfall in the area. The project will be funded up to \$105,000 by a grant from Dane County. Completion of the work will be dependent on contractor availability and weather conditions. Vierbicher Engineers is in charge of the project.

Bike Rack Returns



Above: The repaired bike rack at the Old Sauk Road entrance. Photo by Barbara Esser.

A number of people were wondering what happened to the bike rack in the Old Sauk parking lot when it disappeared. No worries, the rack was seriously damaged, and the Town of Middleton Crew took it to the shop for repairs. A big shout out to the Town of Middleton!

Education Team Update

By Doug Piper

On July 23rd Trel Gimber and Doug Piper met with the 4th grade team at the Pope Farm Elementary School. We talked about the 4th grade field trips in the past, and improvements that can be made in the future. They were very enthusiastic about being able to use our German Immigration and CCC Legacy videos as an introduction and resource for their lessons, and the and the Geology videos when complete. The teachers plan to begin using our German Immigration materials in September.

We brainstormed several interactive lessons such as games a child would play in the middle of the 19th century. A problem-solving task for one team might be figuring out how to get water to the cabin. The Friends will have a volunteer on site when lessons are unfolding depending on the topic. This is a first year, and many of the materials from our prepared lessons will be incorporated when appropriate.

Overall, the 4th grade team seemed very excited about using the Conservatory as a resource.

Upcoming FOPFC Meetings

Education Team Meeting

When: Tuesday, August 17th, 2021 (6:00 – 7:30 p.m.)

Where: Online via Zoom, Email Doug Piper for zoom meeting link

Discussion topics: The Education Team will review the “History of the Land” video content, and the new German Immigration videos. Review the recent meeting with team members and staff at Pope Farm Elementary School. Will talk about future goals and direction of the Education Team. All members are welcome! Come, listen, and share your ideas.

Program Committee Meeting

When: Wednesday, August 11th, 2021 at 4:00 p.m.

Where: Pope Farm Conservancy at the top of the hill, if inclement weather it will be at the West Middleton Lutheran Church, 3763 Pioneer Rd, Verona, WI 53593

Discussion topics: The program committee will discuss how we will approach programs in the future. How can we do things that are good for the Conservancy and give volunteers a chance to help? How do we blend live programs with zoom type programs? If you enjoy organizing programs or have ideas, please consider attending one of our meetings to learn more.

Photos of the Month



An oldie but a goodie! Photo by Bob Hundt, August 2014

Be on the look-out for migrating monarch butterflies at the Conservancy in late August and early September, particularly in the North Prairie and Wheatfield Prairie. They especially like the Showy goldenrod, Meadow blazingstar, Field thistle, and aster flowers.

If you're feeling adventurous, we invite you to sign up to volunteer for our Monarch Tagging Project. More information about this project is available on the FOPFC website: <https://www.popefarmconservancy.org/events/monarch-tagging/>



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