

## March 2021 News Update

*"March said to April,  
I see three hogs upon a hill;  
And if you'll lend me three days  
I'll find a way to make them go.  
The first of them was wind and wet  
The second of them was snow and sleet,  
The third of them was such a freeze  
It froze the birds' noses to the trees.  
When the three days were past and gone  
The three silly hogs came limping home."*

-- Author Unknown



It's true. The madcap month of March has arrived—the last of winter and the first of spring. As we take our walks within the Conservancy, the blustery winds and soft spring breezes alternate as our companions. Can't March make up her mind? March, the third month of the year, was named for the Roman god of war, Mars and in the early Roman calendar, March (or Martius) was the first month of the calendar year. Because March brought the first day of spring with the vernal equinox, it was considered the start of new beginnings. This year the Spring Equinox is March 20.

But it's hard to imagine Spring with all the present snow cover, especially since we've experienced nature as more lion-like than lamb as March begins. Nature is well adapted to seasonal weather and temperature changes. The key to winter survival for most wildlife (including mammals, birds and reptiles) is through the management of their energy budget. This happens through a combination of three basic survival strategies; migration, dormancy and tolerance. The biggest challenges for wildlife include dry conditions, reduced food sources and cold temps. It's not uncommon to observe wildlife that appear emaciated or unhealthy at this time of year, the tail end of winter. Population numbers generally decrease throughout the winter, only to rebound during the spring.

One of the ways that the Conservancy helps wildlife to navigate Wisconsin's harsh winters is through planting native vegetation as a means of providing an important food source. To learn more on the effects of winter on Wisconsin's wildlife and what you can do to help, check out <https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/wildlifehabitat/documents/winterwildlife.pdf>

## Upcoming Virtual Events

Mark Your Calendars! The FOPFC Events Team is excited to announce the following virtual presentations in early 2021. These online talks are free and open to the public. Registration is required but you do not need a zoom account to participate. Click on the links below or visit our website to sign-up. Instructions on how to access the Zoom meeting will be provided through email confirmation.

Please visit our website: [www.popefarmconservancy.org/events/](http://www.popefarmconservancy.org/events/) for the sign-up links.

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

**Presenter:** Alex Schutz, Science Specialist,  
Middleton-Cross Plains School District

**Date/Time:** Monday, March 29, 2021 @ 7:00 PM

**Register:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcscuqorTsiGNacfnCe7f829uHIMeeAu3PG>

Learn about the school district's partnership with the Friends of Pope Farm Conservancy to teach kids about science. Earth science, geology, botany, biology, conservation, ecology...the conservancy offers lessons on all these topics and more! Alex Schutz will explain how the school district is using the conservancy to create a fresh-air, hands-on and socially distanced learning environment. The goal is to create science learning experiences for kids that they will remember and enjoy.



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

**Presenter:** Matt Lechmaier, Farm Manager,  
Madison Area Food Pantry Gardens

**Date/Time:** Sunday, April 10, 2021 @ 2:00 pm

**Register:** [https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMoceCprj0sEtPo1DHh59ul2j8opoAsl\\_cu](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMoceCprj0sEtPo1DHh59ul2j8opoAsl_cu)

In 2020, Madison Area Food Pantry Gardens launched Forward Garden at the Pope Farm Homestead and hired Matt Lechmaier to manage the garden. Forward Garden is one of ten Madison area food pantry gardens. The first year at Forward Garden was a huge success! Matt will talk about Forward Garden's plans for the 2021 season including plans for planting, schedules for volunteers and the distribution system of the fresh produce.



## **Attracting Eastern Bluebirds to Your Yard**

**Presenter:** Pat Ready, the Bluebird Guy

**Date/Time:** Tuesday, April 27, 2021 @ 7:00 pm

**Register:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYlcOqhpjwiGtNy8hAAOsr3slKANUcjFYFv>

Pat Ready is the Director of the Bluebird Restoration Association of Wisconsin (BRAW) and manages several bluebird trails in Dane County, every year members of the BRAW maintain 8,000 bluebird nest boxes throughout the state and share their experiences with others. Pat will tell us how to attract bluebirds to our yards, including nest box requirements, habitat types and other tips on how to attract bluebirds into our environments.



Pope Farm Conservancy is home to a bluebird trail and nest boxes that fledge hundreds of bluebirds every year. As a follow-up to Pat's presentation, take a walk at the conservancy in May to see and hear the bluebirds.

***More events are being planned for 2021! Stay tuned!***

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## **Upcoming FOPFC Meetings**

We welcome you to participate in these meetings from the comfort of your home.

### **Education Team Meeting – ONLINE**

**When:** Tuesday, March 23, 2021 @ 6:00pm

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

**Discussion topics:** Continuation on the history of the Pope Farm Land project updates

### **Events Committee Meeting- ONLINE**

**When:** Tuesday, March 2, 2021 @ 6:00 p.m.

**Where:** Online via Zoom- Email Martha Zydowsky ([mzydowsky@charter.net](mailto:mzydowsky@charter.net)) to get the meeting link.

**Discussion Topics:** Planning the Events Calendar for 2021

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## **Property & Operations Update**

In a recent meeting with the Parks Commission in February, approval was granted for the Friends to be engaged in several activities during 2021. These include monitoring of the Bluebird Trail; seed collection; monarch butterfly tagging; and maintenance of the Rain Garden as well as the Native Garden. More details will follow on how to get involved in these activities later this year.

At the request of the FOPFC, the TOM will be advertising FOPFC talks, tours, and other Conservancy activities on its website and via its list serve to help us get the word out.

## Education Team Update; Stories of the Pope Farm Conservancy Land

Continued forward progress is being made on the many projects under the purview of the FOPFC Education Team. Here's what is center stage now.

### Civil Conservation Corps (CCC) at Pope Farm Conservancy

Our 6-part video series on the Legacy of the Civil Conservation Corps (CCC) at Pope Farm Conservancy is now completed and posted on the FOPFC website here. We are so grateful for everyone who contributed to the making of these videos. Special thanks to: Robert Moore, Greg Sutter Drone Photography, and NORMCO Multi-Media, Inc.

Watch all the videos online:

<https://www.popefarmconservancy.org/stories-of-the-land/ccc-legacy/>

### History of the Pope Farm Conservancy Land

As reported in February, the History of the Pope Farm Conservancy Land narrative is now complete and posted on the website. It offers a rich compilation of research, stories, photos, maps, remembrances and other tidbits that's been organized by the three farms that once made up the land that is now known as the Pope Farm Conservancy. Read it online here:

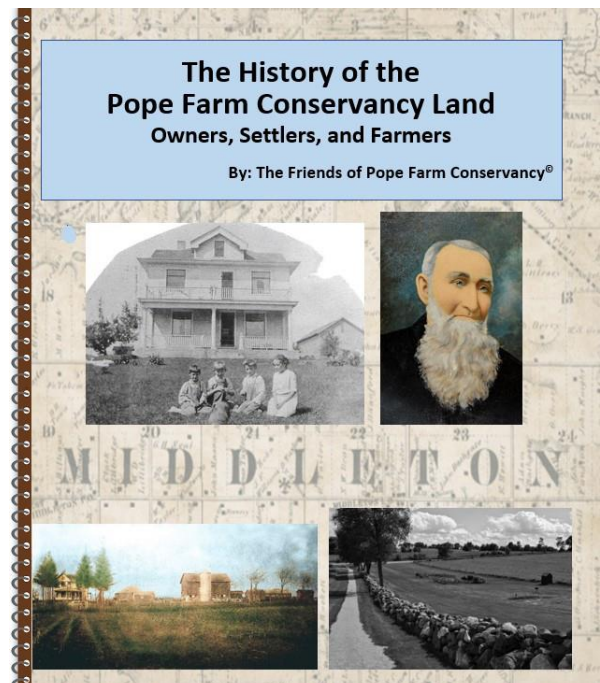
<https://www.popefarmconservancy.org/stories-of-the-land/the-history-of-pope-farms/>

### Want your own copy?

If you would like a hard copy of the History of Pope Farm Conservancy Land, they are being made available for purchase. A black and white, spiral bound with laminate cover will be available for \$15.00, plus postage. A color, spiral bound with laminate cover is available for \$65.00 plus postage.

This is a one-time offer, and if you are interested, please contact Mel Pope at [mel@popefarmconservancy.com](mailto:mel@popefarmconservancy.com) to make arrangements. You will be asked to make a check out to FOPFC, and the sign up due date is April 1st.

FOPFC will also be purchasing copies of the book for local libraries, historical societies, and schools.





## Whadd'ya Know?

### A FOPFC Conservation Trivia Quiz

(Answers at the end)



1. In what year was the Conservancy formed?
  - A. In 2000
  - B. In 1994 to coincide with the Badgers Rose Bowl
  - C. In 2013
  - D. 1856 when George Sibert bought the land
2. Who were one of the original inhabitants of the Land?
  - A. The Pope Family
  - B. The Harloff Family
  - C. The Ho-Chunk Nation
  - D. The Blackhawk Nation
3. Who owns the Conservancy today?
  - A. The Pope (Jorge Mario Bergoglio)
  - B. The Dane County Land Trust
  - C. The City of Middleton
  - D. The Town of Middleton
4. How many acres is the Conservancy?
  - A. 105 acres
  - B. 145 acres
  - C. No one has ever counted but alot
  - D. 40 acres
5. What is the mission of the Conservancy?
  - A. To serve as a place to go during pandemics, plagues, and famines
  - B. To serve as a habitat for flora, fauna, and fugitives
  - C. To serve as educational asset to the community
  - D. To serve as a dog-free/bike free zone

### Quick Note on FOPFC Logo Merchandise

In November, we announced that FOPFC started a new online store with apparel and merchandise in partnership with Bonfire.com. We are selling a number of products with our unique logo printed on them. A portion of every sale goes directly to FOPFC. Products include t-shirts for all ages, sweatshirts, hats, tote bags, and mugs.

*QUICK NOTE: Orders typically arrive within 10-14 business days. However, COVID-19 has caused production and shipping delays, and some orders may take up to 3 weeks to arrive. (That's ok, it's March so hold onto your fleece for now!)*

Shop our Online Store: <https://www.bonfire.com/store/fopfc/>



*Spring is just around the corner!*

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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>

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

**Answers to the Quiz: 1-A, 2-C, 3-D, 4-A, 5-C** (Please note, if we do another quiz the questions will be a lot harder, so you may want to purchase one of the History of the Land books we talked about earlier!)

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

