



September 2021 News Update

Upcoming Programs

Fall Migration Birding Walk

Saturday, September 11, 2021 at 7:30am

Speaker: Mike McDowell, Local Birding Expert and Nature Photographer

We invite you along on a leisurely walk through the Conservancy with birding expert Mike McDowell. This is your chance to witness the fall flight behaviors of the bird population at the Conservancy. You will learn techniques to help you enjoy identifying and observing birds in their preferred habitats. Please bring binoculars if you have them, wear comfortable walking shoes, and dress for the weather. If you are in need of binoculars, contact Mike at (800) 289-1132 or mmcdowell@eagleoptics.com.



This tour is FREE and open to the public. No registration is necessary.

Visit our event page: <https://www.popefarmconservancy.org/events/migrating-birds>

Help us spread the word on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/events/4581075835249683/>



About the Speaker: Mike McDowell has been observing and documenting the avifauna in the Middleton area since the early 1990s. He began leading field trips for Madison Audubon in the spring of 2002 and has observed almost 300 bird species in Dane County. Mike is probably best known for his AMAZING nature photography! Check out his website: www.birddigiscoper.com. His photographs have appeared in newspapers, magazines, calendars, and were even featured on a Wisconsin state license plate and a local beer label!

FOPFC's COVID-19 Safety Guidelines: As of Sept. 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

Don't miss out! There are only a few spots left to sign up for Monarch Tagging at Pope Farm Conservancy in early September. No experience necessary. Click the button 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.



2021 Dates/Times for Monarch Tagging:

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

If all sessions are full, please email janie@popefarmconservancy.org to get on the waiting list. Please include your name, phone number, and preferred date. If a spot opens up, we'll be in touch!

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

Prairie Restoration Work Days

Volunteers are needed for Prairie Restoration Work Days at Pope Farm Conservancy. We will be collecting prairie plant seeds and removing invasive plant species. 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.

Upcoming Prairie Work Days:

- Wednesday, September 22, 10am-12pm
- Wednesday, October 13, 10am-12pm



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

We will supply tools. Please bring your own gloves, water, sunscreen; and wear long pants and shoes that completely cover your feet. Contact Curt Caslavka at curt@popefarmconservancy.org if you have questions.

Recap of August Programs

Prairie Tour & Workshop - August 14th

"Wildflowers in the Conservancy" with Wild Ones Madison



Over 50 people flocked to Pope Farm on a beautiful morning in mid-August to learn more about these plants. The program was led by prairie restoration specialist Jeff Steele of the Madison chapter of Wild Ones, assisted by Laurie Yahr and Athena Salzer.

The leaders pointed out numerous varieties of prairie flowers at the conservancy --including gentian, baptisia, oxeye sunflower, wild quinine, golden alexander, cardinal flower, nodding onion, monarda and many more. They also gave interesting background information, such as why golden rod can so easily take over a field (it releases a chemical that prevents other plants from taking hold around it), whether to plant wet soil with purple gentian or yellow (the answer is purple), how boneset got its name (because it was thought to help bone repair), how to recognize a cupflower (its leaves are shaped like cups), and why burning is necessary (among other things, it keeps trees out of a flower field).



Right: Jeff Steele points out different native plant species in the South Prairie.

Before the tour they introduced the group to guidebooks on wildflowers and provided information about other wildflower resources such as their own. (Wild Ones is a statewide organization promoting environmentally sound landscaping practices to preserve biodiversity through native plants.)

This is the second program Wild Ones has offered at Pope Farm. We look forward to having them return. If you have a program suggestion on wildflowers, please share your idea with the FOPFC Program Committee.

Education Team Update

FOPFC Produces Two New Educational Videos

The Education Team at FOPFC has produced two new videos as part of the German Immigration Video Series. These videos can be accessed on the web, and on location in the Conservancy via barcode technology. These videos take a *tremendous effort* from many people, and we would like to thank all those who worked on this project and made these remarkable productions. They will be enjoyed by the public for many years.

The Schools



This 5-minute video shows the public-school experience of the children in the Town of Middleton during the 1800s. It features what a school day was like at the one room schools that dotted the Township. The children who once lived on the land that today is the Conservancy went to the Pleasant Site School on Old Sauk Rd (pictured below). The building was built in 1868, and has been modified, but still stands today.

Link to watch video: <https://vimeo.com/294025342>

Below (left): Town of Berry One Room School.
Courtesy: Cross Plains – Berry Historical Society
Below (right): Slate and Desks in a one room schoolhouse.
Photo: Joann M. Ringelstetter, Shunpiking to Heaven



The German Immigration Cabin Site at Pope Farm Conservancy



The German cabin site was rediscovered at Pope Farm Conservancy in 2008. On a hillside in the center of the conservancy, two forgotten "pits" were found to contain vital clues about the people who lived there. This 5-minute video talks about the family who settled here and why; and what it was like to live in this cabin over 150 years ago. Link to watch video: <https://vimeo.com/591085516>



A cabin like the one that was built on the PFC hillside



Example of the cabin interior.

Photo courtesy: Doug Normington



Property & Operations Update

Friends Replace the Rain Garden Sign

The rain garden sign, originally installed in 2013, had seen better days. The sign had faded badly over the years, and the barcode that linked to interpretive information no longer worked. Last month, the Friends purchased and installed a replacement sign. If you get a chance, stop by to see what's still in bloom. You can now scan the QR code on the sign to learn more about rain gardens.



Upcoming FOPFC Meetings

Education Team Meeting – ONLINE

When: Tuesday, September 21, 2021 (6:00 – 7:30 p.m.)

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

Discussion topics: The Education Team will discuss the 2022 Education Team budget, as well as continue discussions about future goals for 2022 and beyond. All members are welcome! Come, listen, and share your ideas.

Programs Committee Meeting – ONLINE

When: Next meeting will be in October, Date TBD

Where: Online via Zoom

Discussion topics: The program committee will discuss how we will approach programs in the future. Outline goals for 2022.

Photos of the Month



A pair of monarchs feed on the nectar from the goldenrod in the Oak Savanna. Photo by Janie Starzewski



The native grasses steal the show this time of year.

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

