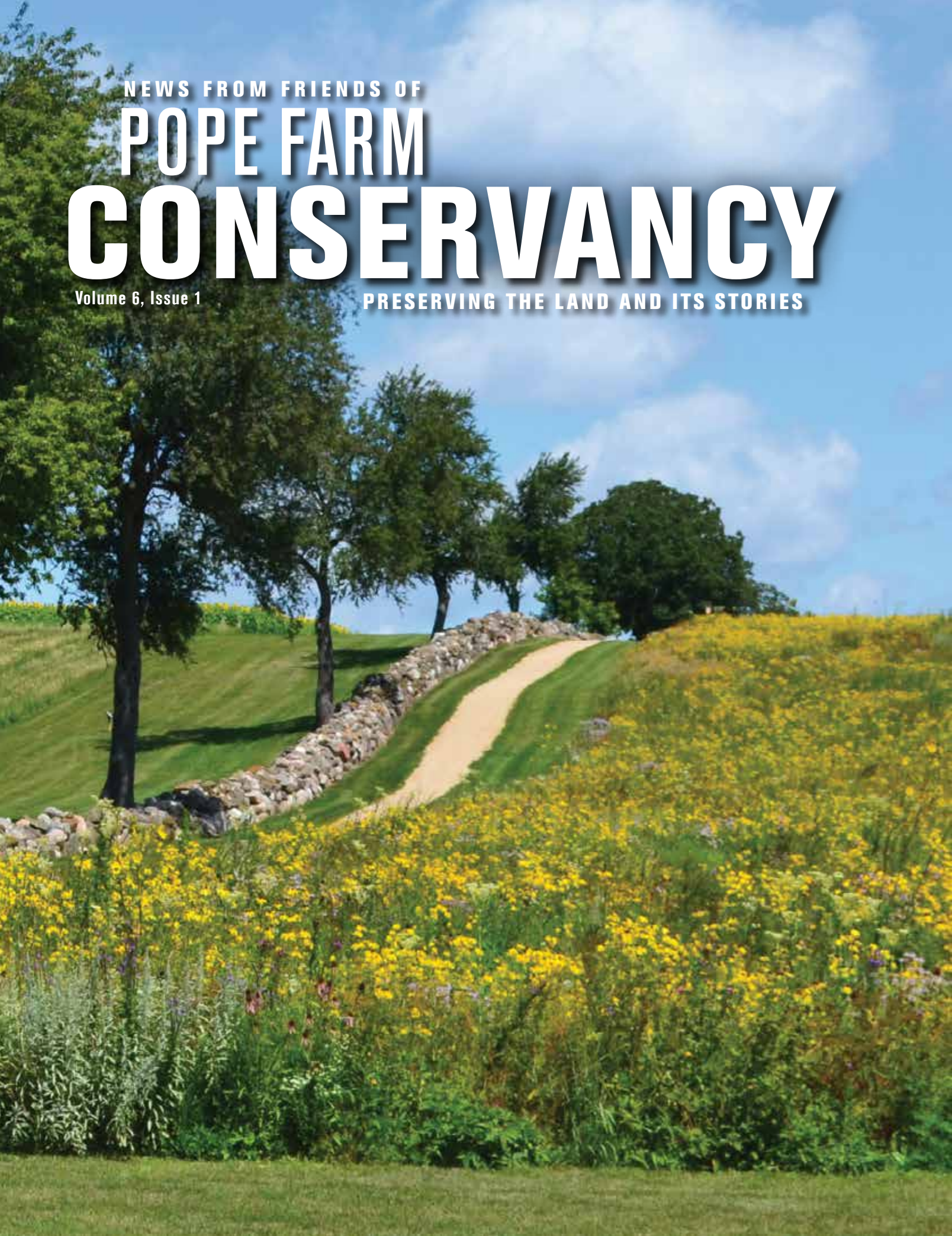


NEWS FROM FRIENDS OF
**POPE FARM
CONSERVANCY**

Volume 6, Issue 1

PRESERVING THE LAND AND ITS STORIES



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Amazing State; Two Decades Later

BY MEL POPE



Last year marked a milestone of sorts at the Conservancy but it seems to have gone astray amid the covid shuffle; shutdowns like dominos, the politics of face masks, prolonged trepidation and a few too many carry out meals that lost some magic on the car ride home. 2020 wasn't just for pandemics. It also marked the 20th year that the Conservancy has been in existence. So, it occurred to me that these two decades deserve their bragging rights, don't you think?

It's hard to believe twenty years have passed since Pope Farm Conservancy came into being. That happened on January 1st, 2000. In the beginning, it remained farm fields dotted with grazing sheep. The stone fence was there, of course, along with a service trail for farm equipment, and a small grass area was available for parking. Humble beginnings for sure.

In early 2004, the Town of Middleton enlisted a three-member committee made of Park Commission members to develop a Master Plan for the land. The work was completed and unanimously approved in late 2004. The plan called for transforming the area with all its features and history into an "educational" type park specifically targeting elementary school students. Over time it would feature over twenty different vegetative plots, and over thirty interpretive signs to educate the public.

2005 marked major progress on the Conservancy's infrastructure with signage, parking lots, trails, the picnic areas, portable restrooms, and a well. The grand opening was held in 2006. At the same time the Conservancy was reconfigured to accommodate the sale of nearly forty acres to the MCPASD for an elementary school site.

Almost immediately 4th grade field trips began, and the interest in the educational nature of the Conservancy gained steady momentum. The Prairie restoration projects, a key feature of the Master Plan, took over six years to establish. One new prairie was planted over a six-to-seven-year period, until all seven of them went into a long-term maintenance schedule.

2013 marked another significant period for the Conservancy. The Friends of Pope Farm Conservancy was formed as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Members of the Friends group were interested in helping to facilitate educational efforts as well as protect and preserve its tranquility. With the Friends in place, there was now an organization that would make the stories of the land come to life, and help the Town of Middleton execute the Master Plan. Things were taken to "the next level"; Pope Farm Conservancy had found its voice.

Since then, the Friends have made a huge difference at the Conservancy in a wide variety of ways both on the land and towards its education mission; prairie restoration, maintenance of the bluebird houses, the rain garden, and the Native American gardens. They have contributed funds to help fix trails, mitigate erosion, and other projects in the Conservancy. The educational programs have been comprehensive and diverse over the last several years offering something for everyone. Their efforts continued through the pandemic, virtually, of course. The Friends have been hands-on in assisting the Middleton Cross Plains Area School District with their 4th grade field trips to the Conservancy. These two-to-three-day field trips have been very popular and have provided thousands of students the opportunity to learn about nature and land conservation.

Over the last year, the Friends have made good use of the pandemic by accelerating progress on the history of the Pope Farm land project. This initiative brings the stories of the land into the 21st century by providing additional information to the public in the form of short (three to five minutes), dynamic videos featuring different aspects of the History of the Pope Farm Conservancy Land project. These videos (a total of 40 when complete) tell different stories. Themes include: German Immigration, the Legacy of the Civilian Conservation Corp in the Spillway, Geology, the Recorded History of the Land, Native Americans, Birds, Animals, and Insects. Signage with QR codes will be located at corresponding locations on the property all accessible via a mobile device. This technology will entice students and visitors to bear witness to all that has happened and continues to happen on this land. These videos will also be available on the Pope Farm Conservancy website.

I am very hopeful for the future of the Conservancy. As urban sprawl surrounds the Conservancy, the natural ambiance of the land and its tranquility have become even more valuable and treasured by its visitors. Many individuals and organizations of all kinds have come together to make the Conservancy a success and for that, I have a heart full of gratitude. What was once a dream is now the backyard neighbor for school children and a beloved destination for many. My hope is that people will continue to recognize the Pope Farm Conservancy for what it has become, and will continue to work to protect and promote it well into the future just as they have done over the last twenty years. I have a feeling Dad would be amazed!

MEL POPE

FRIENDS OF
POPE FARM
CONSERVANCY



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FOPFC Mission

Our mission is to contribute to the enrichment of Pope Farm Conservancy as a community and educational asset. We strive to protect and preserve the balance of the conservancy's unique natural, agricultural and historical features and volunteer as stewards to promote our passive conservancy.

Contact Us

Friends of Pope Farm Conservancy
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Middleton, WI 53562
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FOPFC Purposes

In recognition that Pope Farm Conservancy is an educational and community asset, the Corporation shall have the following Purposes:

- Through volunteer participation and support, create, advance and facilitate the development and implementation of educational opportunities and programming in, on and around the Pope Farm Conservancy for students of all ages from public and private schools and the general public. Without limitation because of enumeration, this shall include but not be limited to assisting and working with the Pope Farm Elementary School and the Pope Farm Middle School (when constructed) from the Middleton-Cross Plains Area School District, the Blackhawk Ski Club, the Forward Gardens and similar organizations.
- To assist in the preservation of the balance of wildlife habitat, and historic, geologic, agricultural, environmental and scenic features of the Pope Farm Conservancy.
- To assist in the protection of natural landscapes and grass trails, wildlife and their habitat and the general public's tranquil enjoyment of the Pope Farm Conservancy as a passive conservancy free from commercial activity, motorized vehicles and bicycles, dogs and organized sports that require athletic fields or open space.
- To assist the Town of Middleton with the maintenance, improvement and general enrichment of the Pope Farm Conservancy as an educational and community asset.
- In accord with Article Four of these Bylaws, the Board of Directors shall have the specific authority and discretion to interpret, apply and implement these purposes, provided that at all times, it complies with rules and regulations of the IRS regarding the fulfillment and preservation of the requirements of the Corporation's 501(c)(3) status.



PRAIRIES BY DESIGN

The Prairies at Pope Farm Conservancy are the result of clear-eyed purpose, thoughtful planning, expert guidance and, of course, lots of good old-fashioned hard work.



2021 EVENTS SCHEDULE

All FOPFC programs are free and open to the public. Be sure to check our website for the latest program news and updates: www.popefarmconservancy.org/events



A TRIVIA QUIZ: WHADD'YA KNOW ABOUT POPE FARM CONSERVANCY?

Answers and photos can be found on page 14.



THE ORCHARD ORIOLES

If you want to see Orchard Orioles, head over to Pope Farm Conservancy during late May, June, and early July. As one of their preferred nesting habitats, the best place at the conservancy to find Orchard Orioles is at the oak savanna.

AND JUST IN CASE YOU WERE WONDERING...

If you're not familiar with this publication, please accept with our compliments the Spring edition of the Friends of Pope Farm Conservancy news magazine. We publish the magazine twice a year (Spring and early Winter) for the members of the Friends of Pope Farm Conservancy. We also have a monthly newsletter that provides updates and newsy tidbits on what is happening within the property. We wanted to introduce you to the Pope Farm Conservancy and let you know about our Friends Group.

We're excited about having the new school as our neighbor and look forward to building a strong partnership with it. As a result, we decided to expand our normal distribution to you, residents within the Pope Farm Elementary school boundary. We'll be sharing our efforts to help Pope Farm Elementary students learn about the natural world in Pope Farm Conservancy and hope you will consider joining us. To learn more about our organization, please visit our website at <https://www.popefarmconservancy.org>

THE MAGNIFICENT PRAIRIES BY

AT THE POPE FARM CONSERVANCY

BY JULIE GRAZIANO

***“To make a prairie it takes a clover and one bee,
One clover, and a bee,
And revery.
The revery alone will do,
If bees are few.”***

Emily Dickinson, The Complete Poems of Emily Dickinson

As fun as fanciful musings and daydreaming can be, the Prairies at Pope Farm Conservancy are definitely more than the result of clover, a few bees and fortuitous happenstance. Sorry, Emily! They’re actually the result of clear-eyed purpose, thoughtful planning, expert guidance and, of course, lots of good old-fashioned hard work. Like Rome, those prairies weren’t built in a day. Rather, they were over six years in the making and are one of the most unique features of the Conservancy today.

In a recent conversation with Mike Anderson, former owner of BioLogic, an environmental consulting company (and affectionately referred to as the ‘grandfather’ of PFC prairies,) he along with Mel Pope shared some highlights of what went into creating these ecological-based treasures as well as some of their more prominent features. Ready for a cursory tour?

As the saying goes, form follows function and that is where it all started; a few key factors informed their design. First, variety was quickly deemed king based on the mission of the Conservancy; education. Each prairie potentially represented a lesson plan so diversity was important. A second consideration was aesthetics.

After all, it’s a conservancy, right? And certainly not last nor least, there’s one significant practical reality; what hand did Mother Nature deal to this land? This meant a keen understanding of the soil types along with available sunlight; the two variables that ultimately dictate what grows where.

There are eight different soil types across the Conservancy’s 105 acres. For context, there are approximately 550 different soil types in Wisconsin. In terms of light, it’s highly variable, across those acres, depending upon where you are. Initially there had been six prairie projects identified within the Conservancy’s 2004 Master Plan.

The first prairie was planted in 2005 and the last in 2010. Around 2015, the Friends put in one more prairie (the Paddock Prairie) making a total of seven. Methodically planting them over several years was thought to be less risky than establishing them all at the same time. Each of these prairies came out of agricultural use, the number of native species on them started from nothing and a different seed mix was determined for each. Seed mixtures included a combination of forbs (wildflowers), sedges (similar to grass in appearance but from another taxonomic family), shrubs, and grasses.

SEVEN: DESIGN

1 SOUTH PRAIRIE

The South Prairie is the Conservancy's greeter of sorts. It faces Old Sauk Road and is located at the edge of the parking lot. It's the beauty queen of the bunch that says, "Look at me!". It has fifty-nine different wildflower species and the grasses and shrubs are low so that you can readily see the iconic stone fence. How's that for a first impression? The South Prairie is all about dramatic visuals and was the most expensive to plant with three and a half million seeds! Some prairie seeds are smaller than a pepper flake.



*South Prairie in full bloom, July 2013.
Photo: Janie Starzewski*

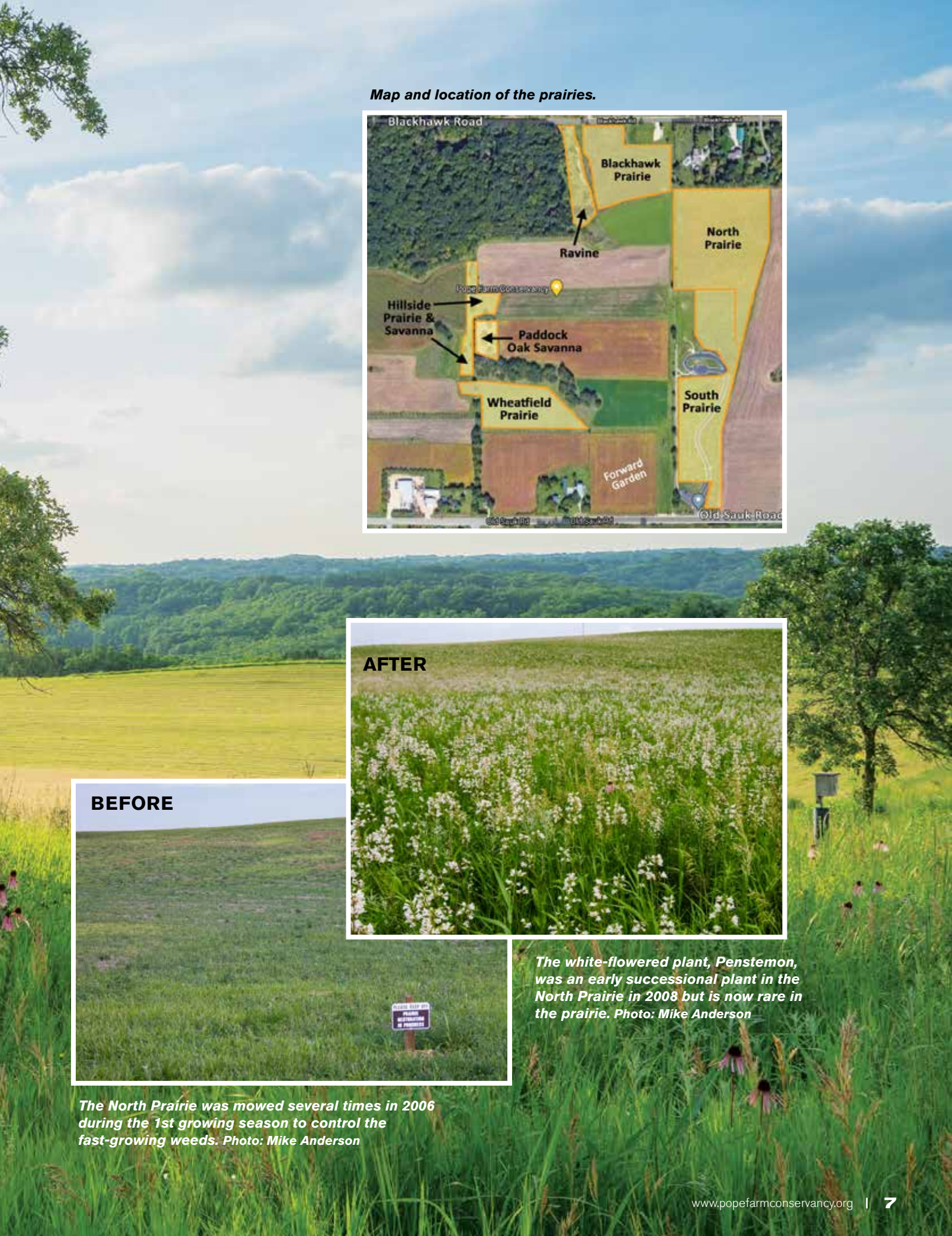
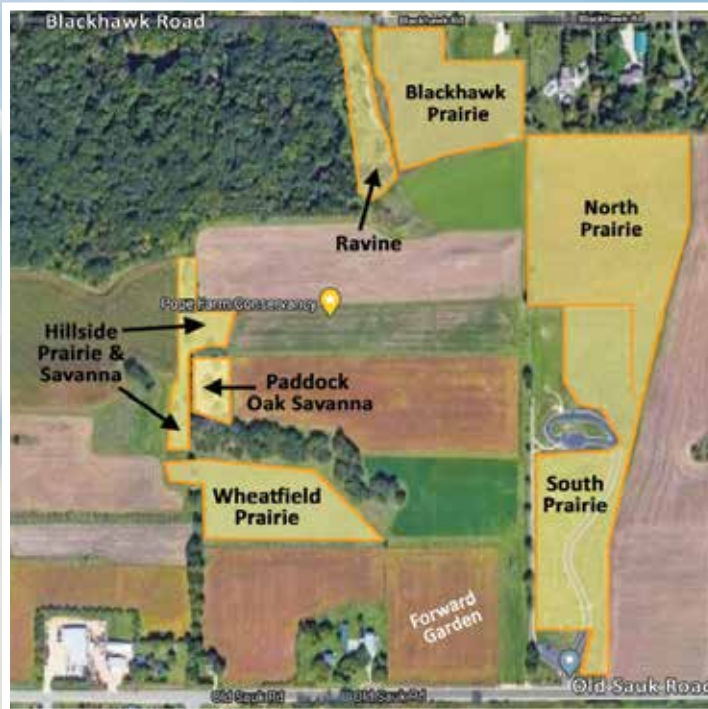


2 NORTH PRAIRIE

The North or Grass Prairie is further up the hill, starting near the picnic area and continuing north to the Conservancy property line. With this prairie, plant height was much less of a concern than with the South Prairie which allowed a more diverse planting. From this area you can see the Capitol to the east and, on a clear day, the Black Earth Creek valley. There are seventy-five different wildflowers planted and birds especially love to nest here.

The North Prairie, 2015.
Photo: Dave Peterson

Map and location of the prairies.

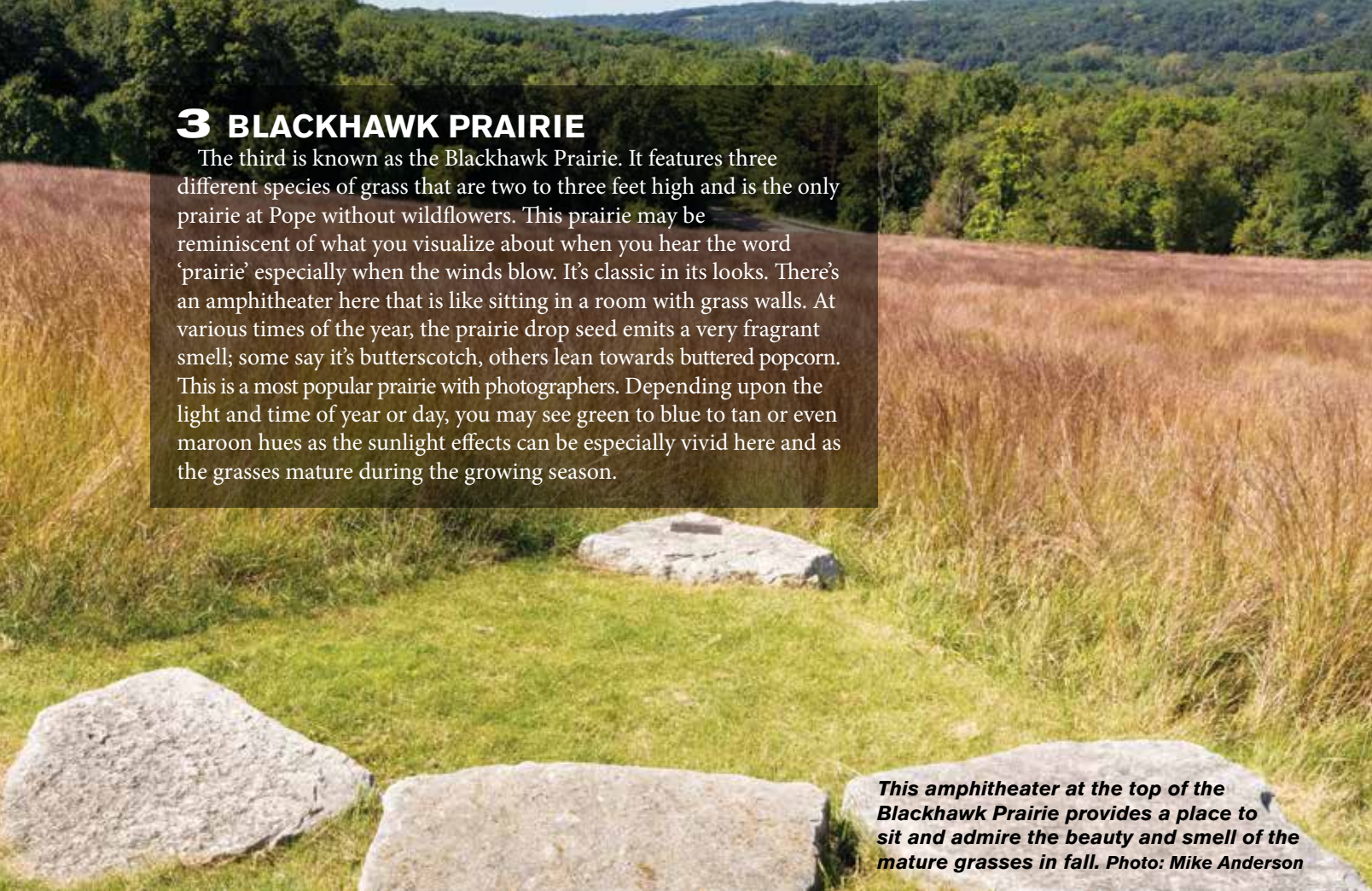


The white-flowered plant, Penstemon, was an early successional plant in the North Prairie in 2008 but is now rare in the prairie. Photo: Mike Anderson


The North Prairie was mowed several times in 2006 during the 1st growing season to control the fast-growing weeds. Photo: Mike Anderson

3 BLACKHAWK PRAIRIE

The third is known as the Blackhawk Prairie. It features three different species of grass that are two to three feet high and is the only prairie at Pope without wildflowers. This prairie may be reminiscent of what you visualize about when you hear the word 'prairie' especially when the winds blow. It's classic in its looks. There's an amphitheater here that is like sitting in a room with grass walls. At various times of the year, the prairie drop seed emits a very fragrant smell; some say it's butterscotch, others lean towards buttered popcorn. This is a most popular prairie with photographers. Depending upon the light and time of year or day, you may see green to blue to tan or even maroon hues as the sunlight effects can be especially vivid here and as the grasses mature during the growing season.



This amphitheater at the top of the Blackhawk Prairie provides a place to sit and admire the beauty and smell of the mature grasses in fall. Photo: Mike Anderson



The north end of the ravine looking south during invasive black locust removal in 2007. Photo: Mike Anderson

4 THE RAVINE

Around the ravine area is technically not a true prairie because of its trees and the shade they cast (prairies typically grow in full sun). It's really a more of a native shrub display and is a rather sensitive area. When first planted, the original ecological goal in this spot was to restore its biodiversity and vegetation after a forest of invasive black locust trees were removed over ten years ago. It has a trail running around it and a berm was also added so the ravine could be safely crossed. One of the hallmarks of this area are its beautiful yellow flowers in the fall.



Flowering native plants color the ravine yellow in fall. This area is particularly sensitive, as you can see by the soil erosion on the slope of the ravine after heavy rains in 2018. Note the Blackhawk Prairie in the background, as well. Photo: Janie Starzewski

5 HILLSIDE PRAIRIE AND SAVANNA

The Hillside Prairie and Savanna is different from the prairies we've visited so far because it contains oak, hickory, and black cherry trees. With the availability of both shade cast by the trees and full sunlight on the prairie, there are more opportunities to plant a wide variety. From the trail, visitors will enjoy blooming wildflowers starting early in the spring with Jacob's Ladder and continuing with asters in mid-summer that linger to the fall as well as other new wildflowers not growing in the prairies.

Right: The diverse and species-rich floral in the Hillside Prairie and Savanna attracts a variety of pollinators.

Photo: Mike Anderson



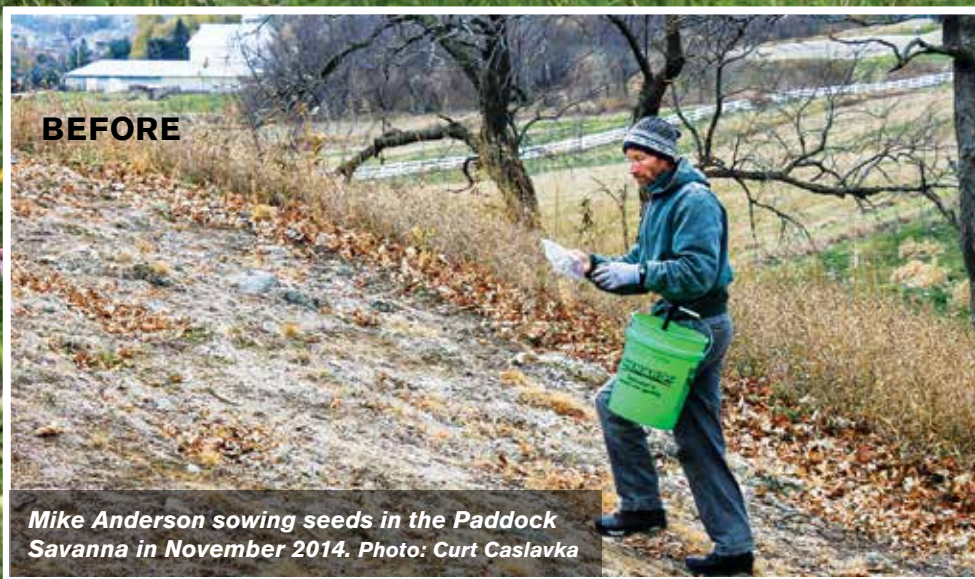
6 WHEATFIELD PRAIRIE

The sixth prairie, known as the Wheatfield, runs along the whiteboard fence. It had been, as its name suggests, a wheat field that was converted to prairie. This particular area was a challenge to establish because of the drought in 2012 after a nice mix of seeds were planted. The drought necessitated more irrigation than normal and this increase in water biased how the seed mixture took hold. As a result, sage is overly dominant here in the spring. Similar to the Hillside Prairie, visitors will enjoy its abundant asters and goldenrod, which are a monarch magnet in the fall.

The Wheatfield Prairie in July 2014. Photo: Janie Starzewski

7 PADDOCK OAK SAVANNA

The Oak or “Paddock” Savanna mentioned earlier is aptly named after the sheep paddock that was once part of the Pope Farm homestead. It has the greatest variety of the Conservancy’s prairies with over 145 different species total. An oak savanna is one of the rarest plant communities in Wisconsin and it offers unusual opportunities. It’s especially diverse because of its various light conditions. There’s full sun on the north end, the oak savanna in the center is a mix of shade and sun, and to the south is more shade beneath a bur oak canopy. Under the leadership of FOPFC Member Curt Caslavka, Friends and other volunteers have done seed collection from various locations in Dane County for planting in the Paddock. Their efforts are a cost-effective means of boosting the prairie’s diversity as getting such seed from nurseries is an expensive endeavor and allowed for planting numerous other species not available. Most noteworthy of this lovely spot are its majestic Burr oaks which create a most peaceful serenity.



BEFORE

Mike Anderson sowing seeds in the Paddock Savanna in November 2014. Photo: Curt Caslavka



AFTER

A midsummer's view of the Paddock Savanna during its third growing season in 2017.

Photo: Mike Anderson

Not a happy accident, maintaining the beauty and function of prairies takes effort and expense. When a prairie is young, there's less competition among the plants. But over time, root systems take hold, grasses grow taller, some plants mature while others have difficulty surviving. Additionally, all prairies contend with invasives, including domestic and other aggressive species. These uninvited guests are introduced by wind, wildlife, birds, and, of course, humans. Invasives can be tenacious so they need to be controlled properly and regularly. Maintenance of the Conservancy's prairies is expensive but necessary in order to preserve their educational value to students and visitors alike.

As a frequent visitor to the Conservancy, you've undoubtedly noticed that it's never quite the same place twice. In this way, these prairies' function much like a kaleidoscope. They delight with their endless variety of patterns and their rich vegetative tapestries. They're always changing depending upon the sunlight, the time of year, the time of day, seasonal changes, with their different mixes of seeds, the neighboring crop rotations, or even their ages. This effect can be even more evident if you know what you're looking at. Perhaps the next time you visit the Conservancy, you'll enjoy its magnificent seven prairies with new eyes and an even greater sense of wonder. □

2021 EVENTS POPE FARM CONSERVANCY CALENDAR

All FOPFC programs are free and open to the public. Unless otherwise stated, we will meet in the lower parking lot at Pope Farm Conservancy, 7440 West Old Sauk Road. Be sure to check our website for the latest program news and updates: www.popefarmconservancy.org/events



Photo: Jack Sherman

National Trails Day Hike Saturday, June 5, 2021 (10am-12pm)

Host: FOPFC Programs Committee
Celebrate "National Trails Day" with a hike at Pope Farm Conservancy! This annual event is a day to celebrate all the beautiful local, state, and federal trails that exist. Pope Farm Conservancy, located on Old Sauk Road in the Town of Middleton, has 7 miles of trails that encompass prairies, woodlands, and crops. Follow the signs along the trails to learn about the history of the land while enjoying nature and getting some exercise. Walk all 7 miles or pick a route of your choice. Wear comfortable walking shoes and dress for the weather. Be sure to bring your cameras and binoculars, too!
Members of the Friends of Pope Farm Conservancy will provide trail maps in the lower parking lot from 10:00 - 11:00 am. After your hike, join us for light refreshments at the top of the hill from 11:00 am until noon.



Bird Watching in Late Spring Saturday, June 19, 2021 (7:30am - 8:30am)

Speaker: Mike McDowell, Nature Photographer and Birding Expert
Calling all birders! Local birding expert Mike McDowell will lead an exciting early morning avian adventure through Pope Farm Conservancy. We typically see and hear dozens of different birds, including bluebirds, indigo buntings, eastern wood-pewees, wild turkeys, and great crested flycatchers. This is a great way to start the day and meet other local birders. You might even see a few birds to add to your life list! Wear good walking shoes and dress for the weather. Don't forget to bring your binoculars and camera, too.



Photo: Jon Okerstrom

Pope Farm Conservancy: History of the Land Tour Wednesday, July 21, 2021 (6:00pm - 7:30pm) Meet at the TOP of the hill

Speaker: Mel Pope, FOPFC Chair
Join Mel Pope for a talk about Pope Farm Conservancy. Learn about the purpose of the conservancy, its features, and the history of the land. From agriculture to prairies to woodlands, Mel will talk about the conservancy's importance as a natural area for people to connect with the land and as a protected habitat for birds and wildlife. Pack your camera and some mosquito repellent; and be sure to wear comfortable walking shoes. We will meet at the TOP of the hill. Additional parking is available at the elementary school.



Wildflowers in the Conservancy Saturday, August 14, 2021 (10am - 11:30am)

Speakers: Wild Ones - Madison Chapter
Join 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 cameras and wear comfortable walking shoes for hiking.



Monarch Butterfly Tagging Project Early to mid-September (Exact dates TBD)

Pope Farm Conservancy is a great place to witness the marvel of the monarch butterfly migration. Due to the large congregation of monarchs at the conservancy each fall, it has become a popular area where monarchs are both observed and studied. We invite you to participate in this citizen science project to help search for, capture, tag, and release migrating monarchs. Recoveries of tagged monarchs help scientists determine the butterflies' migratory route; and perhaps yield clues as to why the monarch populations are in decline. No experience necessary. Visit our website for exact dates and registration details. Contact Curt Caslavka at curt@popefarmconservancy.org for more information.



Prairie Seed Collection Late Summer - Early Fall, Exact Dates TBD

The FOPFC Restoration Team is looking for volunteers to help collect prairie plant seeds this fall, in efforts to increase the diversity of prairie plant species at Pope Farm Conservancy and to improve the overall quality of our prairies. Seed collection is easy to do, and it's an enjoyable way to spend a couple hours in nature. We will have team leaders on hand to help you. All sessions are open to the public. Groups are welcome, too. Exact dates and times will be announced in late August. Be sure to check our website for updates.

Fall Migration Birding Walk Saturday, September 11, 2021 (7:30am - 8:30am)

Speaker: Mike McDowell, Birding Expert and Nature Photographer
Join Mike McDowell and other birding enthusiasts on a hike through Pope Farm Conservancy to observe the behavior of birds preparing for or already involved in fall migration. Every year birds fly thousands of miles in the fall to their wintering spots in the south. Mike will share tips and techniques for identifying and observing birds during this mass exodus. We are likely to see and hear many different birds both in the sky and in the habitat. Please bring binoculars, wear comfortable walking shoes, and dress for the weather.

COVID-19 Safety Guidelines

The health and safety of our program participants and speakers is a top priority. For all FOPFC in-person activities, we will be implementing safety measures that align with the latest federal, state, and local guidelines. We anticipate that masks and social distancing will remain in place through 2021. As this situation is continually changing, please check our website for the latest safety measures and program updates.

WHADD'YA KNOW ABOUT THE POPE FARM CONSERVANCY?

A FOPFC Conservation Trivia Quiz.
Select the answer(s) you think are most accurate.



1. 2020 marked what at the Pope Farm Conservancy?

- A. The Town of Middleton (TOM) took possession of the land 20 years ago
- B. It gained its status as a 501(C)(3) nonprofit entity
- C. The completion of the new elementary school, Pope Farm Elementary
- D. A popular retreat for coping with a global pandemic (you know the one)

2. Who was the driver(s) behind preserving the land that is now the Conservancy?

- A. Mel Pope
- B. Art and Betty Pope
- C. Roy Pope and Cookie Mahoney
- D. Genevieve Grignon

3. Native Americans inhabited much of the land that is now Dane County. What tribe was living in the vicinity of the Conservancy?

- A. The Ho-Chunk
- B. The Sauk
- C. The Winnebago Reserve
- D. The Mecklenburg Enclave

4. What is the mission of the Friends of Pope Farm Conservancy?

- A. Protect the land from future development
- B. Maintain the native species, trails and amenities
- C. Develop the property's Master Plan
- D. Contribute to the land in ways that help it to flourish as a community and educational asset

5. 2006 marked what at the Conservancy?

- A. The Historical Society hosted its first soiree for 4th graders
- B. The first prairie restoration project was started on the property.
- C. The 40-acre parcel to the east of the Conservancy was sold to the MCPASD by the Town of Middleton
- D. Its grand opening as Pope Farm Park

6. The Friends of Pope Farm Conservancy began in 2013. Some of their many volunteer activities have included:

- A. Maintenance of the Rain and Native Gardens, researching the land's history
- B. Seed collection for prairie restoration, coordinating talks and nature tours
- C. Monarch bagging and chasing down pollinators
- D. Hosting barn dances and making sunflower wreaths during Heritage Days

7. It takes a village and there are many partners that have contributed to making the Conservancy what it is today. Some of them include:

- A. The UW Madison Soils, Archeology, and Geology Departments
- B. The Wisconsin Historical Society
- C. BioLogic Environmental Consulting
- D. The Peter Max Institute of Design

8. The iconic stone fence that is one of the Conservancy's hallmarks was built from glacial debris deposited all over the land that is now the Conservancy. Which of these statements about the fence is not quite accurate?

- A. The stone fence was the boundary line between the Eastern and Central farms.
- B. Teams of special draft horses were used to clear the debris because of their superior pulling power and innate intelligence.
- C. The Siebert and Brackewagen families were largely responsible for building the fence in the 1850s.
- D. It took over 10 years to clear the 80 acres parcel you see when you at the fence today.

9. Which of the following might you see hanging out within the Conservancy?

- A. Bluebirds and Indigo Buntings
- B. Yellow-rumped Warblers and Great crested Flycatchers
- C. Horned Larks and Eastern Wood Pee-weet Hermans
- D. Red-tailed Hawks, Wild Turkeys, and Whooping Cranes

10. If you know where to look, you will find remnants of places that were part of the history of the land before it became the Pope Farm Conservancy. For example, which one (s) can you still see:

- A. The Pleasant Site School One Room School House
- B. The Charles T. Schwenn house built in 1903
- C. The Brumm Farm and Homestead
- D. The converted chicken coop called the "honeymoon"

For the answers go to page 14.

ANSWERS TO THE WHADD'YA KNOW TRIVIA QUIZ

(Quiz on page 13.)

1. The most correct answers are A, C, and D. The Town of Middleton has owned the property for slightly over 20 years and so much has happened since then! The parking areas, signage, prairie restoration, trails, the educational tours and history projects. Most recently, the new school was completed on time and it's a beauty! Now if it can only be fully occupied as originally planned! Sigh. We'll get there. As for the 501(c)(3) status, the Friends Group of Pope Farm Conservancy became one 8 years ago in 2013.



Art and Betty Pope at the dedication of Pope Farm Conservancy in 2006.
Photo courtesy of the Pope Family.

collie who worked very hard but just hated being on committees. And as for Cookie, the sheep, rumor had it she was a foodie, not a worker bee type. Genevieve Grignon was technically the first owner of the land although she likely never lived on the property. She belonged to one of the famous and most powerful fur trading families in Wisconsin. She was of Ho-Chunk descent.

3. A is the correct answer. The land that makes up the Conservancy today was once part of a little-known reserve, called Winnebago Reserve, that incorporated parts of the Town of Middleton and areas near Mt. Horeb. The Ho Chunk settled in this region originally. Later, immigrants from Mecklenburg Germany were the first European settlers on this land. The Saukenuk Indians under the leadership of Chief Black Hawk fought in the 1832 Black Hawk War. Skirmishes of this war were fought further northwest of the Conservancy in what is now Sauk County.

4. D is the correct answer. The Friends group perform a variety of activities on behalf of at the Conservancy that enhance and preserve it in many rich ways. The TOM's role is to protect the land from any future development and to maintain the property. The Master Plan for the property was done in 2004 and was a highly collaborative process involving experts and others from the community. As part of the process, it was determined that the Conservancy's purpose would be educational and prairie restoration would be one of the keys to quality lesson planning.



The FOPFC Education Team hosts field trips at the Conservancy to teach students how Native Americans weathered thousands of harsh Wisconsin winters.

2. The best answer is B. Art and Betty Pope were the drivers behind the push to preserve the land from urban sprawl and they knew the view from the hill top was killer. Mel Pope is the driver behind making the Conservancy the educational treasure it is today. As for Roy Pope, he was the family border

5. All but A are true. Everyone knows 4th graders have no use for soirees or for that matter, cotillions. Ask PFE teacher, aka the science guy, Alex Schutz, he'll tell you what kids like.

6. Don't all those activities sound like fun? Except for C and D. Monarchs have places to go (like Mexico) and you can chase pollinators at

your own peril. And D sounds fun but that classic white barn's dances, hootenannies, and 3-day wedding extravaganzas are over. Forward Garden is making use of it now. For wreath making, you'll have to take a class.

7. There are so many groups and individuals that make the Conservancy a special place it's hard to list them all. All but D on this one. Remember Peter Max? We don't know where he went but the Max we know and love is the Max Kade Institute which has been instrumental with the Conservancy's many history projects. Besides, nature makes her own psychedelics.

8. OK. This one was kind of tricky unless you are an avid reader of the FOPFC monthly newsletter where we ran a short piece and photo a few months back. **The correct incorrect answer is B.** Oxen have the superior physical power to move heaven and earth and that includes stones left from a glacier. Strong as an ox!

9. Aren't all those birds amazing? Except for that Eastern wood Pee-wee Herman variety in answer C. Hmmm. We're not sure about that one but if you see one, let Board Member Curt Caslavka know at once.



In a truly rare event, several whooping cranes and an ultralight aircraft were spotted in the agricultural field just west of the Oak Savanna in 2012.
Photo: Mike McDowell.

10. The only one you won't find is D, the little chicken coop/cottage. This converted chicken coop was originally located at the intersection of Old Sauk Road and Schewe Road. It burned down in 2004. The Pleasant Site School is still on Old Sauk Road. It's now a private residence. The Schwenn/Lapley house still stands on the corner of Old Sauk and Schewe Road. The Brumm Farm became the Pope Farm Homestead and it is still there, of course. If these properties could talk, they'd have so much to tell us that we could probably create another trivia quiz.



Pleasant Site School, early 1900s.



The Charles T. Schwenn house was built in 1901.



Charles Brumm children in front of the barn that is now the Pope Farm Homestead, 1912.

How'ya Do?

20-17 Correct, you must be a Friend or volunteer or maybe just a smarty pants. Bravo!

16-13 Correct, not bad. Not bad at all for navigating a bit of silliness. Good job!

12-10 Correct, you were in the ballpark with about half. Keep smiling!

9 or less, Hmmm. Maybe it's time to visit the Conservancy. You need a break!



THE ORCHARD ORIOLES

IN THE POPE FARM CONSERVANCY

BY MIKE McDOWELL

Photos: Courtesy of Mike McDowell

Springtime is finally here! A grand variety of grassland and savannah songbirds are on their way back to Pope Farm Conservancy for another nesting season. Many people who feed backyard birds know that if you put out oranges or grape jelly you'll attract Baltimore Orioles. But did you know there's another kind of oriole you might see in our neck of the woods? It's the Orchard Oriole!

Perhaps the Orchard Oriole isn't quite as showy, but they're still nice birds to have around. If you want to see Orchard Orioles, head over to Pope Farm Conservancy during late May, June, and early July. By early August they begin to disperse and then migrate during fall to back to places like Honduras, Costa Rica, Panama, and Colombia where they spend the winter.

Before heading out to the conservancy, you'll want to

familiarize yourself with their plumage coloration which varies by age and sex. Mature males sport a deep russet color on their breast, belly, back, and rump with a black tail and head. Adult females are almost entirely lemon-yellow with slightly darker wing feathers. Young or "first-summer" males closely resemble adult females in overall color, but have a black throat similar to what you would find on a Northern Cardinal. Both males and females have a grayish blue pointed beak

As one of their preferred nesting habitats, the best place at the conservancy to find Orchard Orioles is at the oak savanna. Orchard Orioles are slightly smaller than Baltimore Orioles and their songs are quite different, too. Rather than melodious sweeping notes of the Baltimore, listen instead for a sing-song chattering whistle that

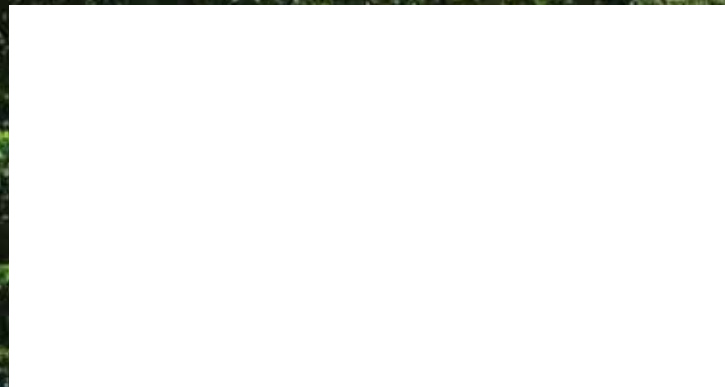
sounds a little bit like a House Finch. The males can often be found early morning singing from treetops or an exposed branch.

Once their young hatch, you'll have a better chance to see the adults foraging in the prairie grasses and wildflowers for caterpillars, small moths, and other insects to feed them. Early in the morning just after sunrise is the best time to catch them out in the open.

Of course, Orchard Orioles aren't the only grassland birds that grace Pope Farm Conservancy, so bring a binocular, a field guide on birds, and the attitude of a curious explorer. A thorough search of the conservancy will yield around 50 or more different kinds of birds throughout late spring and early summer. And if nothing else, it's simply a great place for a scenic and relaxing hike. □



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