

February 2022 News Update

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Upcoming Programs

Winter Wonderland Adventures at PFC

Sunday, February 13, 2022 @ 1pm



Photo by Diane Smidt

The FOPFC Programs Committee invites you to join us on Sunday, February 13, 2022 @ 1pm for another fun winter outing at Pope Farm Conservancy. Bring your own snowshoes, cross-country skis, or hiking boots and come along on a one-hour journey through the conservancy. This event is free and open to the public – no registration is necessary. We will meet in the lower parking lot off Old Sauk Road.

Hope to see you there!

Visit our webpage for more information: <https://www.popefarmconservancy.org/events/>

News from the Friends

'History of the Land' Videos - Now Available to Watch Online!

You can now watch the "History of the Land" video series on the FOPFC website at:

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

These video stories are about 5-6 minutes in length, and they include:

1. The First Pioneer Farmers on This Land
2. Building the Stone Fence
3. Living on Pope Farm in the 1960s/70s
4. Introducing the Popes
5. Pope Farm Becomes a Conservancy
6. Pope Farm Conservancy
7. The Friends of Pope Farm Conservancy
8. History of the Land presented by Mel Pope



These videos took a great deal of volunteer time to produce, and a ***BIG*** THANK YOU to all those involved in their production. They have now been sent to the MCPASD and to the local libraries and historical societies. We urge you to take a look! Watch now using this quick link: <https://bit.ly/3GjMa3z>

Proposed FOPFC Work Schedule for 2022



The following action items have been approved by the Friends Board, and will be presented to the Town of Middleton for their approval in the next month:

- Seed Collection: Collect seed to supplement the ravine prairie restoration project.
- Continue to water the smaller bur oaks growing along the lower part of the stone fence. These small oaks would be monitored by FOPFC volunteers throughout the summer and fall of 2022 and watered as needed.
- Capture and tag monarch butterflies at the Conservancy during their southerly migration in September.
- Recruit a FOPFC volunteer to maintain the Rain Garden again in 2022.
- Maintain the bluebird trail and monitor it weekly during the breeding season (April thru July). Will need to replace some of the older boxes this year.
- Continue to offer advice to the Town concerning prairie management issues that occur at Pope Farm Conservancy.

Get Involved: Email us at info@popefarmconservancy.org and let us know what projects interest you, or fill out the Volunteer Form on our website: <https://www.popefarmconservancy.org/volunteer/>

Winter Happenings

Winter Adventure January 17th, 2022

Story by Diane Smidt

It was a sunny, enjoyable winter event at Pope Farm Conservancy on Monday, January 17, 2022. Approximately seventeen people joined up for what became a 2-mile hike, snowshoe, or x-country ski jaunt! There were some new faces, some new conversations and maybe even some new muscles being used!! All in all, it was a great opportunity to get out and enjoy some wintertime activity in the conservancy, along with talking with one another about this beloved quiet place. We hope to see more outdoor enthusiasts for our **next Winter Outing on Sunday, February 13th at 1:00 p.m.**



Virtual Presentation: "History of the Civilian Conservation Corp at Pope Farm"



On Thursday January 26th, Bob Moore took us back in time with his wonderful presentation on the CCC at Pope Farm Conservancy. Bob has written several books on the CCC including, “The Civilian Conservation Corps in Mount Horeb, Wisconsin”, which features the spillway construction at what is in now Pope Farm Conservancy. Bob led us thru the great depression in the 1930s, and Franklin Roosevelt’s call for public work projects with the help of the Civilian Conservation Corps. The CCC joined up with the newly created Soil Conservation Service and went out into the rural areas of America to combat erosion. They came to what is now Pope Farm Conservancy in 1938. The CCC boys were housed in the Mount Horeb CCC camp.

Continued next page...

Bob displayed wonderful images (below) of the CCC building the spillway that is in the Conservancy today. The spillway at the Conservancy is one of the few remaining structures built by the CCC that is currently being maintained.



CCC Spillway under construction in 1928
Photo: Mary Dauck Nelson



CCC Spillway at Pope Farm Conservancy Today

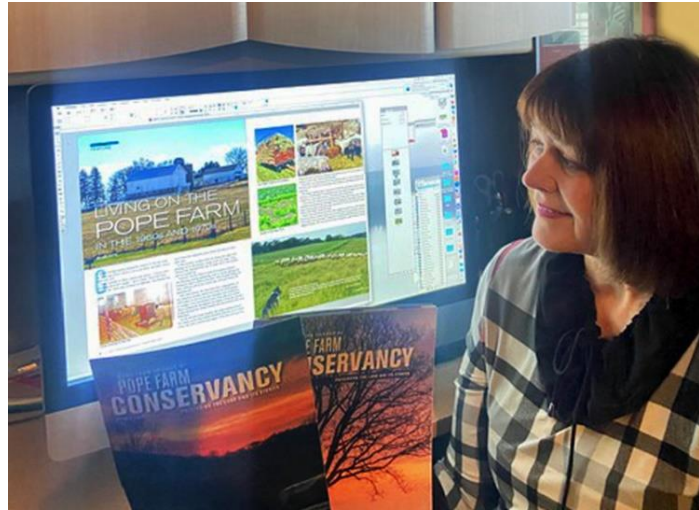
Following Bob's presentation, Jim Bolitho joined on Zoom to discuss the Ravine Restoration Project at the Conservancy. A record rainfall in 2018 caused severe damage to the ravine, and it was restored last summer. A BIG thanks to Bob, Jim, and the Programs Committee!! It was a very enlightening program.

To watch a recording of this talk, click the button below or go to: <https://bit.ly/3HgRLJf>

Volunteer Spotlight: Linda Napiwocki

If you receive our printed News Magazines in the mail twice a year, then you're already familiar with the incredible talent and beautiful work of our volunteer graphic designer, Linda Napiwocki.

Linda is no stranger to Pope Farm! She and her husband, Roger, have been Art and Betty Pope's neighbors since 1981. They enjoy living next to the Conservancy and are so thankful for the beautiful nature and wildlife it provides, as well as the history and respect for the land it offers. So, when she was asked to help out with the Friends' publications, she



was delighted to offer her services. "The conservancy is the Pope Family's Legacy for generations to come, and I am happy to be a part of it," she said.

Linda has helped in other ways over the years. She recalls her favorite memory of the Pope Farm involved a lamb named Moses...

"Many years ago, when the farm was still active, I got a phone call from Betty Pope. She asked me if I could come up to the barn and help her daughters-in-law, Jan and Christy, deliver a lamb that was coming breech. The barn was dark, and Jan was doing the delivery, while Christy and I helped hold the ewe. It was such a powerful memory. We three women helped bring a new life into the world. It was a little lamb, and they named him Moses. I never forgot that experience."

Linda and Roger have their own graphic design business, Purple Moon Design, which they started in 2011. Prior to that they both worked in the publications Department of Credit Union National Association (CUNA) for many years. In addition to designing two monthly magazines and one quarterly Consumer Magazine, they also designed graphics for print and web including logos, brochures, posters, marketing campaigns etc. for the Trade Association for America's Credit Unions across the country. Since starting their own graphic design firm, they now design and produce monthly magazines for American Trade magazines located in Chicago. They also do work for a number of non-profit organizations.

Linda and Roger are both semi-retired and have a lake home in Central Wisconsin near family. They often travel to Sheboygan to visit their daughter, Danielle, and son-in-law, Casey, who have two little boys, Camden (age 6) and Beckham (age 4).

We are so grateful to Linda for the beautiful work she does on our news magazines, flyers, brochures, video graphics, and more. Thank you, Linda!

If you have questions or comments for Linda, you can reach out to her at purplemoondesign@gmail.com.

Reflections: "Grandpa Leon"

By Chris Conohan

This photo is of Mel Pope's grandfather, Leon Pope. A couple of years ago, Mel shared a great story with some of my students and me...

When Mel was younger and spending time on the farm, he'd help Grandpa Leon. When they'd encounter a problem, they'd have to solve, Leon would calmly say to Mel, "Let's sit and talk awhile." Leon would then ask Mel what's a way they could solve the problem. Mel would think and then offer an idea. Leon would say, "That's a good idea. What's another way we could do it?" Mel would again, think and offer a suggestion. This would go on for a while. Finally, Grandpa Leon would ask Mel what he thought they should do. By then, it was usually pretty obvious what the best option was.



That kind of thoughtful problem-solving and mentoring is at the heart of the Conservancy. It's a story not often told, but it's an important one. I hope future generations of students who visit the conservancy will often "sit and talk awhile" until the best solution appears. If you see Mel, ask him more about Grandpa Leon.

Upcoming FOPFC Meetings

Education Team Meeting – VIRTUAL

Next Meeting: Tuesday, February 22nd, 2022 (6:00 – 7:30 p.m.)

Zoom Link: Email Doug Piper (dlpiper0413@gmail.com) for the meeting link.

Discussion topics: We will be discussing spring activities with the school district, and ideas on what we can do to improve the educational experience at Pope Farm Conservancy in 2022.

Programs Committee Meeting

Next Meeting: Monday, February 28th, 2022 (3:00 p.m.)

Location: At the home of Diane Smidt, 202 Saratoga Circle, Madison, WI

Discussion topics: The committee will be finalizing events for the 2022 season. If interested in event planning, all are welcome to join this meeting. Otherwise, please send event ideas to Diane Smidt (diane.smidt@gmail.com).

Photo of the Month



Photo by George Smith

Dust of Snow

By Robert Frost

The way a crow
Shook down on me
The dust of snow
From a hemlock tree
Has given my heart
A change of mood
And saved some part
Of a day I had rued.

Reminders

Winter Hours and Activities

Pope Farm Conservancy is open year-round from sunrise to sunset. It's a great place for trekking through snow, winter birding, and even photography. You can also enjoy a variety of winter activities, such as snowshoeing, sledding, cross-country skiing, and hiking. Come enjoy the stark beauty of winter at PFC!

Please stay on the designated trails and do not venture out into the prairies or crop fields. The lower parking lot off Old Sauk Road will remain open and plowed through the winter months. All other parking lots will be closed.

Also, the trail near the ravine at Pope Farm Conservancy will remain closed through the winter months due to the recent planting of vegetation as part of the repairs made to the ravine, to preserve the integrity of the matting. Although the ground is frozen in the wintertime, foot traffic, skiers and their poles will destroy the matting before the vegetation is established next spring. Your understanding is appreciated.

Renew Your Membership

Just a reminder...you can now renew your membership online here:

<https://www.popefarmconservancy.org/membership>

Or you can renew by mail by sending a check (payable to Friends of Pope Farm Conservancy) to: FOPFC, 10333 Blackhawk Road, Middleton, WI 53562.

If you have already renewed your membership, THANK YOU! We hope you enjoy being a part of our community. For questions regarding your membership, please email us at info@popefarmconservancy.org.

Connect with FOPFC Online

Website: <https://www.popefarmconservancy.org>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/FriendsOfPopeFarmConservancy>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/friendsofpopefarmconservancy>

Flickr: <https://www.flickr.com/groups/fopfc-photos>



Thank you for supporting the Friends of Pope Farm Conservancy!

Our journey is ongoing, and YOU are part of it!