

## August 2022 News Update

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Photo by Barry Sherbeck

## Upcoming Programs

### **Walking Through Time: An Archaeological Tour of PFC**

**Tuesday, August 9, 2022, at 6:00 p.m.**

Speaker: Dr. Amy L. Rosebrough, Archaeologist at WI Historical Society



Join Wisconsin Historical Society archaeologist, Dr. Amy L. Rosebrough for a walking tour of the archeology and history of Pope Farm Conservancy. Scenes from many episodes of Wisconsin's history have played out at Pope Farm, both uplifting and tragic, leaving traces of forgotten lives behind.

This tour is free, family-friendly, and open to the public. No registration required. We will meet in the lower parking lot near the Old Sauk Rd entrance. This tour will require some up-hill walking over moderate terrain, so bring good walking shoes.

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## **FOPFC Member Appreciation Picnic**

**Thursday, September 1, 2022 (4:00 - 8:00 p.m.)**

Hosted by: FOPFC Education Team

The Friends of Pope Farm Conservancy invite you to join us for a picnic at Lakeview Park in Middleton to celebrate your contributions to the conservancy. Without your volunteer work and financial support, our programs and activities throughout the year would not be possible. We appreciate everything you do! Come and meet board members and committee members and other volunteers. We will share information on future plans and volunteer opportunities.



**Picnic Location:** Lakeview Park, 6300 Mendota Ave, Middleton, WI 53562

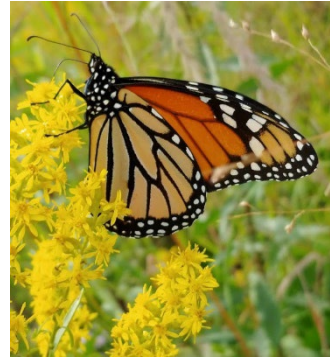
**What to Bring:** The Friends will provide food and non-alcoholic beverages. (Note: You may bring your own beer or wine if it is in a non-breakable container.) We recommend bringing lawn chairs and sunscreen.

## More Upcoming Programs at PFC:

- **Monarch Tagging**

**Dates:** TBD (Early September)

This is the sixth 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. No experience necessary. It is a wonderful learning experience for the whole family! We will announce dates and post sign up forms in early September.



- **Fall Migration Birding Tour**

**Date:** Saturday, September 10, 2022, at 7:30 a.m.

**Speaker:** Mike McDowell

**Location:** Pope Farm Conservancy

Join birding expert Mike McDowell on a fall hike through Pope Farm Conservancy to observe the behavior of birds who are preparing for or already in the process of migrating south. Free and open to the public. No registration required



- **Prairie Seed Collection**

**Dates:** TBD (September-October)

The FOPFC Restoration Team is looking for volunteers to help collect prairie plant seeds at Pope Farm Conservancy. Seed collection is easy to do, and it is an enjoyable way to spend a couple hours in nature. No experience required, open to the public. We will announce dates and post sign up forms in early September.



See all FOPFC events and programs here: <https://www.popefarmconservancy.org/events/>

## **News from the Friends**

### **Friends Replace Signage in Upper Parking Area**



“No Dogs Allowed In Conservancy” sign replaced.

The Friends continue our efforts to help maintain the signage at Pope Farm Conservancy. Many of these signs have deteriorated and need replacement. The Friends have paid for replacing 30 interpretive signs, added a number of signs protecting the Blackhawk Prairie, and have replaced some of the regulatory signs when needed. A big thank you to member Bob Wink for building and installing the replacement sign.

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### **Friends Continue to Analyze Viability of Historic CCC Spillway at PFC**

The CCC/SCS spillway was built in 1938, and is the only CCC/SCS structure that is being preserved in the State of Wisconsin. The structure is showing its age and it is beginning to show potential structural problems. The Friends are analyzing various options to help maintain the Spillway for years to come.



The CCC/SCS story includes information about the great depression, President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s “New Deal”, the Dust Bowl, the U.W. Conservation Department in the 1930’s, the boys of the CCC, and the CCC camp in Mt. Horeb. These stories help teach the public about an earlier period in our history, and the importance of controlling erosion and saving our soil. To learn more, watch our 6-part video series on the Civilian Conservation Corps Legacy at Pope Farm Conservancy:

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

## Recap of Summer Programs

### "Stories of the Land" Talk with Mel Pope - July 28

Story and Photo by Diane Smidt



On a beautiful summer evening, the last Thursday of July, around 30 people congregated together atop a lush green hill offering views of a Tall Grass Prairie, Lake Mendota, the Capitol, and a newly built elementary school. This 105-acre parcel of land became a Conservancy in the year 2000. And this particular group of people gathered near twilight eager to learn of some of the Conservancy's historical stories, presented by Mel Pope, Arthur Pope's son and the chairman of the Friends of Pope Farm Conservancy Board. Mel indulged the audience nearly 90 minutes with a wealth of inspiring and intriguing facts that gave credence and appreciation to this special piece of nature, so dedicated to education, the community at large, and the preservation of our environment.

Following are a few historical and current facts that were shared:

- Arthur (Art) Pope, a world-renowned sheep vet at UW, and his family did not want the property developed and successfully sold it to the Town of Middleton, with the expectations and agreement that it be protected.
- There were three farms that once made up the land now called Pope Farm Conservancy. Two of those farmers built the Stone Fence in the mid-1850s, which took 26 years to complete and is one of the few remaining fences of its kind.
- The Conservancy sits on top of three recessional moraines where three watersheds meet.
- There are several interpretive signs that follow the history of the land: the glaciers and land formation, the Native Americans, the settlers, the CCC project of the 1930s, and the more current methods of erosion control.
- The Native American garden represents what and how the planting was done 1000 years ago.

Mel Pope put a wonderful human spin on a wealth of information, but, even more importantly, he shared his genuine care and love of this piece of land. Special thanks to Mel for sharing his knowledge and stories, and a big thanks to Ann Walser and Diane Smidt from the Programs Committee for coordinating and hosting this program.

## **Happenings at the Conservancy**

### **Bluebird Count Down 50% at Pope Farm Conservancy**

The Bluebird count is down about 50% this year. In 2021, we recorded 54 fledglings. but so far this season, there have only been 21 fledges, with 15 still in the nest as of last week. We do not know what is causing the decline. It may be a result of the storms that the birds were exposed to this spring, or it could be because of the bird flu. Curt and Arlys Caslavka who manage the Bluebird Trail are making inquiries with other birding experts to find more information about why this occurred.



### **Outbreak of Birdsfoot Trefoil in the South Prairie**

There has been an outbreak of Birdsfoot trefoil in the South Prairie in the vicinity of the picnic area. Birdsfoot Trefoil is an invasive species that threatens native Prairie plants. Good Oaks is the contractor that manages prairie restoration for the Town of Middleton, and they are working to eliminate this threat.

Thanks to the Town of Middleton for addressing this issue!



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## **Upcoming FOPFC Meetings**

### **Education Team Meeting – VIRTUAL**

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday, August 23rd, 2022, at 6:00 p.m.

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

**Discussion topics:** We will be discussing support for the upcoming school year, and reviewing progress on the educational video series, and putting QR labels in the Conservancy.

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## **In Remembrance**

### **Betty Zoerb Pope (1923-2022)**

In addition to being the matriarch of the Pope and Zoerb families, Betty played a key role in the formation of Pope Farm Conservancy. Betty was a Madison native who graduated from West High, then later the UW. She married Edgar Zoerb in 1944. Ed had been Art Pope's fraternity brother in the 1940s. The Zoerbs operated a veterinary practice while raising their three sons: David, Erik, and Hans. Widowed in 1967, Betty returned to the UW to earn her master's degree in Home Economics.



Betty worked for the UW Extension Service as an Information Specialist in Madison and as the Home Economist in Door County. After she married Art Pope in 1973, she was the farm's business manager until she was well into her 90s.

One of Betty's passions was textiles, and she was an expert seamstress. Between sewing, needlepoint, and knitting, she was usually working on a project for her blended family. As a lifelong knitter, she used wool from Art's sheep in her creations, even learning to spin.

Betty was a dedicated member of the West Middleton Lutheran Church and a longtime supporter of both the Madison Symphony and the Madison Opera. Betty and Art enjoyed travelling the world, making many international friends whom Betty enjoyed hosting when they visited the farm. She will be missed.

## **Photo of the Month**



Photo by Junfeng Huang

## **Reminders**

### **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](mailto:info@popefarmconservancy.org).

### **Volunteer Opportunities**

The Friends will have several volunteer opportunities at Pope Farm Conservancy in September and October. If you are interested in joining us for prairie seed collection and/or monarch tagging, be sure to fill out the Volunteer Interests Form on our website. Exact dates/times are to be determined, so check our website and newsletters for updates.

Link: <https://www.popefarmconservancy.org/volunteer/>

### **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!**