

July 2022 News Update

In this edition...

- Upcoming Programs
 - July 28: Stories of the Land Talk with Mel Pope
 - Aug. 9: Archaeological Tour of PFC
 - Sept. 1: Members Picnic at Lakeview Park
- News from The Friends
 - Friends to Replace 30 Interpretive Signs
 - Replacing Signposts
 - Friends Fix Signage in Lower Parking Lot
- Recap of June Events
 - Spring Migratory Birding Walk on June 11
- Upcoming FOPFC Meetings
- Happenings at the Conservancy
 - Prairies in Bloom
- Photo of the Month
- Reminders



Happy July! We are officially in summer mode here in Wisconsin, and for most of us, that means a busy time of year. If you haven't been to Pope Farm Conservancy lately, it's time to schedule a visit. The prairies are absolutely stunning with so many beautiful wildflowers in bloom. Enjoy!

Upcoming Programs

Stories of the Land at Pope Farm Conservancy

Thursday, July 28th, at 7:00 p.m.

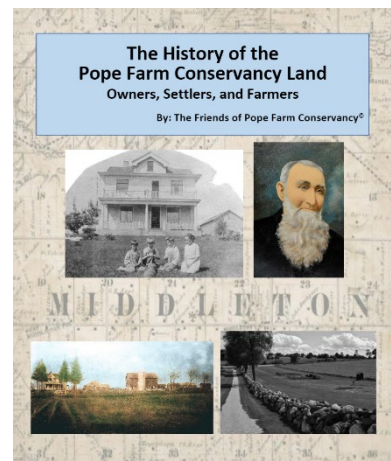
Speaker: Mel Pope, FOPFC Chair



Join us on Thursday, July 28th @ 7pm for Mel Pope's talk about the history of the Pope Farm Conservancy land. This free, 90-minute talk will **explore the natural and human history of the land**, the Conservancy's unique features, and its stunning panoramic views of Lake Mendota, the State Capitol, Black Earth Creek Valley and the terminal moraine. Mel will also 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.

During the program, you'll also **hear stories and remembrances** about the people who owned, farmed, and settled on this land over the past 150+ years. These stories are all recorded in our document titled "The History of the Pope Farm Conservancy Land," which is a compilation of research, stories, photos, maps, remembrances, and other tidbits that has been organized by the three farms that once made up the land that is now Pope Farm Conservancy. Read it online here: <https://bit.ly/3PEytSC>

This program is free and open to the public – no registration is necessary. We will meet at the TOP of the hill in the picnic area. Additional parking is available at Pope Farm Elementary school.



More Programs to Come This Summer!

Mark Your Calendars For:

- **Walking through Time: An Archaeological Tour of Pope Farm Conservancy**
Date: Tuesday, August 9, 2022 (6:00 - 7:30 p.m.)
Location: Pope Farm Conservancy (Lower parking lot)
Speaker: Speaker: Dr. Amy L. Rosebrough, Archaeologist in the Division of Historic Preservation and Public History at the Wisconsin Historical Society
- **Member Appreciation Picnic**
Date: Thursday, September 1st, 2022 (4:00 - 8:00 p.m.)
Location: Lakeview Park, Middleton
Hosted by: Friends of Pope Farm Conservancy
All FOPFC members, volunteers, and donors welcome! Food and non-alcoholic beverages will be provided.

Check out all our events on the FOPFC website: <https://www.popefarmconservancy.org/events/>

News from the Friends

Friends to Replace 30 Interpretive Signs at PFC for the Town of Middleton



The Town of Middleton’s Masterplan for Pope Farm Conservancy calls for providing educational information for the public on the stories of the land. The interpretive signs are an important feature of the Conservancy, which help provide these stories. Currently, the Town owns 40 interpretive signs in PFC, and 30 of those signs have reached their 10-year lifecycle. These Lexan signs are made of incredibly strong and durable polycarbonate which resists fading and has a 10-year warranty. The Friends plan on securing high-resolution images of all 40 signs and will turn over a copy of the images to the Town for future reference.

Replacing the Signposts



Friends replaced this sign post last month

Maybe you saw one of the Geology signs laying on the ground on a recent visit to the conservancy. The signpost had rotted to the point that it finally fell over. The signs sit on 4" X 4" treated wooden posts. Most of these posts were put in about 18 years ago and are beginning to rot to the point that they are starting to fall over.

The Town of Middleton is going to replace these posts over the next several years. This will be a substantial project for the Town because there are approximately 70 wooden posts that will need to be replaced. In the meantime, the Friends will try to help the Town with this maintenance project.

Friends Fix Signage in Lower Parking lot off Old Sauk Rd.



We do not know if it was wind or vandalism, but the Friends re-secured this large sign in the lower parking lot off of Old Sauk Rd. The Friends will be analyzing the regulatory signs at the Conservancy in the coming months. Many of these signs have been up since 2005 and are in need of replacement.

Recap of Summer Programs

Spring Migratory Birding Walk with Mike McDowell - June 11

Story and Photos by Martha Zydowsky



An enthusiastic group of 30 bird watchers joined Mike McDowell for his annual spring migratory birding walk at the conservancy on June 11. We saw and heard many different species of spring migratory birds. This popular program at the conservancy offers both new and experienced bird watchers a relaxing and informative walk through one of Dane County's birding hotspots with an experienced guide.



Mike will be back in the fall for another migratory birding walk on Saturday, September 10, 2022 at 7:30 a.m. On this early autumn walk, we'll see different birds en route to their winter homes.

Look for more information about the fall migratory bird walk on the FOPFC website here: <https://www.popefarmconservancy.org/events/migrating-birds/> Or you can check our Facebook page and other local media.

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.

Happenings at the Conservancy

Prairies in Bloom



July and August are great months to visit the conservancy to see the prairies in full bloom. The Pope Farm Conservancy exists to help people learn about prairies and the land. We are fortunate that we're able to have examples of different pre-settlement landscapes here at the conservancy. Check out these resources (below) that explain more about each PFC prairie and its history.

Learn more about the PFC prairies:

- [The Prairies of Pope Farm: A Self-Guided Tour](#) (PDF) - Download this self-guided tour to your mobile device and use it on your next visit to Pope Farm.
Link: <https://www.popefarmconservancy.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/FOPFC-Self-Guided-Tours-Prairie.pdf>
- ["The Magnificent Seven: Prairies by Design"](#) by Julie Graziano (PDF, Page 4) - A closer look at the making of each of the prairies at PFC.
Link: <https://www.popefarmconservancy.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/FOPFC-SPRING-2021-WEB.pdf>

Photo of the Month



Red-winged Blackbird flying over compass plant and flashing his bright epaulets.
Photo by [Rona Neri](#)

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.

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!**