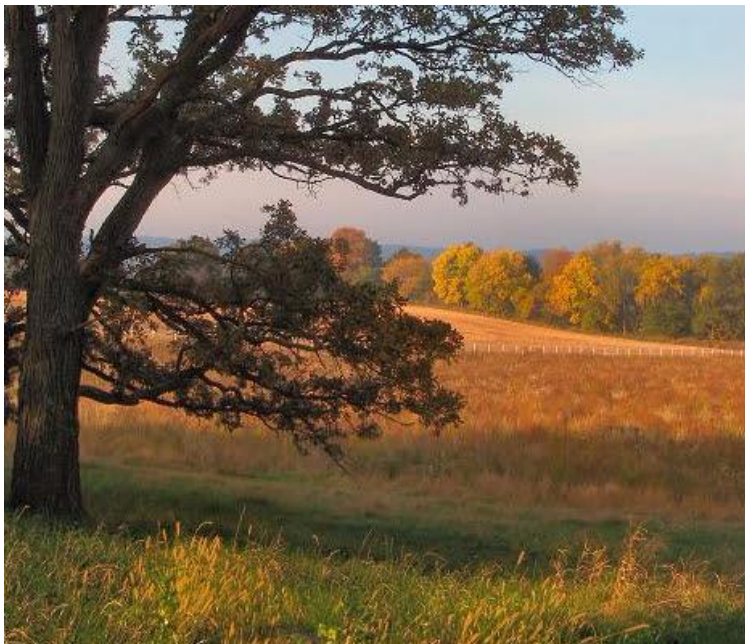


## November 2022 News Update

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November comes  
And November goes,  
With the last red berries  
And the first white snows.

With night coming early,  
And dawn coming late,  
And ice in the bucket  
And frost by the gate.

The fires burn  
And the kettles sing,  
And earth sinks to rest  
Until next spring.

— Elizabeth Coatsworth

## Recap of Recent Programs

### **The Prairie in Seed: A Fall Prairie Walking Tour (Oct. 1st)**

Story and Photo by Jean Kollasch



Jeff Steele with Wild Ones-Madison Chapter guided a fabulous tour along the edge of one of the Pope Farm Conservancy prairies on Saturday, October 1, at 9:30a.m. The 35 attendees were mesmerized by his plethora of shared knowledge about prairies in general and the unique qualities of this Conservancy prairie. Jeff's topic "The Prairie in Seed" was an encore performance from his 2021 program in the Conservancy.

A few highlights of his talk include:

- Prairie types include dry, mesic, and wet types.
- The Conservancy prairie is mesic in that it has a rich soil to grow in. There are few mesic prairies remaining in the world.
- Dry prairies are such because the plants grow in dry, sand, or rocky areas where land is not farmable. These plants can survive since their roots may go down 20 feet.
- There are three other distinguishing types of prairies: Restoration prairies, Recreated prairies, and Remnant prairies.

Restoration prairies once contained prairie plants and are being managed to put additional prairie plants back into the area. The Conservancy has Restoration prairies. A Recreated prairie never had prairie plants historically in its area. A Remnant prairie is old-growth and contains rare species of plants, some of which are thousands of years old. There are a few of the later within Dane county which Jeff listed. A Remnant prairie may have a hundred species within three square feet whereas a Restored prairie may only have several. Man may never be able to approach recreating a Remnant prairie.

## Seed Collection and Planting

Various prairie plants rely on one another to survive, and each species is unique as to how it survives and thrives or not. Collected prairie seeds may be a great addition to home landscapes or rain garden. In the fall, when harvesting all prairie seeds, look for hard not soft seeds that are brown and dried, not green. The seeds of each species are unique as to how they are harvested. Store gathered seeds in paper bags, never in plastic to prevent molding and to allow for continued ripening as needed. Most seeds need a cold moist stratification period so are best broadcast in cold weather. That means now through December timeframe to allow germination in the spring. In some cases, breaking dormancy may require more than one winter season, hot boiling water treatment or a nail file scarification.



Jeff picked examples of about 30 various prairie plants from the edges of the prairie off the Conservancy's lower parking lot. He demonstrated how seed would be harvested from each. Since many seeds can be poky and thorny, it is advised to wear gloves when harvesting prairie seeds. The group learned that there are various species of goldenrod, Canadian goldenrod being the bane of prairies since it spreads by rhizomes underground and can prohibit growth of other plants thus taking over an area. He suggested not letting it go to seed if possible. Shorter Showy goldenrod and slender goldenrod are less aggressive and more desirable in a prairie. Goldenrod often gets the blame for allergies when in reality ragweed is the culprit.

One last fact shared was that pollinators can't see the color red whereas birds can see red. Thus, prairies have few red flowers.

Jeff recommended three reference books about prairie seeds:

- [The Prairie in Seed](#) by Dave Williams
- [The Tallgrass Restoration Handbook](#) from the Society for Ecological Restoration
- [Pods: Wildflowers and Weeds in Their Final Beauty](#) by Jane Embertson

A big thanks to Jeff Steele and the Madison Chapter of Wild Ones for being a part of this program. Thank you to all those who attended, as well. We would also like to extend our sincere gratitude to the FOPFC Programs Committee for organizing this event.



## Fall Nature Photography Workshop at Pope Farm Conservancy, Oct. 22nd

Story and Photos by Vina Yang

On October 22, a beautiful, perfect fall day, we had Sean Lamb, a professional photographer, and a member of PhotoMidwest, give us an interesting talk at Pope Farm Conservancy. Eighteen participants gathered at the rock circle, uphill from the parking lot, to listen to Sean about how to take photographs with both a traditional camera and a smartphone camera.



Sean and other PhotoMidwest members shared their experiences on landscape photo taking. Some of the tips explained to the group were the following: framing a shot follows a "rule of thirds", the technique of adjusting lights vs. shadows, and composing images in layers, meaning a front layer of objects can be flowers or plants, a middle layer can be of an open field, and a far layer can be trees or bushes. Many more ideas were shared. But, most of all, it's the importance of PRACTICE over and over that will help to find the unique angle of your shots.

As we know, the smart phone camera has advanced its photography quality. It's light to carry during hiking and traveling, and its fast multiple shot-taking eliminates worrying about running out of film. That is what's made it so popular for common daily use. This is truly welcomed news for people who love to take photos and edit photos to their preferences.

After his talk, Sean and several other PhotoMidwest members led everyone on a nature walk and shared their expertise on how to angle your shot under light and shadow. If windy, a technique is to hold the object that is close to you and quickly take the shot to avoid it being blurry. We chatted, and we walked, and we took photos, too.

It was such a fabulous morning to enjoy the view scape at Pope Farm Conservancy and to walk through the field with one's camera for photo taking. This memorable experience will be treasured for a long time!



## Volunteer Opportunities

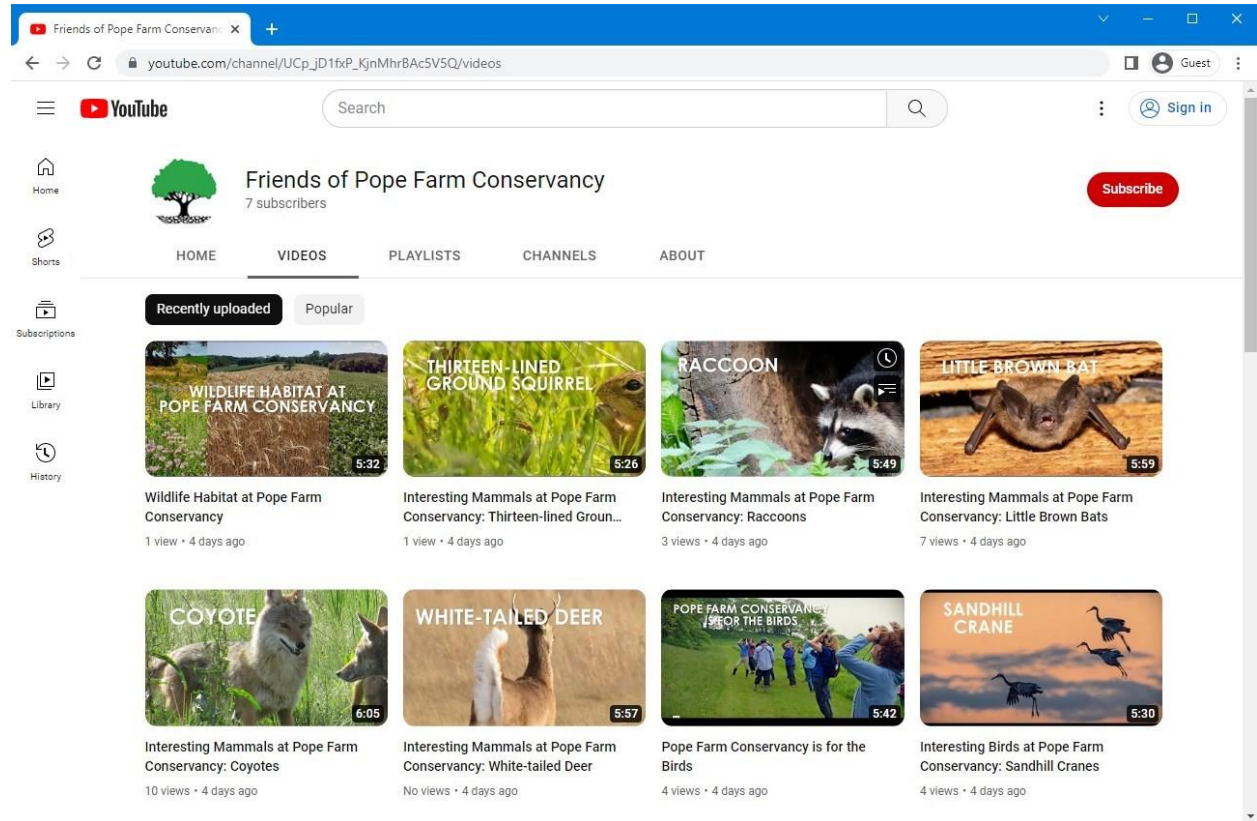
### Writers Needed!

We are still in need of volunteers to help write content and stories for our newsletters, website, and Facebook page. There are so many interesting stories at the Conservancy, and if you like to write, there is much to write about! If interested, please contact us at [info@popefarmconservancy.org](mailto:info@popefarmconservancy.org).

## News from the Friends

### Friends Post Educational Videos on YouTube

The Friends are making our educational video series more accessible to schools by adding the videos to YouTube. We now have a YouTube channel that teachers can share with their students. This will allow students to watch the videos at school or home and for in-class projects. We have also updated the video links on the FOPFC website so you can watch the YouTube videos on our website.



**Subscribe to our YouTube channel:**

<https://www.youtube.com/@friendsofpopefarmconservancy>



## Upcoming FOPFC Meetings

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

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday, November 29th, 2022, at 6:00 p.m.

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

**Discussion topics:** We will be discussing ways to support elementary school programming at the conservancy and reviewing the progress of promoting the educational videos.

## Photos of the Month

Photo by Janie Starzewski



“I cannot endure to waste anything so precious as  
autumnal sunshine by staying in the house.”

- Nathaniel Hawthorne

## Reminders

### **Please Stay on Mowed Paths**

We're seeing several areas where the native grasses are being trampled down in the Blackhawk prairie from people walking out into the prairie for photo ops. This will not only have a negative impact on the beautiful “look” the Blackhawk prairie has had in the past, but these trampled areas are also more susceptible to invasive weeds created by this disturbance. The Blackhawk prairie is also home to various wildlife and nesting birds such as sedge wrens. The damage to the prairies has a negative impact on them, as well. **We kindly ask that ALL visitors please stay on the trails and mowed paths.** Thank you for your cooperation!

## **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).

## **Get Involved**

As mentioned above, we are in need of writers to contribute stories or short articles for our publications. We currently rely on the same people month after month, and we need additional help. If interested, please contact us at [info@popefarmconservancy.org](mailto:info@popefarmconservancy.org). If there's another activity you'd like to help with, please fill out the Volunteer Interests Form on our website.

## **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!**