

## September 2022 News Update

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“To say it was a beautiful day would not begin to explain it.  
It was that day when the end of summer intersects perfectly with the start of fall.”

– Ann Patchett

## **Fall Events & Programs**

### **FOPFC Member Appreciation Picnic**

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

Location: Lakeview Park, Middleton | Hosted by: FOPFC Education Team

It is sure to be a beautiful evening for the FOPFC Member Appreciation Picnic on Sept. 1st from 4-8PM at Lakeview Park in Middleton (6300 Mendota Ave). We will 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!

### **Fall Migration Birding Tour**

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

*Tour Guide: Mike McDowell, Birding Expert and Nature Photographer*

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. Mike will share tips and techniques for identifying and observing these birds who stop here for much needed food and rest during their long journey.



This tour is FREE and open to the public. No registration is necessary. Don't forget to bring binoculars, wear comfortable walking shoes, and dress for the weather. We will meet in the lower parking lot by the Old Sauk Road entrance. Photo credit: Mike McDowell

More info at: <https://www.popefarmconservancy.org/events/migrating-birds/>

### **The Prairie in Seed: A Fall Prairie Walking Tour at PFC**

**Saturday, October 1st, 2022 (9:30 am – 10:30 am)**

Speaker: Jeff Steele, Wild Ones Madison

Join the Madison Chapter of the Wild Ones on this one-hour guided tour of Pope Farm Conservancy's restored prairies. October is great time to experience the prairie in its final beauty. Those that attend will also learn from restoration experts how to properly collect and store seeds from various species.



This tour is FREE and open to the public – no registration is necessary. We will meet in the lower parking lot by the Old Sauk Road entrance.

More info at: <https://www.popefarmconservancy.org/events/prairie-tour/>

## Volunteer Opportunities

### **Monarch Tagging at PFC**

Join us for this exhilarating citizen science project to help search for, capture, tag, and release migrating monarchs. Free and open to the public. No experience necessary. It is a wonderful learning opportunity for all ages and a great way to spend a few hours in nature!

We still will need a few more volunteers to help with Monarch Tagging:

- Tuesday, Sept. 6 (3:00-5:00 p.m.)
- Wednesday, Sept. 7 (1:30-3:30 p.m.)

Registration is required!

**Register online at:** <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0d4dafaa2ca0ffc61-monarch>

For more info, visit our website: <https://www.popefarmconservancy.org/events/monarch-tagging/>



### **Prairie Seed Collection at PFC**

The FOPFC Restoration Team is looking for additional volunteers to help collect prairie plant seeds at Pope Farm Conservancy. Our goal is to use the collected seed to increase the diversity and quality of prairie plant species at Pope Farm Conservancy.

Seed collection is easy to do, and it's an enjoyable way to spend a couple hours in nature.

#### **2022 Seed Collection Dates/Times:**

- Fri., Sept. 9th (10:00 AM – 12:00 PM)
- Wed., Sept. 14th (10:00 AM – 12:00 PM)

This volunteer opportunity is open to the public. No experience necessary! Go to the link below to register in advance so that we know you're coming.

**Register online at:** <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0d4dafaa2ca0ffc61-2022>

For more info, visit our website: <https://www.popefarmconservancy.org/events/prairie-seed-collection/>





## News from the Friends

### **Friends New Video Series - Now Available Online!**



The “Interesting Mammals at Pope Farm Conservancy” video series is now available on the FOPFC website at: <https://www.popefarmconservancy.org/stories-of-the-land/mammals-videos/>

Each of these video stories are about 5 minutes in length and they include: White-Tailed Deer, Thirteen-Lined Ground Squirrel, Raccoon, Little Brown Bat, Coyote, Wildlife Habitat at Pope Farm Conservancy.

This video series is now available for the public and for students visiting Pope Farm Conservancy. Each video will also be available via barcode technology within the Conservancy itself. We are very proud of these excellent videos, and we thank the volunteers who made this possible. So far, the Friends have produced 35 short educational videos about the “Stories of the Land”.

### **Friends Work Toward Greater Crop Diversity**

The Town of Middleton Master Plan called for 7 different crops to be grown at the Conservancy. This variety of crops is important to both vegetative diversity for wildlife habitat, and for its educational value.

From 2006 to 2018, 7 crops were displayed each year. However, in 2022 the crop display has shrunk to 4 different crops at PFC. The Friends are suggesting ways to bring back the crop diversity to the Town of Middleton who owns the Conservancy.



Pictured Above: 2022 Agricultural Crop Display at Pope Farm Conservancy

## **Recap of August Programs**

### **Walking Through Time: An Archaeological Tour of PFC - Aug. 9th**

Story and Photo by Martha Zydowsky

On a beautiful summer evening, over 40 people attended the archaeology walk at the conservancy. Dr. Amy Rosebrough, archaeologist in the Division of Historic Preservation and Public History at the Wisconsin State Historical Society and a long-time volunteer at Pope Farm, led us through the ages.

We viewed ruins and Native American gardens and held artifacts from archaeological digs at the conservancy. From mastodons to native peoples to German immigrants, we learned about their lives at the conservancy - the food they ate, the threats they faced, and the tools they used.



A big THANKS to Amy for sharing her knowledge and leading this wonderful tour, and to everyone who joined us on this beautiful evening.

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## **Upcoming FOPFC Meetings**

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

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday, September 20, 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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## **Photo of the Month**



### **Monarch Mania**

Photo by Janie Starzewski

Pope Farm Conservancy is a great place to witness the marvel of the monarch butterfly migration, happening now through mid-September! The conservancy provides an ideal habitat for these migrating insects. The trees provide both shelter from the wind and respite at night, while the prairies supply food during the day. As the prairies at PFC have matured over the years, there is now an abundance of Stiff goldenrod, Showy goldenrod, a variety of asters, Field thistle (pictured above), and Showy Blazing Star. The monarchs feed upon the nectar-rich flowers of these native plants. This type of habitat is essential for monarchs to build up the fat reserves they need to survive not only the migration but the five-month overwintering period in Mexico.

## **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).

### **Get Involved**

The Friends have several volunteer opportunities at Pope Farm Conservancy this month! We need several more volunteers for prairie seed collection and/or monarch tagging. If there's another activity you'd like to help with, please fill out the Volunteer Interests Form on our website:

<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!**