

February 2023 News Update

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"You can't get too much winter in the winter." - Robert Frost

Upcoming Programs

Raptor Talk with Madison Audubon

Tuesday, March 14th, 2023, at 7PM



Photo credit: Arlene Koziol

The FOPFC and Madison Audubon are teaming up to bring you a fascinating talk all about raptors. Join us in-person at Pope Farm Elementary School or online via Zoom to learn about these amazing birds of prey. Our presenters will talk about the Kestrel Project, the Bald Eagle Nest Watch Project, and the filming of the Northern Harriers at Goose Pond. You'll also hear an update on the raptors that Madison Audubon has paid for transmitters placed on raptors (Snowy Owl, Rough-legged Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk).

Raptor Talk Program Details:

- **Date/Time:** Tuesday, March 14th, 2023, at 7PM
- **Location:** Pope Farm Elementary School - Community Room
- **Address:** 816 Schewe Rd, Middleton, WI 53562
- **Watch Online:** We will be live streaming the presentation on Zoom for those who cannot join us in person. Registration is required to watch the presentation on Zoom. Register Here: <http://bit.ly/3X5Sjc2>

More Info: <https://www.popefarmconservancy.org/events/raptors-talk/>

Special thanks to Diane Smidt and Mark Martin for organizing this program.

News From the Friends

Saving the Spillway

The CCC/SCS Spillway was built in 1938 as part of President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s “New Deal.” Today, this site is a Wisconsin historical point of interest, and many lesson plans have been developed around it, including a 6-part video series on the Legacy of the CCC at Pope Farm. Watch the series here: <https://www.popefarmconservancy.org/stories-of-the-land/ccc-legacy/>

According to CCC Historian Robert Moore, this is the only CCC spillway site that is being preserved in the State of Wisconsin. It is remarkable that the spillway is still very effective as an erosion control structure.



Cracks are visible in the concrete structure at the bottom of the slope. Photo by Jim Bolitho.

Over the years, cracks and some spalling have occurred in the concrete structure. Treating these problems today will help preserve the spillway for many more years. In the long term it will not only delay heavy replacement costs, it also will help to preserve our educational history.

The Friends are offering to pay ½ of the costs (up to \$4,000), to fill the cracks, repair the spalling, and seal the concrete. The work is scheduled to take place in the spring/summer of 2023. A big shout out to Friends Jim Bolitho, Chad Halverson, and Kurt Karbusicky for their work on this project, and thank you to the Town of Middleton for facilitating it.

The Stone Fence Trail Enhancement Project



Above: The Stone Fence Trail runs along the east side of the stone fence. Photo by Janie Starzewski.

The Stone Fence Trail runs from the lower parking lot off Old Sauk Road to the picnic area at Pope Farm Conservancy. It was purposefully designed and constructed in 2005 to enhance the viewing experience of the iconic stone fence.

The trail was surfaced with limestone screenings. Over time, fines in the screenings migrated to the side of the trail and created a berm that kept water on the trail, instead of running off. Gullies developed in the trail because of the retained water. The problem was acute on steep grades.

In 2020, work was undertaken to mitigate the problem. The situation was improved but required maintenance from time to time, particularly after major runoff events. Additionally, the neat lines on the sides of the trail were destroyed and made the trail look unsightly.



This is a critical trail at Pope Farm Conservancy, and the Friends have been looking for a long-term solution to fix it. There are several areas of this trail that need work done over the next couple of years.

The first section of trail that we are focusing on, is 375' of the steep slope that can be seen in the above map. The proposal calls for using interlocked panels of monolithic cells (pictured right) that are embedded in the ground and filled with aggregate.



The Friends are funding this project (capped at \$16,000). Thanks to Friends Jim Bolitho, and Kurt Karbusicky for their work on this, and thanks to the Town of Middleton for overseeing this enhancement project.

January Programs Recap

Virtual Talk: Ancient Canoes Discovered in Lake Mendota - Jan. 24

Summary by Martha Zydowsky, Photo courtesy of the Wisconsin Historical Society

Huge thanks to Dr. Amy Rosebrough, Archaeologist at the Wisconsin Historical Society, and the Friends of Pope Farm Conservancy's Programs Committee for a wonderful program on January 24th. Amy's recent Zoom presentation was the first program of 2023 and was a fascinating recounting of the discoveries and preservation of several ancient canoes found in Lake Mendota. These ancient canoes were recovered from Lake Mendota in 2021 and 2022 by dive experts at the State Historical Society.



Pictured above: On November 2, 2021, the dive team brings ashore the first canoe.

After the discovery, research determined the ages of the three canoes to be about 1200 and 3000 years old. These are the oldest canoes ever found in Wisconsin and the entire region! Scientists later determined that the water vessels were made of white oak and elm.



- Canoe #1: AD 800 / Late Woodland – White Oak
- Canoe #2: 1,028 BC / Late Archaic - Elm
- Canoe #3: AD 250 / Middle Woodland - Elm

Activities to preserve the canoes have begun and will continue over the next two years. The hope is to display the restored canoes at the new Wisconsin History Center in the future once it is built.

The discovery of the canoes has also enhanced the partnership between the State Historical Society and the Ho-Chunk Nation. Representatives of the Ho-Chunk Nation and other tribal nations were onsite when the canoes were brought out of the lake and were the first to touch them. As Amy said during her talk: “These canoes are their heritage.”



Above: Ho-Chunk and other tribal groups were present when the canoes came up out of the water. They were the first to greet and touch the canoe as it came to shore.

The WI Historical Society will be working with Ho-Chunk, Bad River, and other canoe experts in the Tribal Nations to preserve these ancient watercrafts. It is theorized that the ancient canoes may have belonged to a native village on the lakeshore and, in the future, the dive team at the Historical Society will look for additional artifacts in the lake.

If you missed the live presentation, you can watch the recording on our YouTube channel: <https://youtu.be/slfMqYC3r3I>

If you recognized Amy in the Zoom video, then you may have attended one of our educational talks at the conservancy in the past. Amy is often a guest speaker for public tours on archaeology and Native American history at Pope Farm. In addition, Amy plants and maintains the Native American gardens at the conservancy. We are so grateful for Amy's contributions to the Friends group and for her work at the conservancy. If you see her working in the gardens at PFC, be sure to say 'HI.'

Winter Snowshoe Walk - Jan. 28

Summary and photo by Janie Starzewski



A small group of winter enthusiasts joined us for the Snowshoe Walk at Pope Farm Conservancy on January 28th. The weather and trail conditions were perfect for a winter trek around the conservancy that day. With a gentle breeze and light snowfall, it felt much like being in a snow globe. Thanks to all those who joined us, and to Robby Sonzogni from the FOPFC Programs Committee for organizing this outing.

Photo Contest 2023

We are excited to announce our 2023 Nature Photography Contest! This year's themes are Landscape and Prairie Plants.

The contest is open to amateur photographers of all ages who are members of the Friends of Pope Farm Conservancy (FOPFC). Judging of the photos will be done by our partners at PhotoMidwest. Winners will be announced in late summer and awarded at the Friends' annual summer picnic in late August. The winning photos will also appear in FOPFC publications and on the Friends' website.

We are looking forward to seeing all the entries!
The deadline to submit photos is July 15, 2023.

Visit: <https://www.popefarmconservancy.org/events/nature-photography-contest/> for more info.

A special thanks to Vina Yang and Martha Zydowsky from the FOPFC Programs Committee and to PhotoMidwest for designing the contest.



Upcoming FOPFC Meetings

Education Team Meeting – VIRTUAL

Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 21, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.

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

Discussion topics: We will be discussing “how to promote” the video series in 2023 and reviewing the new Geology programs.

News from Our Partners at Forward Garden

The Madison Area Food Pantry Gardens (MAFPG) is actively hiring for the 2023 season! They are now accepting applications for several paid internships:

- Public Engagement Leader VISTA Member
- Witte-Schulte Student Intern
- Pantry Garden Intern, Lacy Garden

MAFPG has ten gardens located throughout Dane County, including the 12-acre plot at Forward Garden, which serves as the hub for the organization. These internship positions are a great opportunity to gain hands-on skills in vegetable and fruit production, small scale farming techniques, soil health, volunteer coordination and youth outreach, and more!



Please share with anyone you may know who is looking for a summer job working outdoors! More info is available at <https://foodpantrygardens.org/employment.html>

Photo of the Month

By Janie Starzewski



When life gives you snow, go snowshoeing!

Reminders

Renew Your Membership

Just a reminder...you can now renew your membership online at <https://www.popefarmconservancy.org/membership>, or you can renew by mail. Please send a check (Payable to FOPFC) 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 send an email to info@popefarmconservancy.org.

Volunteer Opportunities

- The PR Team needs help writing stories and short articles for our publications. If interested, please email us at info@popefarmconservancy.org.
- The Programs Committee is currently planning events and educational talks for 2023. If you would like to get involved or share your ideas for programs offered at the conservancy, please contact Diane Smidt (diane.smidt@gmail.com) or come to the Programs Committee meeting on Jan. 10th.

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!**

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POPE FARM
CONSERVANCY

