

March 2023 News Update

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Upcoming Programs

Raptor Talk with Madison Audubon

Tuesday, March 14th, 2023, at 7PM



Photo credit: Mitch Spillane

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/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/events/701661414776323/>

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

News From the Friends

Friends New Geology Video Tour Series – Now Available Online



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

There are six videos, each is about 5 minutes in length, and you can check them out at:

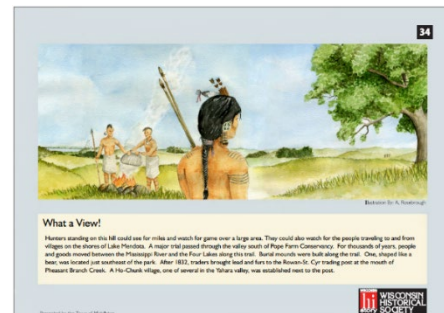
- Glaciers, Glaciation, and the Ice Age
<https://youtu.be/ZhTWIt-Yerg>
- How Glaciers Work
<https://youtu.be/hLi5YjhN8NE>
- How Glaciers Formed the Landscape
<https://youtu.be/bbPtj94oRPM>
- The Driftless Area
<https://youtu.be/PZ0MdHHG2jw>
- Modern Streams and Valleys Nearby
<https://youtu.be/Sdl5J0c0Ye0>
- The Legacy of the Glaciers
<https://youtu.be/9rnUcp0170I>

This video series will also be available for the public and for students visiting Pope Farm Conservancy. Each video will also be available on-site within the Conservancy using barcode technology. We are very proud of these excellent videos, and we thank the volunteers who made this possible. So far, the Friends have produced 41 short educational videos about the “Stories of the Land”.

Friends to replace signage at Pope Farm Conservancy

Interpretive Signs:

There are 40 interpretive signs at Pope Farm Conservancy, and they go to the heart of making PFC a place for learning. These signs slowly deteriorate and need to be replaced every 10 years. The Friends have purchased 30 replacement signs that you will see this spring.



Regulatory Signs:

There are 73 regulatory signs at Pope Farm Conservancy, and most were put up in 2005. Many are either bent or faded. We have identified 51 of those signs that need replacement, and the Friends will purchase and install them for the Town of Middleton. These signs will be put up this spring.



Trail Markers:

The Conservancy trail map was updated in 2014. View the trail map here: <https://www.popefarmconservancy.org/plan-your-visit/trails-maps/>

The trails are marked by colored arrows that correspond to the trail map. This enables walkers to choose and follow various trails in the Conservancy. The trail map also shows the distance of the trail. These trail direction markers were put up in 2011 and need to be replaced. We are also adding more markers on different sides of the existing posts. This will make the trails easier for walkers to follow regardless of the direction they are coming from within the Conservancy. The Friends are purchasing and installing these trail markers this spring.



As an additional project, and because there is so much information needed to keep all the signage updated and ordered, the Friends have put together information on all of the signs at PFC, and are we are giving those files to the Town of Middleton. This information will make the process easier for the Town to order replacement signs in the future. The information includes High-resolution images necessary for ordering, contact information, size, location, sign number, specifications, and how to order. Signage at Pope Farm Conservancy is a critical part of the Town of Middleton's masterplan in creating educational information for the public.

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.

Programs Committee

Our Programs Committee is busy planning programs and public talks for 2023. The next scheduled meeting is to be determined. If interested in event planning, contact Diane Smidt (diane.smidt@gmail.com). Volunteers are welcome to join anytime!

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.



Photo of the Month

Photo by Rona Neri



Spring is on the way! Snow remains on the ground, and spring is still a couple of weeks away (March 20th), but bluebirds have already been seen in and around the conservancy. Have you seen other signs of spring in your area?

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!**

FRIENDS OF
POPE FARM
CONSERVANCY

