

September 2023 News Update

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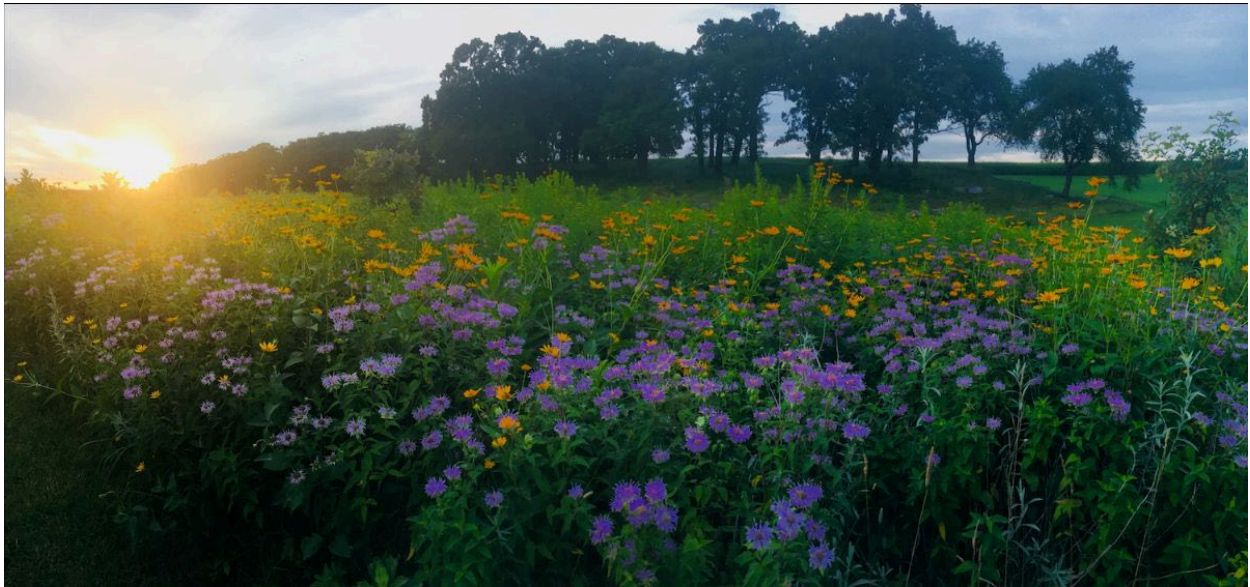


Photo by Matthew Ford

Greetings, Friends! We have a lot of events coming up in the next couple of weeks. On Saturday, September 2nd, Mike McDowell will be leading a birding tour at the conservancy, starting at 7:30 a.m. This is a great opportunity to identify and observe the birds that are preparing for or already in the process of migrating south. We also have some volunteer opportunities starting NEXT week! We are looking for volunteers to help with monarch tagging and seed collection. Exciting month ahead! Read on for details.

Upcoming Programs

Fall Migration Birding Tour at Pope Farm Conservancy

Saturday, September 2nd, 2023 (7:30AM)

Come take an early fall hike at Pope Farm Conservancy with birding expert Mike McDowell 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.



Program Details:

- Date/Time: Saturday, Sept. 2nd, 2023 (7:30AM)
- Location: Pope Farm Conservancy - Meet in the lower parking lot
- Address: 7440 Old Sauk Rd, Verona, WI 53593
- Cost: Free and open to the public. No registration required. All ages welcome.

Event Website: <https://www.popefarmconservancy.org/events/migrating-birds/>

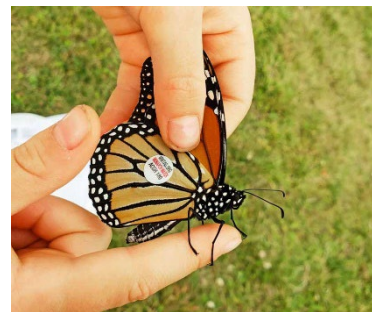
Volunteer Opportunities

Monarch Tagging at Pope Farm Conservancy

This is the seventh year that the Friends will be conducting its Monarch Tagging Project at Pope Farm Conservancy. We invite you to participate in this citizen science project to help search for, capture, tag, and release migrating monarchs. No experience necessary. Registration required.

2023 Dates/Times for Monarch Tagging:

- Tues., September 5th, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.
- Wed., September 6th, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.
- Thurs., September 7th, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.
- Fri., September 8th, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.
- Mon., September 11th, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.
- Wed., September 13th, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.
- Thurs., September.14th, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.



Registration is now open! There is a limit of 6 volunteers per session. Contact: Curt Caslavka at curt@popefarmconservancy.org if you have questions.

Register Here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4DAFAA2CA0FFC61-monarch1#/>

More Info: <https://www.popefarmconservancy.org/events/monarch-tagging/>

Prairie Seed Collection at Pope Farm Conservancy

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.

2023 Seed Collection Dates/Times:

- Tuesday, September 5th, (10am-12pm)
- Friday, September 22nd, (10am-12pm)



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 Here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4DAFAA2CA0FFC61-2023#/>

More Info: <https://www.popefarmconservancy.org/events/prairie-seed-collection/>

Contact: Curt Caslavka at curt@popefarmconservancy.org if you have questions.

More Volunteer Opportunities

- **The PR/Communications Team** needs help writing stories and short articles for our publications. If interested, please email us at info@popefarmconservancy.org.
- **The Programs Committee** is looking for volunteers to help plan our events and educational talks. If you would like to get involved or share your ideas for programs offered at the conservancy, please contact Diane Smidt at diane.smidt@gmail.com.

If there's another activity you'd like to help with, please fill out the Volunteer Interests Form on our website. 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/>

Recap of August Programs

Pope Farm Conservancy Archaeology Tour, August 5th

Story and Photos by Robby Sonzogni



Dr. Amy Rosebrough (Interim State Archeologist) led a walk at Pope Farm on August 5th. She led the 30 people in attendance on an informative tour which highlighted 3 significant areas in Pope Farm Conservancy.

The Native Gardens showcase crops grown during the Woodland period (1-2,000 years ago). Corn, squash, tobacco, sunflowers, and lambs' foot were some examples. The planting method took advantage of water (ditches) and soil enrichment (compost) to ensure the plot was sustainable. The squash kept critters away as they do not like to step on the vines. The lambs' foot was edible as a young green or as a seed produced at maturity which is a close relative of quinoa. Indian corn comes in many colors, and she is cultivating a "Pope Farm Purple" variety.



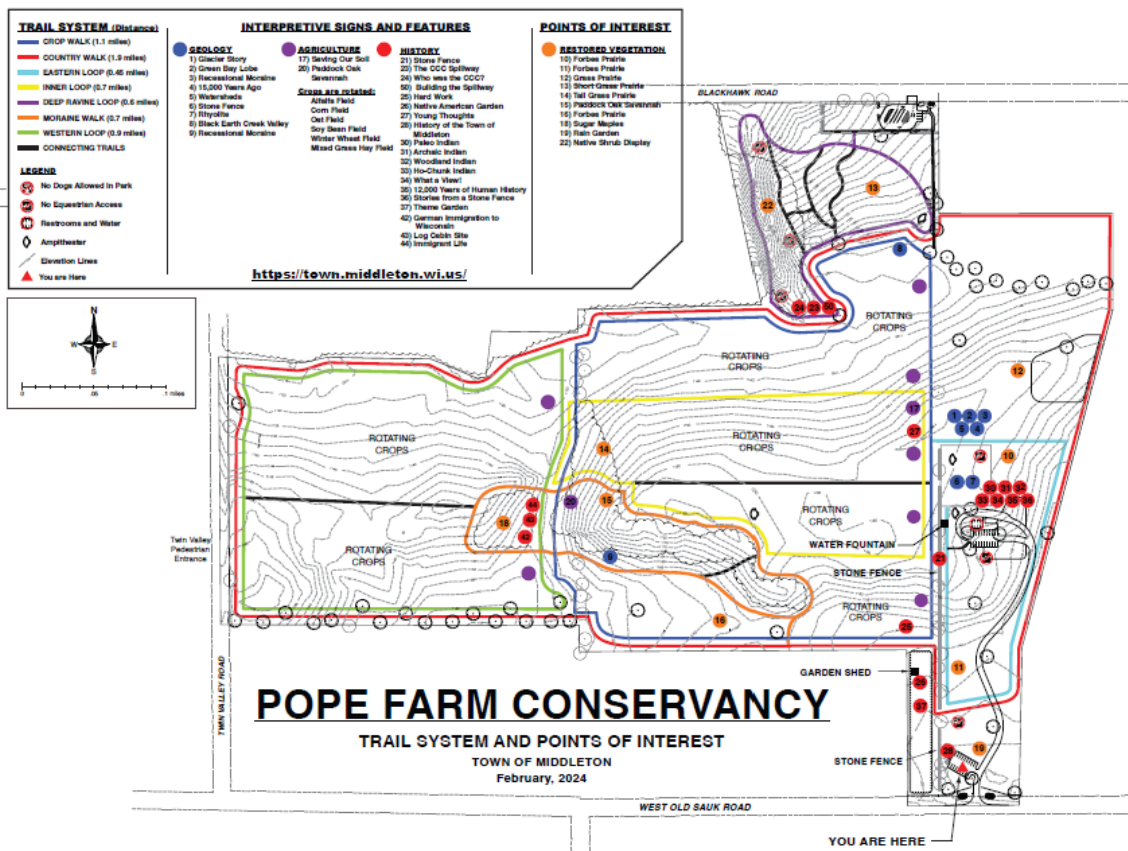
The cellar remains near the Goth Homestead site in the conservancy (pictured above) have pottery pieces identified as from the 1800s. Mel Pope rediscovered this area and had archeologists date it. It remains undisturbed to protect its integrity.

On the top of the hill (the main picnic area), debitage (stone chips) were found. Amy explained these were remnants of tool sharpening while hunters were using this as a lookout for prey. She then gave an impressive demonstration of the hunting method used before bow and arrows!

Thank you to all those who attended Amy's talk, and a very special thanks to Amy for sharing her time and expertise with all of us!

News From the Friends

Friends Are Updating Directional Maps of Pope Farm Conservancy



There are five maps located throughout Pope Farm Conservancy showing visitors where they are. Over the last 10 years the Conservancy has changed, new crops have been cultivated, and new signage has been installed. Each map has a different orientation, and the Friends are currently updating those maps to reflect all those changes. These new updated maps will help visitors locate and enjoy the remarkable features in the Conservancy. A huge thank you to Linda and Roger Napiwocki for their efforts in modifying the graphics.

Upcoming FOPFC Meetings

Education Team Meeting – VIRTUAL

Next Meeting Date: Monday, September 18th, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.

Location: We will meet online via Zoom. Email Doug Piper (dlpiper0413@gmail.com) to get the Zoom meeting link.

Topics: We will finalize the new walking tour pamphlets with QR labels, and work on strategy for promoting our video series.

Photo of the Month

Prairie Plant Potpourri - Photo by Dave Kollasch



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.

Connect with FOPFC Online

- Website: <https://www.popefarmconservancy.org>
- Videos – Stories of the Land: <https://www.popefarmconservancy.org/stories-of-the-land/>
- 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!**

