

**STONY HILLS NATURE PRESERVE**

FIELD TRIP OPTION [C] (Saturday AM, Sunday AM)

Start time: 7:15 am, Approximate end time: 11:30 am (hotel)

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Stony Hills Nature Preserve offers savanna/prairie restoration, upland forest, rocky outcroppings, and geological features. A representative from Prairie Land Conservancy (owners) will serve as trip host and will provide details on the restoration goals for the site.

This trip will involve moderate walking on a mowed path through the prairie grasslands and into the forest. Walking distance should be less than 1 mile round trip. If some are not able to walk up and down the forest slope Dr. Hess may be able to take a small group through the former quarry area at the base of the hill and meet up with the others near the creek for a discussion of the geology. This option will be dependant upon attendance numbers and need.

Savanna/prairie restoration, upland forest, rocky outcroppings, various types of geodes in cliff and creek bed. Saturday trip will be led by retired Western Illinois University geology professor and IAS Western Prairie Audubon Society member Dr. David Hess who will offer information on the geological significance of this natural area. A representative from Prairie Land Conservancy, owners of the preserve, will serve as trip host and will provide details on the restoration goals for the site. Good site for migratory warblers. Various grassland and forest birds breed at preserve including: Scarlet Tanager, Henslow's Sparrow, Wood Duck, Cooper's Hawk, Northern Bobwhite, Wild Turkey.

*Meet in parking lot of Nauvoo Family Inn & Suites*

*Trip Leader: David Hess*

*Approximate distance that attendees will cover: 25 miles roundtrip*

**DIRECTIONS**

From Nauvoo Family Inn & Suites head East on IL Rt. 96; road turns North to Niota; at Niota road turns back East; continue on IL Rt. 96 about 5 miles past Niota past red barn on right side of road; continue ¼ mile and turn right on Leisure Lane; host will meet group at top of hill.