

**LOCK & DAM 18/ HARRY PATTERSON SAVANNA LAND  
& WATER RESERVE**

FIELD TRIP OPTION [E] (Saturday Full Day)

Start time: 7:30 am, Approximate end time: 3:45 pm (all day trip)

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Lock & Dam 18 / Harry Patterson Savanna Land and Water Reserve bottomland forest and backwater slough with riverside drive; auto tour through Big River State Forest; easy afternoon hike highlighting floristics of sand prairie and savanna communities.

Viewing at the Lock & Dam will involve very limited walking with excellent viewing from the roadside. The morning portion at Big River will also involve limited walking and viewing from stops along the auto tour route through the oak woodlands. The afternoon portion will involve an easy hike at a leisurely pace through the level sand prairie and savannas on a cleared fire break trail. The total distance covered on the hike will likely be less than one mile (dependant upon field trip attendees).

Next to Mississippi River Lock & Dam 18 the US Army Corps of Engineers maintains a recreational area which offers excellent birding opportunities along the river's edge and within bottomland forest and backwater slough areas. We anticipate a variety of bottomland forest and wetland birds including: Prothonotary Warbler, Northern Parula, Louisiana Waterthrush, Spotted Sandpiper, Acadian and Great-crested Flycatchers, Pileated Woodpecker, Wood Duck, Swamp and Eurasian Tree Sparrows, various dabbling ducks, egrets and herons.

The Harry N. Patterson Savanna Land and Water Reserve is a 500+ acre natural area consisting of dry sand prairie and sand savanna. The sand communities support unusual flora, including the state-threatened Patterson's Bindweed, and fauna. The morning portion of the trip will likely include driving the auto tour and bird watching outside the cars at various stops within the sand savanna / blackjack oak woodlands. After lunch we'll hike fire lanes through the dry prairie and savanna. The afternoon trip will be a natural heritage hike focusing on plant identification along with butterflies, dragonflies, birds and other creatures and features of interest.

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

*Trip Leader: Angella Moorehouse*

*Approximate distance that attendees will cover: 110 miles roundtrip*

**DIRECTIONS**

From Nauvoo Family Inn & Suites travel East on IL Rt. 96; road bends to North; continue on Rt. 96 to Niota; at Niota Rt. 96 bends to East; continue on Rt. 96 through Dallas City to Lomax; turn left/North onto Carman Blacktop; at stoplight turn right/East on Rt. 34 for 2 miles; turn left/North on 900E (brown sign denoting access to Lock & Dam 18 viewing); continue North on 900E following signs to wildlife viewing at Lock & Dam 18.

From Lock & Dam 18 to Patterson Savanna (south end of Big River State Forest): reverse to South on 900E to stop sign; turn left/East on 1600E into Gladstone; at stop turn left/North on Rt. 164 to Oquawka; at Oquawka Rt. 164 turns right/East; continue on Rt. 164 1 mile and turn left/North at sign for Delabar State Park; continue north past entrance to Delabar State Park for 4 miles to the south end of Big River State Park; turn right/East on 2500N for ½ mile and park in DNR gravel parking area on left/North side of road (southeast corner of Patterson Savanna). Lunch will be in picnic area at Big River State Forest.