

PRESS RELEASE

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Loess Hills Alliance to offer Landowner Burn Workshop

The Loess Hills Alliance and partners will host a Landowner Fire Ecology Workshop on March 15, 2014. Landowners and Volunteer Fire Fighters are invited to attend this one day training session. The workshop is intended to teach and demonstrate the principles of conducting safe and effective prescribed burns for the purpose of restoring native grasslands and bur oak savanna in the Loess Hills. The morning session is filled with classroom instruction on fire ecology, fire weather, fire behavior, and planning and conducting prescribed fire. The afternoon will consist of a demonstration burn in which the participants will gain on-the-ground experience working alongside experienced fire personnel. Additionally, instructors will be available for one-on-one interaction so that participants may seek specific guidance for their own property.

The workshop will be conducted on Saturday, March 15, 2014 at Hitchcock Nature Center. Participants are asked to arrive by 0800 and wear natural fiber clothing (i.e. cotton or wool), long sleeves, leather boots, and leather gloves. Participants must bring their own lunch and drinking water and be prepared to work in the field. In the event that weather does not permit the afternoon burn, students are asked to bring aerial photos of their property so they can discuss fire techniques specific to their property with the instructors.

Hitchcock Nature Center is located at 27792 Ski Hill Loop, Honey Creek, IA. For additional information and registration contact Chad Graeve at Hitchcock Nature Center at 712-328-5832 or chad.graeve@pottcounty.com (Registration deadline is March 12).

About the Loess Hills Alliance

The Loess Hills Alliance mission is to protect the special natural and cultural resources while ensuring the economic viability and private property rights of the region through the creation of a common vision for Iowa's Loess Hills. Formed in 1999 by the Iowa legislature, the Loess Hills Alliance has been protecting land in the Loess Hills and offering programs to help landowners with conservation of their land. The organization encourages tourism and residency in the Loess Hills, which supports small local businesses and agribusinesses in the region. More information about the Loess Hills Alliance can be found at www.loesshillsalliance.com.