

Itasca State Park August 1-11, 2015 Nature Programs

Attachments: PDF copy of July 24-31 programs/ PDF of upcoming music.

Hello Itasca Friends!

August is here and we still have a lot of summer fun planned for this month! The hot days of July are gone for a little while and hiking is pleasant with the breezes. Why not come out for a nature hike, an afternoon at the beach or a bike ride. If it happens to rain, stop in the Douglas Lodge for a malt, the Mary Gibbs Café for pizza or explore one of the three gift shops (Forest Inn features books and northwoods themed apparel and gifts. The Mary Gibbs gift shop features the Headwaters of the Mississippi River items and the small gift shop at the Jacob V. Brower Visitor Center is a great spot to get deals on t-shirts—the latest deal is buy 2 for \$20 or \$13.99 each on select style of shirt at the Jacob V. Brower Visitor Center!

Upcoming Summer programs and events:

We are adding more programs, including music and speakers, to the summer line-up but are also turning towards our fall programming. Even though we may not have our entire list of programs available in pdf form, we are adding programs to our on-line calendar daily. Watch the Itasca program calendar on the DNR webpage for the most current posting of programs and events. There is a lot to do so check us out on the web

at: http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/state_parks/itasca/calendar.html

Weekend feature Music—

Itasca's Music Under the Pines: Bill and Julie Kaiser

Sunday, August 2, 2015 from 7-9 p.m.

Meet inside Forest Inn (across from Douglas Lodge)

Bill and Julie Kaiser, members of Alabaster Falls will be performing inside historic Forest Inn. Alabaster Falls is an acoustic "folkgrass" band based in the Minnesota Northwoods. This group has found a way to put their unique stamp on music from bluegrass to folk to originals.

Itasca's Music Under the Pines: Hog Rooster

Sunday, August 9, 2015 from 7-8:30 p.m.

Meet outside Forest Inn (inside Forest Inn if raining) Bring your blanket or lawn chair and come out for an evening of entertainment outside Forest Inn with the duo, Hog Rooster. Jacob and Owen Mahon started playing together in 2012, and they both have a passion for listening, writing, learning and playing music. Their music collection includes harmonic acoustic rock and folk with original songs covering classic, alternative and folk rock. Jacob is one year older than Owen and plays guitar, mandolin, ukulele, and piano. He has been writing songs since 2011 and continues to write. Owen plays bass, trumpet and sings harmony on many songs.

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SPECIAL PERFORMANCE! TUESDAY AUGUST 4 ONLY!—

**Itasca's Music Under the Pines: Four Shillings Short
Tuesday, August 4, 2015 from 7- 9 p.m.**

Meet inside Forest Inn (across from Douglas Lodge)

Journey "Around the World in 30 Instruments" with Celtic/Folk/World music duo Four Shillings Short during this free family concert at historic Forest Inn. The concert will feature traditional and original music from the Celtic Lands, Medieval and Renaissance Europe, India and the Americas on a fantastic array of instruments including Hammered and Mountain Dulcimer, Mandolin, Mandola, Bouzouki, Tinwhistles, Recorders, Medieval and Renaissance Woodwinds, North Indian Sitar, Andean Charango, Medieval Psaltery, Banjo, Bodhran, Guitar, Percussion, and even a Krumhorn.

Celebrating their 20th year together, the husband/wife duo of Aodh Og O'Tuama from Ireland and Christy Martin from California tour in the U.S. and Ireland. They are independent folk-artists with 12 recordings as well as performing 150 concerts a year. These modern day troubadours travel from town to town performing at music festivals, theatres and performing arts centers, folk societies, libraries, house concerts and schools.

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This week's features Author—

Birds Beyond Your Backyard: Birding Itasca State Park, Field Trip with Bob Janssen

Saturday, August 8, 2015

Join expert birder and author of the new *Birds of Minnesota State Parks*

book, Robert 'Bob' Janssen, as we explore Itasca State Park on a morning birding field trip. Prepare for a full morning of birding—bring your binoculars, water, bug spray, hat and field guide. Wear sturdy shoes for walking on wooded trails. You will need a vehicle as we drive to various locations.

If you're not an early bird, then join Bob in the afternoon as he shares through photos and stories the hot spots to go birding in Minnesota's state parks. There will be a question and answer period after the talk. If you would like an autographed copy of the book, stop by the Jacob V. Brower Gift Shop and purchase this new book. (*see specific program posting for afternoon talk and book signing details*) Join us at Itasca State Park for a special birding day you don't want to miss!

7 a.m. to 7:30 a.m.: Social gathering in the lobby of Douglas Lodge: Arrive early and join us for coffee and mini-muffins as we visit with author Robert 'Bob' Janssen prior to the start of the birding field trip.

7:30 a.m. to ~11:30 a.m./ noon: Birding Field Trip: Join expert birder Bob Janssen as he leads us on a birding field trip in Itasca State Park. Stops will include the Dr. Roberts trail, the Mississippi Headwaters and other areas noted in the publication *Birds of Minnesota State Parks* dependent on bird activity during that time of year.

~11:30 a.m./ noon to 1 p.m.: Lunch Break, on your own.

Birds Beyond Your Backyard: 'Birds of Minnesota State Parks,' Talk and Book Signing with Bob Janssen

Saturday, August 8, 2015

If you're not an early bird, consider joining expert birder and author of the new book "Birds of Minnesota State Parks," Robert "Bob" Janssen in the afternoon as he shares through photos and stories the hot spots to go birding in Minnesota's state parks. There will be a question and answer period after the talk. If you would like an autographed copy of the book, stop by the Jacob V. Brower Gift Shop and purchase this new book.

Join us at Itasca State Park for a special birding day you don't want to miss!

Consider joining us in the morning as we explore Itasca State Park on a morning birding field trip with Bob Janssen. See program posting "Birds Beyond Your Backyard: Birding Itasca State Park, Field Trip with Bob Janssen" for details.

1 p.m. to ~ 1:45: Presentation/talk inside the Jacob V. Brower Visitor Center classroom: Bring your birding questions as we join author and expert birder Robert 'Bob' Janssen for photos and stories about Minnesota birds and developing the book *Birds of Minnesota State Parks*. A short

discussion will follow where you can ask those bird questions that have been pecking at you for years.

~1:45-2:30 p.m.: book signing in the lobby of the Jacob V. Brower Visitor Center: Bring your copy of the book *Birds in Minnesota State Parks* to the Jacob V. Brower Visitor Center exhibit hall area where Bob will be autographing books. Books will be available for purchase in our park gift shops.

Headwaters in summer—Watch the Webcam!

The wild rice is now almost 2 feet off the surface of the water and beginning to flower. Check out the rocks at the headwaters on the webcam... and watch the weekly growth of the wild rice. Watch for the beaver as they move among the wild rice stem, they might pop up on the camera towards dusk! Go

to: <http://www.paulbunyan.net/weathernews/webcam/headwaters/headwaters.html> *Side note: some users with Android systems might have problems viewing the webcam.*

Our phenology report includes (for the week of July 23-29):

Woodpeckers are busy drumming on trees again.

Young ruby-throated hummingbirds are visiting the feeders.

Wild Rice is flowering.

Big bluestem and side-oats gramma are flowering.

Fruits of wild plum are just starting to turn orange.

Chokecherry fruits are turning dark red. A very good crop this year.

Fruits of both the White and Red Baneberry are turning white and red, respectively. DON'T EAT! Poisonous.

Red-berried elder fruits turning bright red.

Leaves are turning yellow on the spreading dogbane.

Over the weekend (July 25/26) dewpoints were in the upper 60s and humidity was in the 70s percentage range. Made for hot sticky days.

Flowers that are blooming this week include:

Early goldenrod

Black-eyed Susan

Large leaf aster

Lindley's aster

Prairie (yellow) coneflower

Wild goldenglow

Common agrimony

Common/yellow sow thistle

Spotted touch-me-not	Broadleaf arrowhead
Pearly everlasting	Stinging nettle
Black snakeroot	Lesser daisy fleabane
Harebell	Prairie sage (dark-leaved mugwort)
Giant blue hyssop	Evening primrose
Purple prairie clover	Thimbleweed (tall anemone)
Tall sunflower	Jerusalem artichoke
Creeping bellflower	Pointed-leave tick-trefoil
Marsh hedge nettle	Canada lettuce
Pineapple weed	Black medic
Common mullein	Rabbit's foot clover
White sweet clover	Yellow sweet clover
Red clover	White clover
Alsike clover	Bird's-foot trefoil
Spotted Joe Pye Weed	Fireweed
Wood avens	Common plantain
Ox-eye daisy	Campion
Spikenard	Tansy
Water hemlock	Jewelweed
Northern Bedstraw	Yarrow
Heal-all	Swamp Smartweed
Swamp milkweed	Common milkweed
White (fragrant) water lily	Yellow (bullhead) water lily
Marsh (common) skullcap	Square-stemmed Monkey Flower
Marsh Hedge nettle	Northern Green Orchid
Canada Thistle	Spotted knapweed
Purple loosestrife (NOT in the park, but in the area)	

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“Live in the sunshine. Swim the sea. Drink the wild air.” –Ralph Waldo Emerson

Music Under the Pines 2015

Basement Brass



Saturday, August 22, 2015

7 to 8 p.m.

Jacob V. Brower Visitor Center

**Get ready to tap your feet with
this fun-filled musical group,
Basement Brass.**

**This Twin Cities based brass sextet will perform many
well-known tunes from music styles including Ragtime,
Dixie, Big Band, Americana, Polkas, Marches and
everything in between.**

Itasca's Presenter Under the Pines



Mammals of Minnesota by Katie Haws

Cougars and bobcats and bears...oh my! Come learn about Minnesota's fascinating mammals with Katie Haws, retired Non-game Wildlife Specialist. Did you know that due to the variety of habitats available in Minnesota, we have over 80 mammal species in the state! Some are rare, others very common. Come learn about the fascinating habits of animals such as the star-nosed mole, the black bear and the moose, and what we can do to protect diversity in our great state.

Tuesday, August 25th, 2015

7-7:45 p.m.

**Meet in the Jacob V. Brower
Visitor Center Classroom**



Saturday August 29th



Jacob V. Brower Visitors Center
– Itasca State Park

9:30 am – 6:30 pm – North Country Trail and hiking info will be available inside the Brower Visitors Center

10:00 am: Gather outside Douglas Lodge for a family-friendly guided hike on the Dr. Roberts Trail. The hike is a 2-mile loop. [See page 86 for a profile of the Dr. Roberts Trail in Deane Johnson's *The Best of Itasca* guidebook]



11:00 am: Gather at the Visitor Center's North Parking Lot for a family-friendly guided auto tour of the Wilderness Drive [p. 153] with stops to hike some of the trails – e.g. the Mississippi Headwaters [p. 91], Blowdown Trail [p. 72], Landmark Interpretive Trail [p. 93], Bohall Trail [p. 74], CCC Forestry Demonstration Trail [p. 78], Largest Red & White Pines [p. 70], Aiton Heights fire tower [p. 66], and/or Nicollet Trail to Nicollet Cabin [p. 103].

1:00 pm: Gather outside Douglas Lodge for a family-friendly guided hike to the Aiton Heights fire tower [p.66]. Hike is a 3 mile round trip.

1:00-3:30 pm: **Junior Naturalist: Make your own walking stick activity.** Meet at the Jacob V. Brower Visitor Center.

2:00 pm: Gather outside Douglas Lodge for a family-friendly guided (out & back) hike on the Brower Trail [p. 76]. Bring your bag lunch.

3:00-3:45 pm: **Which Way is North? Compass Capers activity.** Meet by the playground equipment near Douglas Lodge/Ozawindib Trail Head.

3:00 pm: Gather outside the Mary Gibbs Headwaters Center for a guided, family friendly hike on the Schoolcraft Trail [p. 124]. The hike is a 2.2 mile round trip.

4:00 pm: Gather outside the Forest Inn for a guided, family friendly hike on the Mary Lake Trail [p. 98]. The hike is a 2.4 mile round trip hike.

5:30-6:30pm: Cookout dinner by Douglas Lodge

- Outside the Brower Visitor Center's classroom catered by Douglas Lodge and available for purchase. *Menu: Bison Burger and/or Garden Sandwich with a Fruit Tray, Vegetable Tray and Chips.* Free lemonade will be available. Cost is \$10 per person with a la carte pricing available. *Bring your lawn chair(s) or a blanket for sitting outside. If necessary, indoor seating will be available.*



6:30-7:30pm: **North Country Wildlife** with Lowell Deede, retired wildlife biologist with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service at Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge and active hiker/mountain climber.



The **North Country Hiking Fest** event is co-sponsored by the North Country Trail Association's Itasca Moraine & Laurentian Lakes Chapters, the Friends of Itasca, and Itasca State Park

 Learn more at fb.com/NCTinMN | northcountrytrail.org/Minn | friendsofitasca.org