

Itasca State Park July 17-23, 2015 Nature Programs
Attachments: PDF copy of July 17-23 programs

Hello Itasca Friends!

July is here and we are in the full swing of summer! The hot days of July are here along with the pop-up rainshowers. 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!

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Upcoming Summer programs and events:

As summer heats up, we are adding more programs, including music and speakers, to the summer line-up. 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 and the swim beach is a perfect spot to cool off. Check us out on the web

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

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SPECIAL PERFORMANCE! FRIDAY JULY 17 ONLY!—
“Nature”- Outdoor Walking Play

Friday, July 17, 2015 performances at 2 and 6 p.m.
Held at the Lake Itasca Region Pioneer Farmers Grounds near the north entrance to Itasca State Park *Go out the North Entrance to Itasca State Park, showground entrance is on the east side of the North Entrance Road (across from the church and gas station).*

"Nature for the Nation" is a playful outdoor walking production filled with music, song, and story about Emerson and Thoreau's mutual love of the natural world. Audience members are welcomed into the rolling hills, and amongst the native trees by live music and rich choral arrangements. This family-friendly, exceptionally creative production transports audiences back in time through a conversation between two of the great innovative minds of western civilization, along with the professional ensemble of actors, to four different locations throughout the grounds at both locations - all the while enjoying the fresh air and natural scenery as the scenes unfold around them. TigerLion Arts is touring "Nature," a critically acclaimed immersive theatrical experience, honored as one of 2014's most striking performances by the Minneapolis Star Tribune.

Notes: The show is set outdoors so guests should dress for the weather and wear comfortable shoes. Nature runs approximately 90 minutes without intermission, and during the course of the experience, the audience will walk short distances between four different locations. Portable lawn chairs or blankets to sit on are recommended.

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This week's features Author—

Itasca's Presenters Under the Pines: Itasca's Secrets with

Author Deane Johnson

Saturday, July 18, 2015 from 11-Noon

Meet at Forest Inn

Deane Johnson, the author of *The Best of Itasca: A Guide to Minnesota's Oldest State Park*, will talk about his favorite trails and quiet spots in the park. He will also reveal some surprises and hidden gems from Itasca's past. What was here before the pine forest? Where are all those beautiful stone buildings, and what else is hidden out in the woods?

This week's features Wildlife Speaker—

Itasca's Presenters Under the Pines: Wolves of Minnesota

Saturday, July 18, 2015 from 8-9 p.m.

Meet at the Museum Amphitheater/Campfire Ring below Wegmann's Cabin, in the picnic grounds. (If raining- Meet at the Jacob V. Brower Visitor Center)

Explore Minnesota's wolves in this evening program with Tom Stursa from the Park Rapids Area MN DNR Wildlife Office. Tom will share interesting facts about the natural history of gray wolves and interesting stories of monitoring wolf populations. NOTES: An optional howling tour will follow the program. Space is limited for the howling tour and sign-up is required. Howl portion is dependent on weather. Bring your own vehicle and insect repellent. Stop by the Jacob V. Brower Visitor Center or call 218-699-7251 to sign-up for the howling session.

Weekend feature Music—

Itasca's Music Under the Pines: Jim and Molly Bauer

Sunday, July 19, 2015 from 7-9 p.m.

Meet inside Forest Inn (across from Douglas Lodge)

Jim and Molly are returning to perform familiar folk and folk rock songs in historic Forest Inn. This Minnesota-based duo,

with Jim playing acoustic guitar will share stories and songs and of course they will have to share the “Jim and Molly Bauer concert” collector T-shirts!

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Headwaters in summer—Watch the Webcam!

The wild rice is starting to lift off the surface of the water. Check out the rocks at the headwaters on the webcam... and watch the weekly growth of the wild rice. 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 8-15):

- Broad-winged hawk hunting in the Peace Pipe Vista area.
- With the warmer weather cicadas and grasshoppers are “calling”.
- Fireflies can be seen flashing at night as they signal for a mate.
- Female wild turkeys seen with their young. Young the size of a ruffed grouse.
- Yellow-bellied sapsucker babies can be heard calling from their nests located in aspen trees. Parents busy feeding them all day long!
- Snowshoe hare seen feeding on clover around the visitor center.
- Fruits of Red Baneberry are turning red. DON'T EAT! Poisonous.
- Red-berried elder fruits turning bright red.
- Mountain (moose) maple seeds a bright red color.
- Bulrush are flowering.

Dragonflies seen on Wednesday, July 15 include:

Lake Darner	Four-spotted skimmer
Blue Dasher (Little pirate)	Widow skimmer
Chalk-fronted corporal	Common Whitetail (skimmer)
Hudsonian emerald	Dot-tailed whiteface

Damselflies seen on Wednesday, July 15 include:

Ebony Jewelwing	Bog/sedge sprite
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Butterflies seen on Wednesday, July 15 include:

Acadian hairstreak	Striped hairstreak
Northern crescent	Great spangled fritillary
Compton tortoiseshell	Red admiral
White admiral	Monarch
Least skipper	Broad-winged skipper
Dun skipper	

Flowers that are blooming this week include:

Early goldenrod	Black-eyed Susan
Black snakeroot	Lead plant
Giant blue hyssop	Evening primrose
Purple prairie clover	Thimbleweed (tall anemone)
Tall sunflower	Jerusalem artichoke
Spurred gentian	Enchanter's nightshade
Creeping bellflower	Pointed-leave tick-trefoil
March hedge nettle	Canada lettuce
Indian paintbrush	Goatsbeard
Tall meadow rue	Pineapple weed
Common mullein	Black medic
White sweet clover	Yellow sweet clover
Red clover	White clover
Alsike clover	Bird's-foot trefoil
Daisy fleabane	Fireweed
Wood avens	Curly leaved dock

Ox-eye daisy	Campion
Spikenard	Cow parsnip
Water hemlock	Northern bush honeysuckle
Showy ladyslipper	Spreading dogbane
Cleavers	Yarrow
Heal-all	Canada anemone
Pink pyrola	Harebells
Common cattail	Narrow-leaved cattail
Swamp milkweed	Common milkweed
Water plantain	Blue-flag iris
White (fragrant) water lily	Yellow (bullhead) water lily

Postscript:

PS: Feel free to share this program schedule with your friends!
If you no longer wish to receive this email update, please send an email with your first and last name and email address to Constance.Cox@state.mn.us and your name will be removed. In the subject line type: "remove name from newsletter".

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

**Join us on
Thursday, July 23 as we
celebrate
Smokey Bear Day!**

- .Activity stations ongoing from
11:30 a.m. -1:30 p.m. at the
Jacob V. Brower Visitor Center.**
- .Stop at any or all activity
stations to learn about wildland
fire facts and earn your
Smokey Bear memorabilia.**
- .Work on your task card
and earn an extra prize.**
- .Enjoy cake* and lemon-aide*
as we celebrate Smokey's
71st Birthday.**

**while supply lasts.*

*Cake and lemonade provided by the
Friends of Itasca State Park.*



ITASCA STATE PARK

Programs and Special Events

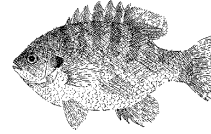
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I Can Fish! Kid's Fishing Fridays

10:30-Noon (come and go at your leisure)

Meet at the Itasca Fishing Pier, below Douglas Lodge



Kids, bring an adult with you and learn the new skill of fishing. Suitable for ages 6-12. *NOTES: An adult must accompany children. Bring your own fishing pole or use one provided (limited number). Poles are available on first come first serve basis. Artificial bait provided. Non-Minnesota residents will need a fishing license (within the park, purchase at Itasca Sports Rental).*

Jr. Naturalist: Feather Fun

2-2:45 p.m.

Meet by the Museum Amphitheater, below Wegmann's Store. (If raining, in the Jacob V. Brower Visitor Center classroom).



Come and explore the wonders of birds and their feathers! Learn about birds, the only animals that have feathers, what creates the colors in feathers, and create your own bird craft!

Five Facts in Five Minutes: Snakes

2:30-4:30 p.m.

Near the Mississippi Headwaters (under the porch of the Mary Gibbs Mississippi Headwaters Center if rain.)



Only have a minute to learn about Itasca State Park? Check out a unique feature at the naturalist station as you visit the Headwaters of the Mississippi River.

Things That Go Bump in the Night, Campfire

7:30-8 p.m.

Meet in the picnic grounds at the Museum Amphitheater located below Wegmann's Store Ruins. (If rain, in the Jacob V. Brower Visitor Center.) What makes those strange sounds as you sit around the campfire at night? Gather around for an evening of animal identification as you learn what critter is making the bump, hiss, whistle and whine in the night.

For more information:

<http://www.mndnr.gov/Itasca> or 218-699-7251.

