

## **Itasca State Park July 24-31, 2015 Nature Programs**

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

Hello Itasca Friends!

We are rounding the corner for the last of July and summer is still heating up! The hot days of July are here along with the pop-up rainshowers that come in the evening. 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](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/state_parks/itasca/calendar.html)

### **SPECIAL PERFORMANCE! FRIDAY JULY 24 ONLY!—**

**Itasca's Presenters Under the Pines: "Nature Cartooning for Kids with Characters creator Gary Harbo"**

**Friday, July 24, 2015 from 1-1:45 p.m.**

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

Minnesota-raised artist and author Gary Harbo will teach kids the art of nature cartooning, based on his book, "How to Draw 104 Cartoons with Gary Harbo." While sketching, Gary will be sharing stories about Bart and his friends' adventures in Minnesota from his children's book,

"The Northern Woods Adventure," which includes a visit to the Headwaters of the Mississippi River. Book signing to follow program.

**This week's features Author—**

**Itasca's Presenter Under the Pines: "From Palms to Pines—The Jefferson Highway in Minnesota" Ren Holland speaker , with special guest Frank Mitchell**

**Wednesday, July 29 from 11 a.m.-Noon**

Meet at the Jacob V. Brower Visitor Center

Recently there has been a renewed interest in the Jefferson Highway, an early automobile route that linked small towns from New Orleans, Louisiana, to Winnipeg, Manitoba. One of the reasons for the interest is that 2015 marks 100 years since the highway was conceived.

As the nation's first transcontinental highway, the Jefferson created intense competition between states, cities and towns. Everyone wanted to be included on its route, as the age of the automobile emerged. Minnesota, and especially Itasca State Park, became a top destination for tourists.

After much initial celebration and publicity, the Jefferson Highway quietly disappeared from maps in the 1920s. Only traces of the nearly forgotten highway remain today, but the route laid the groundwork for some of today's major highways, and it had a significant impact on early tourism in Minnesota,

Today, local communities are becoming excited about searching for evidence of the original route, which often can be found in trails threading around lakes, swamps and hills. Join Ren Holland and Frank Mitchell, who were raised near Itasca Park and lived on the Jefferson for years, as they share their new findings on the history of this short-lived but popular road route.

**This week's Feature Skill Building Program (ages 12 and up)—**

**Explore Bow Hunting**

**Friday, July 31, 2015 from 9:45- 3 p.m.**

**Rain date: Friday, August 7, 2015 from 9:45-3 p.m.**

**Meet in the back lot of the Indian Mounds/North Picnic Grounds**

## **Parking Area**

Are you interested in learning the basic skills of bow hunting? This class, an extension of the Archery in the Park program, is geared towards beginners and offers hands on sessions focusing on basic archery instruction, tree stands and safety, types of equipment, animal tracking and signs, tips and much more. Bows are provided during the program. Personal archery equipment is not allowed due to weapons rules in Minnesota State Parks.

Participants will be outside for the program. Be prepared for standing in the sun. Bring along sunscreen, sunglasses, hat, insect repellent and water. If raining, program date will be Friday, August 7, 2015 from 9:45-3 p.m.

Minimum age for participation is 12 years of age. 12-15 year old participants must be accompanied by an adult. All equipment will be provided. The program is free, however a Minnesota State Parks vehicle permit is required for entrance into the park. Lunch will be provided by the Minnesota Deer Hunters Association- Park Rapids Chapter.

Pre-registration is required. Please call 218-699-7252 to register by July 30, 2015.

## **Weekend feature Music—**

**Itasca's Music Under the Pines: Northern Bass**

**Sunday, July 26 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 historic Forest Inn with musical group, Northern Bass. Northern Bass is a local family band that performs at regional events and fundraisers. They enjoy playing a variety of music from early rock & roll, to instrumentals and standards from a simpler time. Louise Bass plays keyboard and bass keyboard, Dan Bass plays guitar and both provide melody and harmony vocals. Brian Bass, who is away at college, is the family drummer. We are delighted to have Northern

Bass join the Music Under the Pines program series!

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**Headwaters in summer—Watch the Webcam!**

The wild rice is now almost 2 feet 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. Watch for the young green herons that are roaming along the lake shore, they might pop up on the camera!

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 16-23):**

- Porcupine seen following the side of Main Park Drive.
- Three juvenile Green heron seen wading at the swimming beach. Still displaying some downy feathers, but able to fly.
- 5 gray-colored cygnets seen with adult swans. The young are approximately 1/3 the size of the adults.
- Prairie skink found hiding under a pile of dead vegetation.
- With the warmer weather cicadas and grasshoppers are “calling”.
- Fireflies can be seen flashing at night as they signal for a mate.
- 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.
- Over 830 Compton tortoiseshell butterflies were seen on the July 19 annual butterfly count. 47 individual species of butterflies were identified.
- Various asters are beginning to send up flower buds.
- Leaves are turning yellow on the spreading dogbane.
- Morning low was 52°F Monday morning.

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
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	Curly leaved dock
Ox-eye daisy	Campion
Spikenard	Cow parsnip
Water hemlock	Jewelweed
Northern Bedstraw	Yarrow
Heal-all	Canada anemone
Pink pyrola	Harebells
Swamp milkweed	Common milkweed
Water plantain	Blue-flag iris
White (fragrant) water lily	Yellow (bullhead) water lily
Marsh (common) skullcap	Square-stemmed Monkey Flower
Marsh Hedge nettle	Northern Green Bog Orchid
Bladderwort	Swamp Smartweed
Columbine	

**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](mailto:Constance.Cox@state.mn.us) and your name will be removed. In the subject line type: "remove name from newsletter".*

Connie Cox, Lead Park Naturalist  
 Itasca State Park  
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 Park Rapids, MN 56470

218-699-7259

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

# Itasca's Presenter Under the Pines "Nature Cartooning for Kids with characters creator Gary Harbo"

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**Friday, July 24<sup>th</sup>, 2015**  
**1-1:45 p.m.**  
**Meet in the Jacob V. Brower**  
**Visitor Center Classroom**

## Itasca's Music Under the Pines

*free  
concert*

## Northern Bass

Bring your blanket or lawn chair and come out for an evening of entertainment outside historic Forest Inn with musical group, Northern Bass. Northern Bass is a local family band that performs at regional events and fundraisers. They enjoy playing a variety of music from early rock & roll, to instrumentals and standards from a simpler time. Louise Bass plays keyboard and bass keyboard, Dan Bass plays guitar and both provide melody and harmony vocals. Brian Bass, who is away at college, is the family drummer.



**Sunday, July 26<sup>th</sup>, 2015**  
**7:00-8:30 p.m.**  
**Meet outside Forest Inn**  
*Inside Forest Inn if rain.*  
**(across from Douglas Lodge)**



## Explore

## Bowhunting

Pre-registration is required.  
 Register by Thursday, July 30, 2015

Stop by the Jacob V. Brower Visitor Center in  
 Itasca State Park to register or call 218-699-7252.

Friday, July 31, 2015  
 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Meet in the back lot of the Indian  
 Mounds / North Picnic Grounds Parking

Are you interested in learning the basic skills of bow hunting? This class, an extension of the Archery in the Park program, is geared towards beginners and offers hands on **sessions** focusing on **basic archery instruction, tree stands and safety, types of equipment, animal tracking and signs, tips and much more.** Bows are provided during the program. Personal archery equipment is not allowed due to weapons rules in Minnesota State Parks.

Participants will be outside for the program. Be prepared for standing in the sun. Bring along sunscreen, sunglasses, hat, insect repellent and water. If raining, program date will be Friday, August 7, 2015 from 10-3 p.m.

Minimum age for participation is 12 years of age. 12-15 year old participants must be accompanied by an adult. All equipment will be provided. The program is free, however a Minnesota State Parks vehicle permit is required for entrance into the park. **Lunch will be provided by the Minnesota Deer Hunters Association- Park Rapids Chapter.**

Pre-registration is required. See note above where to register.





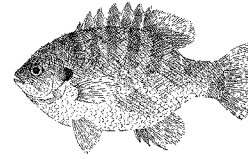
ITASCA STATE PARK  
**Programs and Special Events**  
Friday, July 24, 2015

**Friday, July 24 (continued next page)**

**I Can Fish! Kid's Fishing Fridays**

**10:30 a.m.-Noon (come and go at your leisure)**

*Meet at the Itasca Fishing Pier, below Douglas Lodge*

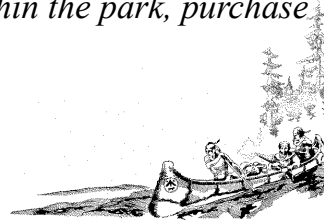


Kids, bring an adult with you and learn the new skill of fishing. Suitable for ages 6-12. *NOTES: An adult must accompany children. Bring your own fishing pole or use one provided (limited number). Poles are available on first come first serve basis. Artificial bait provided. Non-Minnesota residents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

**Headwaters History Hike**

11-11:30 a.m.

*Meet at the compass rose under the porch of the Mary Gibbs Mississippi Headwaters Center.*



Learn about fun facts of the Mississippi Headwaters during this short naturalist-led walk to the Headwaters of the Mississippi River.

**Five Facts in Five Minutes:**

**10 a.m.-Noon: Mysteries of the Deep**

**2:30-4:30 p.m.: Who's Who of Itasca?**

*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.

**Itasca's Presenters Under the Pines: "Nature Cartooning for Kids with Characters creator Gary Harbo"**

**1-1:45 p.m.**

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



Kids, learn the art of nature cartooning, from Gary Harbo, artist. Hear stories about Bart and his friends' adventures in Minnesota from his children's book, "The Northern Woods Adventure." Book signing follows.

**For more information:**

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

