

**Itasca State Park June 24-30, 2015 Nature Programs**  
**Attachments: PDF copy of June 24-July 1 (partial list) programs**  
**Guest Presenters fliers for: Raptors Rule! and**  
**Unpolished (music)**

Hello Itasca Friends!

June is quickly marching to July and the weather is heating up! Come out to the park and enjoy the continuing variety of flowers now in bloom including the showy lady slippers.

**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. Why not spend the last weekend of June in the park at our raptor program (yes! There will be live raptors on hand) or enjoy some music outside Douglas Lodge with "Unpolished". 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)

**Weekend feature Speaker— Birds Beyond Your Backyard:**  
**Raptors Rule!**

**Saturday, June 27, 2015 from 7-8 p.m.**

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

What makes a bird a raptor? Join Chris Tolman and Amy Granlund from the Headwaters Science Center as they bring live birds to help explore what makes raptors different from other types of birds. Learn all about these raptors and their

special adaptations that help them to be successful predators.

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**Weekend feature Music— Unpolished**

**Sunday, June 28, 2015 from 6:30-8 p.m.**

**Meet Outside Douglas Lodge (inside the Forest Inn if raining)**

Bring your blanket or lawn chair and come out for an evening of entertainment outside Historic Douglas Lodge as the musical group “Unpolished” performs an eclectic mix of roots, Americana and Bluegrass music on Bass, Guitar, Mandolin and Banjo complete with rich three-part harmonies. The group covers many styles of folk music including music from the 1800's - Civil War, old cowboy music, railroad songs, bluegrass music, traditional Gospel music. They can be seen and heard at their website <http://www.unpolishedbluegrass.weebly.com/>.

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

Snapping turtles are busy coming on land to lay eggs. Check out the rocks at the headwaters on the webcam... you might see a snapping turtle coming up to lay eggs. 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 June 13-19):**

- White-tailed deer displaying deep red coat.
- Painted and snapping turtles continue to lay eggs.
- Turtle eggs being eaten by raccoons and skunks.
- The morning temperature on Tuesday, June 16 was 38°F.
- Dragonflies and damselflies are on the move. Species seen near Bohall Trail and Nicollet Creek on June 17 include:
  - Dragonflies: Ratchet-tailed Emerald, Basket tail species (*Epitheca* sp.), Dot-tailed Whiteface (*Leucorrhiria*), Chalk-fronted Corporal,

Twelve-spotted Skimmer, Green-striped Darner.

○ Damselflies: Bluets (sp), Jewelwing (sp)

- Mink frog calling in Nicollet Creek around mid-day.
- White-throated sparrows calling around Nicollet Creek.
- Gooseberry fruits are green and the size of large peas.
- Two “baby” woodchucks feeding on dandelions near Mary Lake boat access.
- Black bear seen crossing Main Park Drive.
- A broad-winged hawk has been seen hunting along Main Park Drive for several days.

• Flowers that are blooming this week include:

Small yellow ladyslipper	Greater yellow ladyslipper
Showy Lady-slipper	Stemless ladyslipper
Labrador Tea	Nodding Trillium
tall meadow-rue	wild sarsaparilla
columbine (honeysuckle)	pale vetchling
yellow, white and lavender violets	
clintonia (bluebead lilly)	strawberry
starflower	bunch berry (Canada dogwood)
pussy-toes	pagoda/alternate leaf dogwood
arrow-wood	red-osier dogwood
high-bush cranberry	yellow bullhead lily
marsh marigolds	Jack-in-the-pulpit
False Salomon’s seal	Starry false Salomon’s seal
Salomon’s Seal	Three-leaved false Salomon’s seal
Wild lily-of-the-valley	Bog buckbean
Daisy fleabane	Indian paintbrush
Raspberry	blackberry
Red baneberry	white baneberry
Sweet sicily	Canada Mayflower
blue-eyed grass	Harebell
Gray Dogwood	Wild Grape
Mountain Maple	Wild Rose

Golden Alexanders  
Wintercress  
Hawksbeard  
Twinflower  
Pitcher plant  
Large-flowered Pestemon (beard's tongue)  
Sweet Bedstraw  
Hoary Alyssum  
Balsam Ragwort  
Spreading Dogbane

Creeping Charlie  
Mouse-eared Chickweed  
White champion  
Pink Pyrola  
White clover  
Northern Bush Honeysuckle  
Silvery Cinquefoil  
Poison Ivy  
Ox-eye Daisy

**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  
36750 Main Park Drive  
Park Rapids, MN 56470  
218-699-7259  
[constance.cox@state.mn.us](mailto:constance.cox@state.mn.us)

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

## Itasca's Presenter Under the Pines

### Birds Beyond Your Backyard: Raptors Rule!

What makes a bird a raptor? Join Chris Tolman and Amy Granlund from the Headwaters Science Center as they bring live birds to help explore what makes raptors different from other types of birds. Learn all about these raptors and their special adaptations that help them to be successful predators.



**Saturday, June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

**7-8 p.m.**

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

# Itasca's Music Under the Pines Presents "Unpolished"

Bring your blanket or lawn chair and come out for an evening of entertainment outside Historic Douglas Lodge as the musical group "Unpolished" performs an eclectic mix of roots, Americana and Bluegrass music on Bass, Guitar, Mandolin and Banjo complete with rich three-part harmonies.

The group covers many styles of folk music including music from the 1800's - Civil War, old cowboy music, railroad songs, bluegrass music, traditional Gospel music. They can be seen and heard at their website

[http://  
www.unpolishedbluegrass.weebly.com/](http://www.unpolishedbluegrass.weebly.com/)



**Sunday, June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

**6:30-8 p.m.**

**Meet outside Douglas Lodge (*inside Forest Inn*)**

**free  
concert**

ITASCA STATE PARK

# Programs and Special Events

Wednesday, June 24, 2015

**Wednesday, June 24**

**Archery in the Park**

**9:30-11:30 a.m.** *(come and go at your leisure)*

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

Have you ever wanted to shoot a compound bow but didn't have one or were afraid to try? Join certified archery instructors for hands-on training and coaching on compound bows, then try out our archery range. This program is designed for beginners. Designed for people 8 years and older. Children 15 and under must be accompanied by an adult. Bows are provided during the program. Personal archery equipment is not allowed due to weapons rules in Minnesota State Parks.

Notes: Participants will be outside for the program. Be prepared for standing in the sun. Bring along sunscreen, sunglasses, hat, insect repellent and water. Program cancelled if raining.

**Minnesota's Treasures: La Salle Lake Scientific and Natural Area Specialty Tour**

**10 a.m. –Noon, *Pre-registration required***

*Meet at the Mary Gibbs Mississippi Headwaters Center Parking Lot (bring your vehicle to drive to tour location.)*

Explore natural treasures in Minnesota's Scientific and Natural Areas (SNAs) on several specialized tours throughout the summer. This week we will explore the forces of nature and forest succession as we walk to the confluence of the Mississippi River and La Salle Creek at La Salle Lake Scientific and Natural Area. Bring your binoculars for watching the birds that use this unique site.

Registration is required as group size is limited to 15 people. Call 218-699-7252 or 218-699-7259 for more information or to register.

*Notes: Pre-registration required. Bring insect repellent, sunscreen, drinking water and wear shoes than can get wet. Bring your vehicle for travel to SNA locations.*

**For more information:**

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



ITASCA STATE PARK

# Programs and Special Events

Wednesday, June 24-Thursdays, June 25, 2015

## Wednesday, June 24-Continued

### Five Facts in Five Minutes:

*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.

### 2 –4 p.m.: Beautiful Feathers

### Outdoor Kids—Frogs and Toads

### 2-3:30 p.m. (come and go at your leisure)

*Meet by the Swim Beach/ Playground (at the south end of the picnic grounds on Lake Itasca.)*

Kids of all ages come out and explore nature at your leisure and have fun at Itasca while hanging out at the swimming beach or playground. This program series allows kids to connect with nature through hands-on activities and crafts. Topics vary with many of the programs focusing on life around the lake.

## Thursday, June 25

**Pack-a-Snack Story Hike: *Birds in Our Backyard* by Adele Porter and Bill Marchel**

**10:30-11 a.m.**

*Meet at the front doors of the Jacob V. Brower Visitor Center. (If raining, the program will be held inside the Visitor Center.)*

Families with children ages 2-6 years old, pack a snack in your backpack and join a naturalist on a short hike in the woods to our destination which includes sitting on a blanket, reading this week's story ***Birds in Our Backyard***, and enjoying a snack (if you choose to bring one). This safe, stroller friendly hike is a great way to get outdoors and enjoy the park. *NOTES: Adults must accompany children.*

**For more information:**

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

ITASCA STATE PARK

# Programs and Special Events

Thursday, June 25-Friday, June 26, 2015

## Thursday, June 25—continued

### Five Facts in Five Minutes:

*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.

### 1:30 –3:30 p.m.: Itasca’s Evergreens

### Jr. Naturalist: Camouflage Critters Crawl

2-2:45 p.m.

*Meet by the Museum Amphitheater, below Wegmann’s Store. Rain Location: Jacob V. Brower Visitor Center Classroom.*

Kids, join us on a discovery hike as we look for signs of hidden critters.

### Loons! Campfire

7:30-8 p.m.

*Meet in Bear Paw Campground (the grassy area near the tiny log pump house and campsite #70 near the bike trail; if rain-- inside the Jacob V. Brower Visitor Center).*

Bring a camp chair or blanket and gather around the campfire as we dive into the amazing life of the common

loon. Bring your marshmallows for roasting after the campfire.

## **Friday, June 26**

### **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).*

**For more information:**

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

ITASCA STATE PARK

# Programs and Special Events

Friday, June 26—Saturday, June 27, 2015

## Friday, June 26—continued

### **Jr. Naturalist: The Birding Beat**

**2:30-3:15 p.m.**

*Meet by the Museum Amphitheater, below Wegmann's Store in the picnic grounds. (If raining, program cancelled).*

Come read to the rhythm of birds! Kids, the park naturalist will help you explore some really cool birds and the sounds they make. Create some of your own bird calls and be a part of the "bird chorus."

### **Five Facts in Five Minutes:**

*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.

**2:30–4 p.m.: Owls**

## **Saturday, June 27**

### **Lake Itasca Region Pioneer Farmers Tour**

**10 a.m.—Noon**

*Tour begins at the Levorsen Building located on the Pioneer Farmer showgrounds. \* The showground is located on the north side of Itasca State Park. Go out the*

*North Entrance to Itasca State Park, entrance is on the east side of the North Entrance Road (across from the church and gas station.) \*Tour begins promptly at 10 a.m.*

Get a feel for the early 1900s community of Lake Itasca at the Lake Itasca Region Pioneer Farmers Showgrounds (LIRPF). See the Itasca Historic Sawmill. Explore various buildings from a country school, dove-tail one-room log house and a logging museum. LIRPF volunteers will guide you on this tour.

[www.itscapioneerfarmers.com](http://www.itscapioneerfarmers.com)

**For more information:**

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

ITASCA STATE PARK

# Programs and Special Events

Saturday, June 27, 2015

## **Saturday, June 27—continued**

### **Five Facts in Five Minutes:**

*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.

### **10-Noon: Hummingbirds.**

### **Itasca's Forest Hike**

**1:30-2:15 p.m.**

*Meet outside Forest Inn (across from Douglas Lodge.)*

Discover what wildflowers, trees and wildlife make up the Itasca forest. Learn a few traditional uses of the more common plants. Topics may vary each week depending on what's blooming and spotted along the trail.

### **Outdoor Kids—Minnow Races**

**2-3:30 p.m. (come and go at your leisure)**

*Meet by the Swim Beach/ Playground (at the south end of the picnic grounds on Lake Itasca.)*

Kids of all ages come out and explore nature at your leisure and have fun at Itasca while hanging out at the swimming beach or playground. This program series allows kids to connect with nature through hands-on

activities and crafts. Topics vary with many of the programs focusing on life around the lake.

**Birds Beyond Your Backyard: Raptors Rule!**

**7-8 p.m.**

*Meet in the Jacob V. Brower Visitor Center*

What makes a bird a raptor? See live birds to help explore what makes raptors different from other types of birds. See poster below for details.

**For more information:**

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



ITASCA STATE PARK

# Programs and Special Events

Sunday, June 28, 2015

**Sunday, June 28**

**Five Facts in Five Minutes:**

*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.

**10-Noon: Weasels, Mink and More!**

**2-4 p.m.: Maple Syrup**

**Jr. Naturalist: Batty Bats!**

**2-2:45 p.m.**

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

Kids, join the naturalist corps and discover the wonders of bats! See how you compare with a bat and play a bat game.

**Itasca's Music Under the Pines: Unpolished *Free* concert!**

**6:30-8 p.m.**

*Meet Outside Douglas Lodge (inside the Forest Inn if raining)*

Bring your blanket or lawn chair and come out for an evening of entertainment outside Historic Douglas Lodge

as the musical group “Unpolished” performs an eclectic mix of roots, Americana and Bluegrass music on Bass, Guitar, Mandolin and Banjo complete with rich three-part harmonies. The group covers many styles of folk music including music from the 1800's -Civil War, old cowboy music, railroad songs, bluegrass music, traditional Gospel music. They can be seen and heard at their website

<http://www.unpolishedbluegrass.weebly.com/>.

**For more information:**

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

ITASCA STATE PARK

# Programs and Special Events

Monday, June 29—Tuesday, June 30, 2015

## **Monday, June 29**

### **Get Up! Get Out! And GO! Fitness Walk**

**8:30-9 a.m.**

*Meet at the Jacob V. Brower Visitor Center Front Doors.*

Need some Monday motivation? Start your week out on the right (and left) foot as you grab some pals and head outside. Join the park naturalist as we quickly learn about the social and health benefits of walking outside. We will then take a 30 minute social/wellness walk in Itasca State Park. Walk routes and health notes will vary each week.

*Notes: wear sturdy walking shoes. Don't forget your water bottle, insect spray, sunscreen and sunglasses or a hat.*

## **Tuesday, June 30**

### **Bugs and Blooms Walk**

**10:30-11:30 a.m.**

*Meet outside Forest Inn (across from Douglas Lodge)*

Itasca State Park is noted for its diverse plants and animals. Join us on this walk as we discover which flowers are blooming and what common and uncommon critters are pollinating them. *This program counts towards earning the Call of the Wildflowers special edition program card. Ask the naturalist for your card*

*after the hike!*

**Circle Time Under the Pines: E is for Eagles**

**10:30-11:15 a.m.**

*Meet by the Museum Amphitheater (Look for a large blanket underneath a big pine tree), below Wegmann's Store, (in the Lakeside Museum if raining).*

Children 2-5 years old, come explore and have fun at Itasca as we learn about eagles through stories, songs, crafts, and outdoor discovery. NOTES: Adults must accompany children. *Consider bringing a picnic lunch and enjoying your noon meal at the park after the program.*

**For more information:**

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

ITASCA STATE PARK

# Programs and Special Events

Tuesday, June 30—Wednesday, July 1, 2015

## **Tuesday, June 30-continued**

### **Historic CCC Buildings Walk**

**1:30-2 p.m.**

*Meet outside Forest Inn (across from Douglas Lodge.)*

Learn about the ‘boys’ that built Forest Inn, Old Timer’s Cabin and more. Come for the walk as we talk about the 1930s Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) on this walking tour of buildings around the Douglas Lodge area, ending at the CCC Old Timer’s Cabin.

### **Old Timer’s Cabin, Open Tour**

**Cabin open from 2-3:30 p.m. (come and go at your leisure)**

*Held at the Old Timer’s Cabin, located along the boardwalk below Douglas Lodge.*

Only 4 (massive) logs tall, learn more about this Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) constructed building. The Naturalist staff will have the cabin open for you to tour at your leisure.

## **Wednesday, July 1 (partial)**

### **Archery in the Park**

**9:30-11:30 a.m. (come and go at your leisure)**

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

Have you ever wanted to shoot a compound bow but didn't have one or were afraid to try? Join certified archery instructors for hands-on training and coaching on compound bows, then try out our archery range. This program is designed for beginners. Designed for people 8 years and older. Children 15 and under must be accompanied by an adult. Bows are provided during the program. Personal archery equipment is not allowed due to weapons rules in Minnesota State Parks.

*Notes: Participants will be outside for the program. Be prepared for standing in the sun. Bring along sunscreen, sunglasses, hat, insect repellent and water. Program cancelled if raining.*

**For more information:**

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