

## Itasca State Park Nature Programs for July 14-23

Hello Itasca Friends!

The July is here and the weather is bouncing between rain and sun! The beach is the hot spot for cooling off when the sun is out. Enjoy the butterflies that are now active with the summer flowers that are in bloom. As a reminder Douglas Lodge is open for the season and is serving breakfast, lunch and dinner. The Mary Gibbs Café is now offering a soup and salad bar, as well as pizza or slice of pie. The café was remodeled this winter and has a new menu, so check it out! Need a new summer t-shirt... explore one of the three gift shops (Forest Inn features books and northwoods themed apparel and gifts).

### **Summer programs and events:**

2016 Itasca State Park and Minnesota State Parks will be celebrating 125 years! Itasca will be having our big Birthday Bash over the weekend of July 29-31. Come for stories about Mary Gibbs, Music and a picnic. Enter the picnicking contest for a chance to win prizes (courtesy of the Friends of Itasca). We are planning a variety of special activities to celebrate our **quasquicentennial** (*pronounced 'kwos-kwi-sen-ten-ee-uhl'*). We are adding programs to our on-line calendar daily. We will be featuring a-hike-a-month on the North Country Trail. Consider taking on the 125 mile challenge next year by hiking, biking or canoeing/kayaking 125 miles! 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)

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**Upcoming Monarch Butterfly display NOTE DATE CHANGE TO Friday and Saturday—**

**Itasca's Presenters Under the Pines: Life of the Monarch Butterfly Display**

**Friday, July 15 and Saturday, July 16, 2016 from 10-2 p.m.**

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

Discover the life cycle of the monarch butterfly, Minnesota's state insect, with Tom and Carol Uecker. Have fun seeing samples of the caterpillar, chrysalis, and the adult. Visit for as little or as long as you like.

**Upcoming Music Concert—**

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

**Sunday, July 17, 2016 from 7-8:30 p.m.**

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

Join us for an evening of entertainment inside 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.

**Discover the first automobile route through Itasca-- Upcoming Guest Speaker—**

**Itasca's Presenter Under the Pines: "From Palms to Pines—Car Touring 100 years ago along the Jefferson Highway in Minnesota" Ren Holland speaker**

**Tuesday, July 19 from 11 a.m.-Noon**

Meet at the Jacob V. Brower Visitor Center

Did you know one of the state's first automobile routes passed right through Itasca State Park? Over 100 years since the highway was conceived, 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. As the nation's first transcontinental highway, the Jefferson Highway created intense competition between states, cities and towns and Itasca State Park, became a top destination for tourists.

Join Ren Holland, who was raised near Itasca Park and lived on the Jefferson for years, as he shares his new findings on the history of this short-lived but popular road route.

**He's Here! It is time for Smokey Bear Day at Itasca!—**

**Smokey Bear Day: Celebrating 125 Years of Preserving Itasca's Pines**

**Thursday, July 21 from 11:30 am-1:30 pm**

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

Smokey Bear along with Minnesota Department of Natural Resources fire fighters will be celebrating 125 years of caring for Itasca's pine forest at Itasca's Smokey Bear Day. At your own pace, learn about Itasca's old growth pine forests and how fire affects the forest, check out fire trucks and equipment, try getting into a fire shelter, make a variety of forest crafts, and much more. Don't forget to have your picture taken with Smokey Bear! This family friendly event will have many activities for all ages!

### **Headwaters in Summer—Watch the Webcam!**

Summer is here and the people are enjoying the headwaters. Is your family going to the park but you can't join them? Have them text you when they are at the headwaters and watch them from home! Watch the webcam and see if you can spot any loons making their way towards the headwaters.

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 nature sighting report**

## For the Dates of: July 9-14, 2016

- Flowers in bloom from July 9-13:
  - Lesser roundleaved orchid    Bluntleaved rein-orchid
  - Long-bracted orchid            Tall green bog-orchid
  - Green adder's-mouth            Common milkweed
  - Yarrow                            Canada anemone            Giant blue hyssop
  - Black medic                      Black snakeroot            Tall meadow-rue
  - Pink pyrola                      One-sided pyrola           One-flowered wintergreen
  - Silvery cinquefoil              Rough cinquefoil           Mouse-eared chickweed
  - Blue-flag iris                    Poison ivy                    Stinging nettle
  - Ox-eye daisy                      Bird's-foot trefoil           Annual Hawksbeard
  - White campion                  Lesser bladder campion    Northern bedstraw
  - Pitcher plant                    Black-eyed Susan           Cow parsnip
  - Water hemlock                  Pineapple weed              Heal-all
  - Red clover                        Alsike clover                White clover
  - White sweet-clover              Yellow sweet-clover        Yellow goat's-beard
  - Common cattail                  Narrow-leaved cattail      Daisy fleabane
  - Avens                              Canada thistle               Common sow-thistle
  - Canada lettuce                  Common mullein             Bedstraw/marsh bellflower
  - Evening primrose                Early goldenrod             Thimbleweed/tall anemone
  - Joe-pye weed                      Swamp milkweed             Yellow/bull-head water lily
  - White water lily                  Rough bedstraw              Blue vervain
  - Hoary alyssum                    Wild bergamot               Northern bushhoneysuckle
  - Spikenard                        Fireweed                      Pointed-leaved tick trefoil
  - Wild rose                         Blackberry                    Creeping bellflower
  - Plantain                         Canada anemone              Shepherd's purse
  - Boneset
- Saturday, July 9-Monday July 11:
  - Frequent thunderstorms with heavy rain early in the morning.
- Sunday, July 10:
  - Young mallard ducks are ½ the size of the parent.
  - Groups of 7 trumpeter swans seen on smaller lakes.
- Tuesday, July 12:
  - Blueberries, dewberries and raspberries are ripe.
  - Bluebead lily seeds are green and the size of large peas
  - Hermit thrush and white-throated sparrows calling mid-day
- Wednesday, July 13:
  - Mist all morning, temperature around 60°F.
  - 4 p.m.—heavy rain, wind west at 23 mph, gusts of 29 mph temperature at 72°F
  - Porcupine along the East Entrance Road
  - Black bear near a beaver lodge by Mary Lake
- Thursday, July 14:
  - Merlins calling repeatedly near the visitor center
  - 11 a.m. morning mist, temperature 60°, winds west at 12 mph.