

Itasca State Park Nature Programs for July 6-12

Hello Itasca Friends!

The July 4 Holiday is just days away and the weather is great at Itasca! The state flower or Showy Ladyslipper is past peak, but a few blooms remain for the holiday weekend. Just a reminder, it is illegal to pick wildflowers within a state park. Remember stay on trails (there are smaller little green orchids often growing by the showy's) and bring your camera. 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! 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

-

Our nature sighting report for the dates of June 27-30, 2016:

Greater round leaved orchid is blooming.

White-tailed deer bucks are displaying their velvet covered antlers.

Many of last weeks flowers continue to bloom this week.

Connie Cox, Lead Park Naturalist
Itasca State Park
36750 Main Park Drive
Park Rapids, MN 56470
218-699-7259
constance.cox@state.mn.us

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