

The old year is wrapping up and the new year is just around the corner. Winter comes and goes with snow in October and early November, warm weather near 50 and then cold arctic winds. Fresh snow on Monday has added a dusting of snow to the ground. Not enough for winter sports but enough to create a winter mood. Discover the beauty of Itasca in winter when you join us in 2018 for some of our winter programs. Come out and enjoy the park in winter at night for our January and February lantern lit hikes/snowshoes/skis. Enjoy some music, storytelling and even an old time ice cutting demonstration. OR simply come to the park for some relaxation in the Itasca Four-Season Suites. Below is a sample of this year's winter activities. See attached schedule for a full listing of events and programs.

Seasonal Updates:

- The Jacob V. Brower Visitor Center is open from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. daily in the winter. Need another layer for warmth? Check out the gift shop in the visitor sweater for a warm sweatshirt.
- Access to the Headwaters of the Mississippi is open throughout the winter. Check out the webcam to see what the headwaters looks like in winter.
- Looking for a lodging spot for a quiet mid-week or weekend get-away in Itasca State Park? Check out the Itasca 4-season suites. What can be better than your own suite in the woods...kitchenette, wifi, cable TV and access to ski, snowshoe and snowmobile trails!
- Note that winter events may sometimes be changed or canceled due to weather. For updates, call 218-699-7251 or check the visitor alert online at www.mndnr.gov/Itasca.

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Evening Lantern-lit snowshoe hikes/skis at Itasca State Park

Lantern Lit Snowshoe and Ski Event along the Many Lakes Road (South Entrance)

Saturday, January 27, 2018 from 5-7:30 p.m. Meet at the Jacob V. Brower Visitor Center

Itasca's Lantern Lit Snowshoe Event along Schoolcraft Trail

Saturday, February 24, 2018 from 5:30-8 p.m. Meet at Mary Gibbs Mississippi Headwaters Center

Visit Itasca and ski or snowshoe by the light of the moon and kerosene lanterns along the trail. Travel at your own pace along the lantern lit route during this drop-in program. For added fun, bring along your s'mores fixings or hot dogs for cooking at the campfire.

***NOTES:** Limited snowshoes will be available on a first come-first served basis. Program is held outdoors. Dress warmly for outdoor winter conditions. If snow conditions are poor, the event will become a snow boot walk. Itasca does not have cross-country skis to rent.*

Take part in a winter bird count:

22nd Annual Itasca State Park Winter Bird Count

Monday, December 18, 2017

From 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Meet at the Jacob V. Brower Visitor Center Lobby between 7:30 and 8 a.m. for assignment of count areas. *For those within a few miles of the park, you might be able to count birds from the comfort of your home. Call 218-699-7259 to see if your home is in the count area.*

This holiday season take part in the annual winter bird count at Itasca State Park. This year marks the park's 22nd year of participation in the nation-wide Audubon Christmas Bird Count. Explore Itasca's count area in search of our winter bird residents. Stay a few hours or spend the whole day. Information collected is used to track migration patterns and changes in winter bird species abundance throughout North America. To learn more about this nation-wide bird survey go to:

<http://birds.audubon.org/christmas-bird-count>

Meet at the Jacob V. Brower Visitor Center lobby between 7:30 and 8 a.m. for assignment of count areas. Bird count will run from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. **NOTES:** *Entire program is held outdoors. Dress warmly for*

outdoor winter conditions. Bring your lunch if staying for the entire day. The group will gather at the visitor center at Noon for a lunch break. For questions and further details, call 218-699-7259. If weather is bad, the alternate date will be Tuesday, December 19. Check with the park to confirm

Winter Music:

Itasca's Music Under the Pines: Lori Goulet Reich

Saturday, January 27, 2018 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Meet at the Jacob V. Brower Visitor Center Lobby

Warm up by the fireplace and enjoy an evening of music with Lori Goulet Reich. Performing the night of the Lantern Lit Snowshoe and Ski event, Lori will sing a variety of music best described as acoustic folk and alt-country flavored music. Lori also has played in various bands both classic rock and country, so come listen to a variety of well-known tunes.

Itasca's Music Under the Pines: Julie and Bill Kaiser

Saturday, February 24, 2018 from 6-8 p.m. Held in the Café at the Mary Gibbs Mississippi Headwaters Center.

From the north woods of Minnesota, Bill and Julie Kaiser will be performing the night of the Lantern Lit Snowshoe event. Bill and Julie's music has been described as acoustic "folkgrass" with a mix of bluegrass, folk, and original. Warm up inside the Mary Gibbs Café and enjoy a wonderful night of music!

Winter Storytelling:

Itasca's Presenters Under the Pines: "My Endless Childhood" An Evening with a Storyteller

Saturday, January 27, 2018 at 4 p.m. Meet at the Jacob V. Brower Visitor Center Classroom

"We have all experienced situations that didn't go as planned, but most of us have enough dignity and common sense to keep them to ourselves. I, on the other hand, don't appear to have any dignity or common sense. I turned many of my situations and embarrassing moments into a monthly column for Minnesota Boomers from 2010 - 2014."

Steve Maanum will perform a collection of those stories during **An Evening with a Storyteller** at the Jacob V. Brower Visitor Center at 4PM on January

27th, 2018.

“Some of my stories are told from the mind of a boy growing to manhood, while others are told through the eyes of a confused, middle-aged man, who is still struggling to find maturity or . . . rebelling against it. I’m a Baby Boomer, born halfway through the last century, and at my age I’m living proof that growing old is not necessarily synonymous with growing up.”

Steve has always been a storyteller. He made it a regular part of his classroom day and following retirement, he has continued to weave stories into his family-style nature photography workshops and nature writing presentations in schools and at Young Author Conferences.

“When I tell a story, I want it to jog the memories of the listeners so they might recall similar situations from their past. I believe our life is our story and each of us has one worth telling.”

Join Steve and see if he can brighten your day.

An Old Time Ice Harvest Demonstration Saturday, February 11— Old Time Logging Demo

Saturday, February 10, 2018 from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Meet at the Lake Itasca Boat Landing

Discover the good old days of harvesting lake ice. Dress warmly as you come out on Lake Itasca to see ice harvesters’ use tools of the ice cutting trade. Watch them create an opening in the ice with a single handled handsaw, then wait as they bounce the ice blocks out of the water onto the slippery edge. **NOTES:** *This Old Time Ice Harvest demonstration will take place on Lake Itasca if ice conditions permit. Parking is available at the Lake Itasca boat landing. This event presented by Itasca State Park and the Lake Itasca Region Pioneer Farmers. Dress for being outdoors including boots, hats, gloves, coats and insulated snowpants.*

Get vehicle permits in advance online

A vehicle permit is required to enter Minnesota state parks (\$7 for a one-day permit or \$35 for a year-round permit). Although permits are available at the park, visitors can now save time by getting one in advance. Visit www.mndnr.gov/reservations, log in (or create an account), click on “entry permit,” and continue as directed. Purchasers will receive an email with a permit that can be printed and displayed in a vehicle during visits.

Headwaters in Winter—Watch the Webcam!

Lake Itasca is now froze over. Check out the webcam and watch the winter wildlife drawn to the open water at the Headwaters rocks. Do you want to remind your snow-bird family what winter is like in Minnesota? Text your family from the headwaters and they can watch you in the snow from their snug home! Watch the webcam and see if you can spot any otters playing at the headwaters.

Go

to: http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/state_parks/Itasca/headwaters.html

Side note: some users with Android systems might have problems viewing the webcam.

Follow the Snow Report on the web:

Wondering what the snow depth is or what the trail conditions are like at Itasca State Park? Read the updated snow report when you follow us on the web at http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/snow_depth/index.html

Spring and Summer programs and events:

We are starting to plan our 2017 spring and summer programs. 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

Nature Sightings:

November 3: 15 trumpeter swan adults and cygnets seen at the Headwaters.

November 20: Lake Itasca and Lake Ozawindib froze over

November 27: Mary Lake froze over.

November 28: winds at 39 mph with gusts at 49 mph

December 1: Elk Lake is still $\frac{3}{4}$ open. Black bear seen sitting by the side of Main Park Drive.

December 4: rain, thunder and lightning; rain turning to snow after sunset with a dusting to 1-inch of snow by Tuesday morning.

December 6: 8°F at 9 a.m. with winds NW at 14 with gust of 31 mph.

Wind chill at -9°F

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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".

Connie Cox

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Itasca's Presenter Under the Pines

"My Endless Childhood" An Evening with a Storyteller

Saturday, January 27, 2018 at 4 p.m.

Meet at the Jacob V. Brower Visitor Center Classroom

Steve Maanum will perform a collection of stories prior to the Lantern Lit Event. Steve has always been a storyteller. As a school teacher, he made it a regular part of his classroom day and following retirement, he has continued to weave stories into his family-style nature photography workshops and nature writing presentations in schools and conferences. Join Steve for some great stories

