

## Notes From Connie

Hello Itasca Friends!

It's June 1 and the flowers that are blooming are pointing towards summer being here! The weather has been lovely and the mosquitos aren't too bad (knock on wood and a little bug spray would help). We hope you can come out and enjoy the park this month. The flowers are beginning to pop with the gorgeous Large yellow lady slippers, wild lily of the valley, marsh marigolds and various dogwoods all beginning to bloom now that full leaf-out has occurred. The birds are busy on their nests and not singing as much but the veery's are singing their melodic downward spiral song throughout the park! Watch for our research bear as she moves about the park (look for the momma with 2 blue ear tags and 3 yearling cubs gamboling along with her).

### **Dining in the Park: NEW menu at Douglas Lodge:**

Douglas Lodge is open for the season. Manager Gina and Assistant Manager Jeff are excited for you to come out and try the all-new menu. They are offering scrumptious homemade meals and appetizers including many items that feature Minnesota foods (walleye, wild rice, maple syrup and blueberries). The Lavosh and Walleye Ceviche are excellent appetizers! New this year are fish tacos made with Red Lake walleye (a BIG hit!) Try the homemade Seafood Lasagna, made with Red Lake Walleye, or the Spaghetti and Meatballs with homemade wild rice meatballs. Classic favorites are still on the menu including: the Itasca Burger, Wild Turkey, the Reuben and the famous Itasca Malts. Now you can buy the famous Itasca sugar cookies whenever you want them. Cookies will be available for purchase daily. Great family food served from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. NEW: the lunch menu service

has been extended...order off the lunch menu from 11:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Hours: Breakfast: 8 a.m. to 11 a.m.; Lunch: 11:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.;  
Dinner: 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

**Dining in the Park: the Mary Gibbs Café:**

Looking for a quick meal before heading out on the trail, or a cooling ice cream cone after a long day on the trail, the Mary Gibbs Café will be offering new items as well as soup and salad bar, pizza and ice cream. Hours for the café will be 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday thru Thursday and 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday thru Sunday.

**Take Home a Memory: Souvenirs and More!**

Snuggle into a wearable memory from Itasca—check out the new line-up of sweatshirts and t-shirts. The ever-popular Douglas Lodge China is still available for purchase. Stop at Douglas Lodge to see the display of available pieces. The china is sold at the Forest Inn gift shop. (Forest Inn features books and northwoods themed apparel and gifts). The Mary Gibbs Gift shop, featuring food stuffs and Mississippi Headwaters items, opens on Friday, May 25 and is open daily from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. For those looking for a northwoods themed item, check out Forest Inn Gift Shop (across from Douglas Lodge). Use your receipt from dining at Douglas Lodge for a 20% discount off of one clothing item at Forest Inn Gift Shop (exceptions apply; refer to your receipt for details). Forest Inn opens for the season on Saturday, May 26; open daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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**Enjoy a music concert by Bill and Kate Isles, Saturday, June 2—**

**Itasca's Music Under the Pines: Bill and Kate Isles**

**from 6-7:45 p.m. Meet inside Forest Inn across from Douglas**

## **Lodge**

Come inside historic Forest Inn and enjoy an evening of original music from Bill and Kate Isles. Joined by special guest, Sarah Mae Birkeland on upright bass, Bill & Kate Isles are a nationally-touring singer/songwriter duo based in Duluth, MN. Words like “Transcendent” and “Mesmerizing” and “Slapstick” are among the descriptions of their concerts and fans of all ages tell of listening to their albums over and over again.

**June 2 Come out and celebrate the 10 Year Anniversary of the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment, Saturday, June 2 from 1 to 3:30 p.m.**

**PARKS AND TRAILS LEGACY CELEBRATION! Celebrating Itasca’s Legacy and the Legacy of State Parks**

**Saturday, June 2, 2018 from 1-3:30 p.m., come and go at your leisure, rain or shine**

**In the Douglas Lodge/ Forest Inn area**

Join us as we celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment. A variety of hands-on activities will be ongoing, including an ATV simulator, live raptors, Archery in the Park, I Can Fish, geocaching 101, and campfire cooking/ ice cream in a bag. Dive into Itasca’s history on a variety of hikes celebrating the 127 year legacy of Itasca State Park including a tour of the Civilian Conservation Corps constructed Old Timers Cabin, tour of historic Douglas Lodge and walking tours of Itasca’s forest. The famous Itasca Sugar Cookies will be available for purchase on this day. Activity stations around Forest Inn will celebrate the 10 years of accomplishments in Minnesota State Parks and parks across greater Minnesota and the metro area. Play games, share your thoughts and celebrate the future of Minnesota’s Clean Water, Land and Legacy!

- **Headwaters in early Summer—Watch the Webcam!**

Early summer is here and the loon chicks should be hatching soon. Keep an eye out for the adult loons, they might be carrying a little fluffy black chick on their backs. Check out the webcam. 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 beavers making their way towards the headwaters in evening.

Go to: [Mississippi Headwaters Webcam](#) *Side note: some users with Android systems might have problems viewing the webcam.*

### **Featured nature sighting report for the dates of May 26-June**

#### **1:**

- Itasca's research mother bear with her yearling 3 cubs was seen sunning themselves.
- Various thrush (birds related to robins) are at the park, their spooky melodic calls can be heard at dusk and dawn.
- Watch for large-mouth bass as they leap from the water feeding on dragonflies hovering close to the water's surface.
- Some of our orchids are now up blooming including the large and small yellow lady slippers and early coral root.
- Watch for the first fawns of the season.