

CELEBRATE NEW MOUNTAIN BIKING TRAILS!

Friday, June 10 through
Sunday, June 12

Cuyuna Country State Recreation Area



The recent completion of 22 miles of single-track mountain biking trails, including beginner, intermediate and advanced routes, will be celebrated June 10-12 at Cuyuna Country State Recreation Area (free park admission on June 11). Celebrity Hans "No Way" Rey, a member of the Mountain Bike Hall of Fame, will make a special guest appearance. Join us for special events throughout the weekend or explore the trails on your own. Please check the website for details or call the park, 218-546-5926.

mndnr.gov



Banning State Park

320-245-2668

**FREE
Park
Entry**

Saturday, June 11 3–4:30 p.m.

Geocaching 101

Admission is free to all Minnesota state parks today! Discover the fun of geocaching and receive hands-on training. Bring your own GPS unit or use one of ours. Meet the naturalist in the picnic grounds.

Saturday, June 25 noon–2 p.m.

Digital Nature Photography **R**

Do you have trouble turning a beautiful place into a beautiful picture? Come to our wild and scenic park for an introduction to nature photography. Cameras provided. Registration required; call 320-245-2668.

Archery in the Park

Join certified archery instructors for hands-on coaching and give archery a try. This activity is suitable for anyone age eight or older. Children 15 and under must be accompanied by an adult. Personal archery equipment is not allowed. Equipment is provided; stop by the picnic area anytime.

Friday, July 1 3–5 p.m.

Saturday, July 23 2–4 p.m.

Friday, Aug. 19 3–5 p.m.

Saturday, July 9 2–3:30 p.m.

Build a Birdhouse **R F**

Encourage the bluebird, traditionally a symbol of happiness, to live in your backyard! Building a birdhouse is an easy project, even for the least-experienced woodworker. Reservations required; call 320-245-2668. Cost is \$4 per birdhouse kit; limit two per family. Meet in the campground.

Saturday, Aug. 20 11 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Going Batty! **R F**

Meet the naturalist in the campground to learn why we should encourage, not fear, bats. If you would like to make your own bat house to bring home, call 320-245-2668 reserve your kit. Cost is \$7 each; one per family, please.

Saturday, Sept. 3 1–2:30 p.m.

Banning Quarry Hike

One-hundred years ago the village of Banning was exploding with activity! Meet the naturalist in the picnic area to take a 1.8-mile hike and find out how trains, stone and dynamite made this boom town tick.



Bear Head Lake State Park

218-365-7229

Saturdays, May 14–July 30 7–9 a.m.

Birding at Bear Head

Meet at the park office for a guided walk to listen and look for the variety of bird species within the park. Bring your own binoculars if you have them. A limited number will be available for free checkout. Dress for the weather; insect repellent recommended.

Saturday, June 4 1–3 p.m.

Archery in the Park

Join certified archery instructors for hands-on coaching and give archery a try. This activity is suitable for anyone age eight or older. Children 15 and under must be accompanied by an adult. Personal archery equipment is not allowed due to weapons rules within Minnesota state parks. Equipment is provided; stop by the picnic shelter anytime.

Thursday, June 30 6–8 p.m.

Beyond Burgers and Hot Dogs: Dutch Oven Camp Cooking

Dutch ovens have long been a part of our national heritage—even before Lewis and Clark. Join us for a demonstration on how to use Dutch ovens to create delectable meals in today's campgrounds. Meet at the picnic shelter.

Wednesday, July 6 7–8 p.m.

Eagles of Minnesota

Find out about bald eagle biology, populations and current research with a DNR wildlife biologist. Dress for the weather and bring a lawn chair. Meet at the beach picnic shelter.

Saturday, July 16 7–9 p.m.

Music with Horse Raddish Creek

Enjoy the toe-tapping tunes of Horse Raddish Creek as they play acoustic Americana favorites. Bring a blanket or lawn chair and dress for the weather. Meet at the beach picnic shelter.

Wednesday, July 27 7–8 p.m.

Moose of Minnesota

Join a DNR wildlife biologist to explore the biology of the largest Minnesota wild animal—the moose. Discussions will include research techniques and future trends for this iconic animal of the north. Dress for the weather and bring a lawn chair. Meet at the beach picnic shelter.

Saturday, Aug. 20 7–9 p.m.

Music with Horse Raddish Creek

See previous listing for details.

Wednesday, Aug. 31 6–8 p.m.

Beyond Burgers and Hot Dogs: Dutch Oven Camp Cooking

See previous listing for details.



Explore Minnesota Tourism

Big Bog State Recreation Area

218-647-8592

Saturday, June 4 10 a.m.–noon

Bog Flowers on the Boardwalk

The Big Bog is in bloom! View rare plant life from the boardwalk and trails. Learn about the unique growing conditions found in the bog. Hear the birds that make their home in Big Bog. Bring your water bottle, camera and comfortable shoes. Meet at the North Unit parking lot.

FREE
Park
Entry

Saturday, June 11 9 a.m.–9 p.m.

Big Bog Visitor Center Grand Opening

Admission is free to all Minnesota state parks today! Join us as we celebrate the grand opening of our new visitor center. Explore the new interpretive exhibits, climb the restored fire tower, or take part in the special programs that will be held throughout the day.

Monday, July 4 2–3:30 p.m.

Fourth of July Flotilla

Join the boat parade down the Tamarac River! Decorate your boat or simply wave a flag. The parade will start two miles upriver from the campground at the Steel Bridge and end at the Highway 72 bridge. The parade will be followed by a potluck at Hillman's store in Waskish.

Sunday, July 10 noon–2 p.m.

Historic Fish Hatchery Tours

Join us to learn about the Red Lake walleye fishery and the role of this historic hatchery! This program is part of the community-wide Big Bog Festival, July 8–10, sponsored by the communities of Waskish and Kelliher.

BIG BOG STATE RECREATION AREA *continued*

Sunday, July 10 10 a.m.–2 p.m.

MinnAqua Pop Can Fishing Clinic

Grab a pop can and we'll turn it into a fishing rig and go fishing in the Tamarac River! We'll also play a fish habitat game, tie a fishing knot and practice identifying fish. This clinic is designed for kids in grades one to four. Parents are welcome. Meet at Homestead Park in Waskish.

Saturday, July 23 8–9 p.m.

Musical Saw by the Campfire

Join us at the swimming beach around the campfire for a relaxing evening concert of storytelling by a talented local musician/historian. Travel back to the pioneering days in the Big Bog and enjoy the mellow sounds of the musical saw. Bring your lawn chair and jacket.

Saturday, July 30 1–3 p.m.

Fire Tower Tour

Meet an interpreter at the fire tower to see the most panoramic view of Upper Red Lake. After a brief history of the fire tower, ascend 100 feet to experience the incredible view. Meet at the visitor center.

Saturday, Aug. 6 2–3 p.m.

Build a Birdhouse **R** **F**

Build a birdhouse with a local wood-working expert, then take it home with you, and the feathered friends in your yard will make it their new home! Younger children should be accompanied by an adult. Registration required; call 218-647-8592. Cost is \$5.



Saturday, Aug. 13 2–4 p.m.

I Can Fish! Panfishing in the Pond

Join us at Ludlow Pond as we learn all about fishing: species identification, casting, equipment and more. Veteran anglers will demonstrate and assist individuals, families and youth groups. Youngsters must be accompanied by adults. Equipment, bait and instruction provided. Meet at the North Unit parking lot.

**Big Stone Lake State Park**

320-839-3663

Saturday, June 11: Free park admission! 10 a.m.–4 p.m.

Sunday, June 12 10 a.m.–4 p.m.

Bonanza Quilt Show

A large collection of quilts from local artists will be on display at the Bonanza Education Center, located in the Bonanza Unit of Big Stone Lake State Park. Past shows have featured over 50 quilts.



Explore Minnesota Tourism

Buffalo River State Park

218-498-2124

Saturday, June 4 7 a.m.–1 p.m.

Buffalo River Trail Run **R**

Buffalo River State Park and the Minnesota State University-Moorehead Regional Science Center are hosting the inaugural Buffalo River Trail Run. Beautiful 5K and 10K courses await runners interested in enjoying the mix of prairie, savanna and riparian woodland. Visit buffalorivertrailrun.com for registration details.

**FREE
Park
Entry**

Saturday, June 11 2–3 p.m.

Geocaching 101

Admission is free to all Minnesota state parks today! Discover the fun of geocaching and use a GPS unit to find hidden treasures at Minnesota state parks. You will receive hands-on training so you can participate in the statewide Geocaching Wildlife Safari, now in its final year. A limited number of GPS units will be available for free checkout. Meet at the picnic grounds.

Full Moon Walk

Join us for a trail walk under the light of the moon. The two-mile walk will traverse the prairie and skirt the edge of the Buffalo River woodland. We will follow the transition from day to night and take some time to moon gaze through the Regional Science Center telescopes. Meet at the Regional Science Center.

Friday, June 17 9–10:30 p.m.

Friday, July 15 9–10:30 p.m.

Friday, Aug. 12 8:30–10 p.m.

Saturday, July 9 2–3 p.m.

Geocaching 101

See previous listing for details.



Camden State Park

507-865-4530



Saturday, April 9 1–3 p.m.
Fly-tying for Beginners

As the trout season nears, be prepared with homemade flies such as the "Sawyer Pheasant Tail Nymph." This workshop is designed to teach basic fly-tying skills with hands-on instruction. All the tools and equipment will be provided. Author and avid fly-fisherman Jay Brown will introduce you to some fly-tying skills and techniques. This workshop is co-sponsored with MinnAqua and Friends of Camden State Park. Ask at the park office for program location.

Friday, May 13 9–11 p.m.
Minnesota Star Watch with Mike Lynch

Use large telescopes to view the beauty in the night sky as Mike Lynch of WCCO Radio shares some of the lore of Big Bear, Cassiopeia and others. Bring your own binoculars, telescope and lounge chair if you wish. Meet at the horse campground. This program is sponsored by Friends of Camden State Park and SW/WC Service Cooperative.

Saturday, May 14 9 a.m.–noon and 1–4 p.m.
"On the Water" Fly-fishing Clinic **R** **F**

Clinics will include an introduction to fly-fishing basics, including on-the-water fly-fishing instruction. Equipment provided for those who do not have their own. Anglers age 16 and older will need to have a current Minnesota fishing license and trout stamp. Please wear glasses (prescription or sunglasses), a hat with a bill or brim, and waders (or shorts and old shoes). Anglers need to be age 14 or older to participate. Registration is required and space is limited; call 507-865-4530. Cost is \$8.

Geocaching 101

Discover the fascinating challenge of geocaching and use it to explore Minnesota state parks' history, wildlife, and hidden treasures. A limited number of GPS units will be available free of charge for this modern-day treasure hunt. Meet at the beach picnic table area.

Saturday, May 14 1–2:30 p.m.
 Saturday, June 18 1–2:30 p.m.
 Saturday, July 16 1–2:30 p.m.
 Saturday, Aug. 13 1–2:30 p.m.

Friday, June 3–Sunday, June 5
Great Camden Camp-out

The sixth annual camp-out will encourage the simple pleasure of camping with family and friends and introduce kids and adults to the outdoors. Family-oriented activities will take place throughout the weekend. Call 507-865-4530 for more information.

Saturday, July 2 9–10:30 p.m.
Universe in the Park

Join astronomers from the University of Minnesota as they share their telescopes, knowledge and stories of the heavens. Program begins with a short presentation followed by telescope viewing of planets and other features of the summer sky. Bring your own binoculars or telescopes if you wish. Meet at the horse campground.



Carley State Park

c/o Whitewater State Park: 507-932-3007

Saturday, May 7 10 a.m.–4 p.m.
Carley Bluebell Festival

Come celebrate the beauty of our spring bluebells. A variety of activities will be offered throughout the day including trout-fishing programs for kids, pioneer games, wildflower walks and more. Local organizations will also provide booths with food, crafts and activities.



Crow Wing State Park

218-825-3075

Saturday, June 18 11 a.m.–4 p.m.

Canoe Days and Fur Trade Encampment

The Crow Wing County Muzzleloaders will set up a fur trade encampment at the park group camp. Canoeists will leave Kiwanis Park around 11 a.m. and arrive at Crow Wing State Park two to three hours later. A shuttle will take canoeists back to Kiwanis Park so they can pick up their vehicles. Call the park for more information.



Father Hennepin State Park

320-532-3269

Saturday, June 4 11 a.m.–noon

Geocaching 101

Discover the fascinating challenge of geocaching and use it to explore Minnesota state parks' history, wildlife and hidden treasures. A limited number of GPS units will be available free of charge for this modern-day treasure hunt. Meet in Lakeview Picnic Area.



Saturday, June 18 10 a.m.–noon

I Can Fish!

Learn all about fishing – identify species, learn to cast and more. Then take your skills and fish with us from the shore of Mille Lacs Lake. All equipment is provided. No fishing license needed for this activity if you are a Minnesota resident. Meet at the Public Boat Access parking lot.

Saturday, June 25 8–9 p.m.

Remarkable Reptiles

Jim Gerholdt will use live turtles, lizards and snakes to illustrate this family-oriented program about reptiles of Minnesota and beyond. Meet at the council ring in Lakeview Campground. In case of rain, the program will be held in the Lakeview Picnic Shelter.



Monday, July 4 10 a.m.–noon

I Can Fish!

See previous listing for details.

Saturday, July 9 9:30–11:30 a.m.

Archery in the Park

Join certified archery instructors for hands-on coaching and give archery a try. This activity is suitable for anyone age eight or older. Children 15 and under must be accompanied by an adult. Personal archery equipment is not allowed due to weapons rules within Minnesota state parks. Equipment is provided; stop by the Lakeview Picnic Area anytime.

Saturday, July 16 11 a.m.–noon

Geocaching 101

See previous listing for details.

Sunday, Aug. 7 11 a.m.–noon

Geocaching 101

See previous listing for details.



Saturday, Aug. 20 10 a.m.–noon

I Can Fish!

See previous listing for details.

Friday, Aug. 26 8:30–10 p.m.

Universe in the Park

The University of Minnesota Astronomy Department will take you on a spectacular tour of the night sky. After a short indoor presentation, you are invited to view planets, stars and other celestial sights through telescopes. If it's cloudy, the indoor presentation will still occur. Meet at the Lakeview Picnic Shelter.

Mystery Cave Tours

One-Hour Tour **F**

April 16 to Memorial Day:
Weekends, 10 a.m.–4 p.m.

Memorial Day through Labor Day:
Tours offered daily, 10 a.m.–5 p.m.

Labor Day through October:
Weekends, 10 a.m.–4 p.m.

See cave formations, underground pools, and dramatically-lit corridors. This tour involves walking on paved trails and bridges. The tour is wheelchair accessible.

Adults: \$10
Children ages 5-12: \$6
Children under 5: Free

Two-Hour Tour **F**

Weekends and holidays only, Memorial Day through Labor Day, 1:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m.

This tour features in-depth interpretation of cave geology. Visitors walk on narrow, winding gravel paths with numerous steps. It is a unique experience to see some of the largest and longest passages in Mystery Cave by lantern light. More physically challenging than the one-hour tour, this tour is not suitable for children under age 5. No sandals are allowed.

Additional group, school, college, and caving tours are available. Call Mystery Cave for more information and reservations.

School Tour: \$4/person
Advanced Tour: \$18/person
Wild Caving Tour: \$55/person



Forestville/Mystery Cave State Park

Main Park: 507-352-5111

Mystery Cave: 507-937-3251

Sunday, May 8 1:30–2:30 p.m.

Mother's Day Wildflower Walk

You will see beautiful wildflower displays that carpet the forest floor on this easy-paced stroll through the forest. Meet at the picnic shelter.

FREE
Park
Entry

Saturday, June 11 10–11:30 a.m.

Fossil Collecting Activity

Admission is free to all Minnesota state parks today! Everyone finds fossils on this trip, and you may keep them. Meet at the amphitheater for a brief talk, then follow in your vehicle to a location outside the park. All ages welcome.

FREE
Park
Entry

Saturday, June 11 4–5 p.m.

Digital Therapy Using Natural Materials

Admission is free to all Minnesota state parks today! Join us and listen to the redstarts sing and the breeze rustle the cottonwoods as you bend natural fibers into a treasured keepsake. Meet at the picnic shelter; materials are provided.

Saturday, June 18 4–5 p.m.

Carve Your Own Walking Stick

Walking the trails is a special treat with a personalized walking stick. Learn the exotic origin of your project as you carve your own. All materials provided. Meet at the picnic shelter.

Saturday, June 18 8:30–9:30 p.m.

Tales with Tails: Stories of Furry, Feathered and Scaled Wildlife

Ever wonder why deer have antlers, why male birds have bright colors or why rabbits have short tails? Laugh and learn as you discover what science and folk tales tell us about the amazing creatures of Forestville/Mystery Cave State Park.

Saturday, June 25 10 a.m.–2 p.m.

Saturday, July 23 10 a.m.–2 p.m.

Saturday, Aug. 13 10 a.m.–2 p.m.

I Can Fish! **R**

Learn how to fish from veteran anglers who will demonstrate and assist individuals, families and youth groups. Please bring worms; all other fishing gear is provided. Young children must be accompanied by adults. Meet at the Goethite Wildlife area west of Mystery Cave (N 43° 37' 12.84", W 92° 21' 52.60"). Call 507-937-3251 to register.

Saturday, July 9 8–9:30 p.m.

Sayonara Bat Count 2011

Treat your family and friends to a remarkable local bat exodus event while it still exists. Watch several hundred bats leave their roosts for an evening of feeding on insects. Participants will count bats at several sites. This spectacle is not expected to continue in future years due to a progressive collapse of bat populations in the eastern half of the U.S. This is, indeed, one of the sayonara bat counts. Meet at the picnic shelter. Accommodations can be easily made for those with mobility concerns by calling 507-937-3251.

FORESTVILLE/MYSTERY CAVE STATE PARK *continued*

Saturday, July 16 8–9:30 p.m.

Sayonara Bat Count 2011

See previous listing for details.

Saturday, July 23 8:30–9:30 p.m.

Hardwood Home Companion

This season's variety show includes songs, rap, skits, monologue, dialogue, epilogue, special fishing tips and more. These features and plenty of humor are supported by the unique sound effects laboratory. Meet at the amphitheater.

Saturday, Aug. 20 9–10 p.m.

Night Time is Moth Time

Forestville/Mystery Cave State Park has moths as wide as your hand and others only a fraction of that size. Come to the amphitheater to see which ones we can lure in during the program.

Saturday, Aug. 27 8:30–9:30 p.m.

Hardwood Home Companion

See previous listing for details.

**Fort Ridgely State Park**

507-426-7840

Friday, July 29

Saturday, July 30

"Sleeping Beauty"

The Prairie Fire Children's Theater will present "Sleeping Beauty" at the amphitheater. The two productions are sponsored by GFW Community Education and the Friends of Fort Ridgely. Please call the park for more information.

**Fort Snelling State Park**

612-725-2389 or Visitor Center 612-725-2724

Saturday, May 7 8:30–10 a.m.

Bird Watching by Bicycle **R**

Strap on your binoculars and roll up your pant leg—we are on the move to find birds as they migrate through the park! We will stop frequently to see those little splashes of color in the trees. Bikes and helmets are available for use during the program. Registration required; call 612-725-2724.



Fridays, May 27 to Sept. 2 6–7:30 p.m.

I Can Fish! Fishing Fridays

Explore the basics of fishing and fish identification with a park naturalist. Rods, reels and bait will be provided. Minnesota residents may fish from shore at the park without a license. Meet at the fishing pier on Snelling Lake.

Saturday, June 4 10 a.m.–noon

Build a Rain Barrel **R F**

Rain barrels collect roof run-off to water your garden. The park naturalist and the Project WET coordinator will teach the importance of rain barrels and guide you through the construction of your rain barrel. Registration required; call 612-725-2724. Cost is \$65 per barrel.

Thursday, June 9 6:30–7:30 p.m.

Geocaching 101

Discover the fun of geocaching and use a GPS unit to find hidden treasures at Minnesota state parks. You will receive hands-on training so you can participate in the statewide Geocaching Wildlife Safari, now in its final year. Bring your own GPS unit or use one of ours. Meet at the Thomas C. Savage Visitor Center.

Saturday, June 18 1–2 p.m.

Geocaching 202

So, you found a couple of geocaches and now you are ready for more! Learn the next steps to be more involved in geocaching and hiding your own caches. Borrow one of our GPS units, or bring your own and the user's manual if you have one. Meet at the Thomas C. Savage Visitor Center.

FORT SNELLING STATE PARK *continued*

Saturday, June 25 10 a.m.–noon
 Thursday, July 7 6:30–8 p.m.

Explore Lake Life by Canoe **R**

Minnesota lakes are full of life. Join the naturalist on these canoe trip and explore Snelling Lake to see what thrives there. Adults must accompany children. Registration required; call 612-725-2724. Life jackets are provided.



Saturday, July 9 noon–2 p.m.

I Can Fish! River Fishing for Fun **R**

Learn what fish need to survive and how to identify them. After practicing casting, we will fish from the shore of the Mississippi River. Fishing poles will be available for use during the program. Registration required; call 612-725-2724.

Saturday, Aug. 6 1–2 p.m.

Go-n-seine

To study fish populations, the DNR uses nets called *seines*. This seining program will discuss the habitat requirements of different fish species and how water quality affects fish. Please call for details and location; 612-725-2724.

Thursday, Aug. 11 6–7:30 p.m.

Canoeing for Beginners **R**

Join the naturalist on this cool morning walk around beautiful Pike Island. We will walk to the confluence of the mighty Mississippi and the Minnesota rivers. This is a great opportunity to watch wildlife on the rivers while getting some exercise. Meet at the Thomas C. Savage Visitor Center. Registration required; call 612-725-2724.

Saturday, Aug. 27 10–11 a.m.

Geocaching 202

See previous listing for details.

Saturday, Sept. 3 10 a.m.–noon

Three Miles of Pike

Join the naturalist on this cool morning walk around beautiful Pike Island. We will walk to the confluence of the mighty Mississippi and the Minnesota rivers. This is a great opportunity to watch wildlife on the rivers while getting some exercise. Meet at the Thomas C. Savage Visitor Center.

Monday, Sept. 5 10–11:30 a.m.

Photo Geocaching Challenge **R**

Walk through the park using a GPS and a digital camera. This will be a timed event, but feel free to participate just for fun! A naturalist will provide instructions. Use our equipment or bring your own. Registration required; call 612-725-2724.



Walt Huss

Glacial Lakes State Park

320-239-2860

Star Gazing

Members of the Glacial Lakes Astronomers and Stargazers Society will provide telescopes, answer questions and point out interesting features in our night sky. In case of bad weather, call park to confirm these events. Meet at the horse camp.

Saturday, April 2 7:30–10 p.m.

Saturday, May 7 8–10 p.m.

Saturday, June 4 9–10 p.m.

Saturday, July 2 9:30–10 p.m.

Saturday, Aug. 6 9–10 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 3 8:30–10 p.m.

Tuesday, June 21–Thursday, June 23 10 a.m.–2 p.m.

Nature Expert Summer Camp **R** **F**

This multi-day program will provide transportation to explore the prairies of Glacial Lakes State Park, the pines of Itasca State Park, and the hardwoods of Lake Carlos State Park. Intended for kids ages eight to 14, this day camp allows participants to earn patches and prizes. To register and for fee information, call 320-852-7200. Program offered in partnership with Alexandria Community Education.

Saturday, July 9 10 a.m.–1 p.m.

SNA Bus Tour **R**

Scientific and Natural Areas (SNAs) are special places preserved for the outstanding diversity of life and rare features found on them. While looking for plants and animals, we will find the lost landscapes of Minnesota. We'll drive to several SNA and prairie sites, then explore them on foot with a naturalist. Call 320-239-2860 to register or for more information.



Explore Minnesota Tourism

Glendalough State Park

218-864-0110

Saturday, April 30 9 a.m.–noon
Annual Walk for Glendalough

Enjoy refreshments, attend a naturalist program, hand-seed prairie plants, hike a trail of your choice, view nesting eagles through the spotting scope, and return for lunch and door prizes. You can also tour the historic lodge. There is no fee, but donations will be accepted. Golf cart tours available for those with mobility concerns. Meet at the Trail Center.

Saturdays, June 4–July 2 10–11:30 a.m.
Eagle Nest Viewing

Watch a short film on bald eagles in Minnesota, then hike one mile to view the park's active eagle nest through a spotting scope. Eaglets are often visible and you may get to see them being fed. In the event of nest failure or heavy rain, the program will be cancelled. Groups larger than 10 should schedule a private tour. Meet at the Trail Center.

Saturday, June 25 9 a.m.–3 p.m.
Fly-fishing Clinic **R**

Learn the basics of fly fishing, practice knot-tying and casting, then practice your skills on Annie Battle Lake, a unique heritage fishery that abounds with large panfish. All equipment is provided. Bring a hat, sunscreen, water, and a bag lunch. No fishing license is required if you are a Minnesota resident. Participants should be at least eight years old. Call 218-864-0110 to register.

Wednesdays, July 6, 13, 20, and 27 1–3 p.m.
Beginning Canoeing **R**

Spice up your summer afternoons by learning a new skill. Canoeing strokes, safety and other basic skills are taught before we paddle downstream through the park's pristine chain of lakes. All equipment is provided. Call 218-864-0110 to register.

Wednesdays, July 6, 13, 20, and 27 7–8 p.m.
Wild Wednesday

Families are invited to join the naturalist for weekly craft programs. Children can become a junior park naturalist and earn a special reward. Meet at Sunset Lake trailhead across from the campground.

Friday, Aug. 5 10 a.m.–3 p.m.

Annie Battle Lake Aqua Day

R

Annie Battle Lake is a heritage fishery. This designation means your lake experience is similar to what it would have been over 100 years ago. Join DNR Fisheries specialist Steve Kubeny to learn about Annie Battle. Tour the electric-shock fishing boat used to sample fish. A park naturalist will lead canoe trips exploring the history and beauty of this Central Minnesota jewel. To register for canoe trips and for more information call 218-864-0110.

Saturday, Aug. 20 10 a.m.–noon

Monarch-tagging Demonstration

Almost every year, hundreds of monarch butterflies migrate through the park on their way to Mexico. Learn how to catch and handle a monarch, determine whether it is male or female, and properly tag it. All monarchs will be released after they are tagged. Bring your own butterfly net or share one of the park's nets. Meet at the Prairie Hill Trail parking lot.



Paul Sundberg

Gooseberry Falls State Park

218-834-3855

Friday, May 27 7:30–8:30 p.m.

Life of a Voyageur

Paddle back to the days of the North American fur trade and explore the lives of the hardy French Canadian voyageurs with a park naturalist. Watch an "average Joe" transform into a robust fur trader right before your eyes and learn the words to a popular song. Meet in Lady Slipper Lodge.

Saturday, June 4
 10:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m. or 1:30 p.m.

Walk to the Waterfalls: Gooseberry in a Nutshell

Learn about this state park while you take the short walk to the waterfalls with a naturalist. Meet at the Art Column, outside the visitor center.

Friday, June 10 1–2 p.m.

Geocaching 101

Discover the fun of geocaching and use a GPS unit to find hidden treasures at Minnesota state parks. You will receive hands-on training so you can participate in the statewide Geocaching Wildlife Safari, now in its final year. Bring your own GPS unit or use one of ours. Meet in the visitor center theater.

GOOSEBERRY FALLS STATE PARK *continued*

Thursday, June 16 1:30–2:30 p.m.

Rock Talk Walk

Join the park naturalist on a geology hike around the Gooseberry River's waterfalls to get the historical dirt on the area's rocky landscape. Meet at the art column outside the visitor center.

Tuesday, July 12 11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Superior Shore Scavenger Hunt

See how well you do with riddles and a GPS as you go on an extensive habitat scavenger hunt along the shoreline of Lake Superior. GPS units will be provided for the program. Meet at the Lakeview Shelter to start your adventure.

Sunday, July 17 10 a.m.–9 p.m.

Lake Superior Day

The park is celebrating this annual shoreline event with activities focused on the beauty and survival of this great lake and its watershed. Hands-on programs for kids include nature carts, a guided geology hike and much more! Call for more details; 218-834-3855 ext. 227.

Tuesday, July 26 10:30–11:30 a.m.

Lakeside CCC History Tour

Join this guided hike to hear about the lives and work of the Civilian Conservation Corps, who built this park during the Great Depression. Meet at the Lady Slipper Lodge.

Saturday, Aug. 6 8:30–10 p.m.

Universe in the Park

The University of Minnesota Astronomy Department will take you on a spectacular tour of the night skies. After a short presentation, participants can view the celestial sights through provided telescopes. If it is cloudy, an indoor presentation will still occur. Meet in the Lady Slipper Lodge.

Tuesday, Aug. 9 11 a.m.–noon

Superior Shore Scavenger Hunt

See previous listing for details.

Thursday, Aug. 18 10:30–11:30 a.m.

Old CCC Camp Guided Hike

Take a step back to the 1930s on this living-history hike through the old Civilian Conservation Corps camp. Find out what life was like at the park while it was being made! Meet at the art column outside the visitor center.

Friday, Aug. 19 1–3 p.m.

Biking into the North Shore's Past

See listing on page 58 for details.

**Hayes Lake State Park**

218-425-7504

Saturday, Aug. 6 3–9 p.m.

Hayes Dayes!

Activities include the opportunity to try out the park's canoes, kayaks and rowboats for free. The Friends of Hayes Lake State Park will serve an evening barbecue for a fee, with the proceeds going to future projects. Finish off the evening with an old-fashioned ice-cream social and live music, sponsored by the Wannaska Lions Club. Meet at the picnic shelter.



Minnesota's forests have withstood catastrophic fires, drought and flood, threats by insects and disease, and overharvesting. For the last 100 of those years, the Forestry Division of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has protected and cared for those forest resources.

To celebrate the 100-year anniversary of the Division of Forestry in 2011, join us for a special celebration on April 30.

Arbor Dorer Family Fun Day

Saturday, April 30 9:30 a.m.–2 p.m.
Location: Kruger Campground and Management Unit, Richard J. Dorer State Forest

Join us to celebrate the Division of Forestry's 100-year anniversary, Arbor Day and the 50th Anniversary of the Richard J. Dorer State Forest. Special events will include puppet shows, Arbor Day planting, forest history presentation, and Snakes Alive Program. In addition, numerous youth, adult, and family events are planned. Special appearance by Smokey Bear. For directions and more information, visit the online calendar at mndnr.gov or call 651-345-3401.



Hill Annex Mine State Park
218-247-7215

Hill Annex Mine Tours
218-247-7215

Fossil Tour **F**

Wednesday through Saturday,
May 25–Sept. 3 10–11:30 a.m.

Learn about the fossils in the park and look for prehistoric fossils during this tour. Keep your discoveries!

Adults: \$10
Children ages 5-12: \$6
Children under 5: Free

Mine Tour **F**

Wednesday through Saturday,
May 25–Sept. 3 12:30 p.m. and 3 p.m.

Join us for a 90-minute tour and follow the route miners took to the open-pit mine. Learn about the mine's history and see some large-scale machines no longer in operation.

Adults: \$10
Children ages 5-12: \$6
Children under 5: Free



Interstate State Park
651-465-5711

Sunday, May 8 10–11 a.m.

Mother's Day Walk

Treat the mom in your life to a beautiful walk along the River Trail. A naturalist will be along to point out the signs of spring. Find wildflowers and colorful returning birds. This leisurely walk will include some rocky terrain. Please wear sturdy footwear. Meet at the park office.



Fridays, May 27 to Aug. 26 4–5 p.m.

I Can Fish! Fishing Fridays

Are you new to fishing and want to give it a try? Then explore the basics of fishing and fish identification during this weekly program with a park naturalist. Rods, reels and bait will be provided. Minnesota residents may fish from shore at the park without a license. Meet at the River Amphitheater.

Pothole Exploration Tours

The park's world-renowned potholes were formed 10,000 years ago from lakes of lava and gushing glacial waters! On this guided walk through the Glacial Gardens, a naturalist will share tales of the St. Croix River and point out fascinating geologic formations. One-hour tours are offered daily at noon, as well as at 2 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays, May 27–Sept. 5. Meet at the visitor center.

Geocaching 101

Discover the fun of geocaching and use a GPS unit to find hidden treasures. You will receive hands-on training so you can participate in the statewide Geocaching Wildlife Safari. Bring your own GPS unit or use one of ours. Meet at the River Amphitheater.

Saturday, June 11: Free park admission! 10–11 a.m.
Saturday, June 25 10–11 a.m.
Sunday, July 10 10–11 a.m.
Saturday, July 23 10–11 a.m.
Saturday, Aug. 13 10–11 a.m.
Saturday, Sept. 3 10–11 a.m.



INTERSTATE STATE PARK *continued*

Sunday, June 12 9 a.m.–noon, 1–3 p.m.
Fly-fishing Workshop

Join National Park Ranger John Weinberg, the Fly Fishing Federation and the St. Paul Fly Tiers for fly-fishing instruction. The morning session consists of fundamentals, equipment and fly tying. The afternoon consists of casting demonstrations, with hands-on instruction in small groups. Bring your own equipment or it will be provided for your use. Meet at the River Amphitheater.

Mondays, June 13–Aug. 15 10–11 a.m.
Little Explorers

Through stories, activities and a craft, our smallest visitors learn about a new letter of nature's alphabet each week (e.g.: B is for Bird). This program is for kids ages three to six, accompanied by an adult. Meet at the visitor center.

Saturday, June 25 7–8 p.m.
Live Frogs with Randy Korb

Leap into the world of frogs with naturalist Randy Korb, who will share his knowledge of Minnesota species, their calls and their lifestyles. Meet at the River Amphitheater.

Saturday, July 9 1–5 p.m.
Wet and Wild St. Croix River Day

Explore the wet and wild St. Croix River through hands-on activities and demonstrations. Catch a live fish, meet a SCUBA diver, create a fishy craft and much more. Stop by anytime at the park's boat landing.

Saturday, Aug. 6 11 a.m.–3 p.m.
Rock On! Geology Day

Try out rock climbing with instructors from Vertical Endeavors. Discover the park's world-famous potholes on a guided tour, make your own rockin' creation, take part in a mock pothole dig and much more. Meet at the north end of the park.



Itasca State Park

218-699-7251

FREE
Park
Entry

Saturday, June 11
24th Annual Ozawindib Walk **R**

Register and take a three-mile hike during the 24th Annual Ozawindib Walk. Sponsored by Friends of Itasca State Park, the walk commemorates Ozawindib, the Ojibwe guide who led Henry R. Schoolcraft to the Headwaters of the Mississippi River in 1832. Following the hike, participate in a variety of family activities. Call 218-699-7251 for more information.

Sunday, June 12 12:30–3 p.m.

Fourth Annual Picnic in the Park

Come out for an afternoon of food and old-fashioned outdoor fun. Throughout the day, enjoy a variety of outdoor recreation, games and more. The Park Rapids Community Band will perform from 2 to 3 p.m. Bring a picnic or purchase grilled hot dogs, chips and pop, and join us in celebrating 120 years of a picnicking and camping tradition in Itasca State Park.

Wednesdays, June 15–Aug. 31 10:30–11:15 a.m.

Circle Time Under the Pines

Children two to five years old, come explore and have fun at Itasca. Learn about nature through stories, songs, crafts and outdoor discovery. NOTE: Adults must accompany children. Consider bringing a picnic lunch and enjoying your meal at the park. Meet by the Museum Amphitheater (look for a large blanket underneath a big pine tree), below Wegmann's Store. Program will be held in the lakeside museum if raining.

Thursday, July 7 11:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m.

Wet and Wild Mississippi River Day!

Discover the wonders of the Mississippi River at a variety of information stations around the Mary Gibbs Mississippi Headwaters Center and the pathway to the Mississippi Headwaters. Learn about the people, wildlife and plants that make the river home. Experiment with river dynamics as you build a "mini" boat from natural plant materials. Many activities for all ages!

Saturday, July 16 1–3 p.m.

17th Annual Butterfly Hike

Join John Weber, local butterfly monitor, for a short slide presentation followed by a butterfly ID walk. This family-friendly hike is in conjunction with the annual North American Butterfly Association (NABA) Butterfly Count Program held across the nation. Meet at the Jacob V. Brower Visitor Center.

Thursday, July 21 11:30 a.m.–2 p.m.

Seventh Annual Smokey Bear Day!

Join Smokey Bear and DNR smokechasers for an afternoon of family-friendly events and fire facts. Learn about Minnesota's forests, make a variety of forest crafts, wear "fire" art face paintings, have your picture taken with Smokey, and more! Meet at the Jacob V. Brower Visitor Center.

Saturday, July 23 8–9 p.m.

Wolves! **R**

Join Tom Stursa with the Park Rapids Area DNR Wildlife Office as he shares interesting facts about the history of gray wolves. Meet at the Amphitheater/Campfire Ring below Wegmann's Cabin in the picnic grounds. Meet at the Jacob V. Brower Visitor Center if raining. NOTES: An optional howling tour, weather permitting, will follow. Space is limited and sign-up is required. Howl portion is dependent on weather. Bring your own vehicle and insect repellent. Stop by the Jacob V. Brower Visitor Center or call 218-699-7251 to register.

ITASCA STATE PARK *continued*

Saturday, July 30 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Folkssports Walk and Bike **F**

Folkssports are leisure-time activities for people of all ages. Register at Forest Inn, \$2 per person. Walk includes 7K and 3K loops, or whatever distance participant is able to finish. The bike rail follows the Wilderness Road loop. Sponsored by NorthStar Trail Travelers, 612-529-0552 or www.nstt.org.

Tuesday, Aug. 2 11:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m.

Third Annual Discover Itasca's Forest Day

Join us to learn about the care, management and wonders of Itasca State Park's forests. Learn to identify the common trees of the park, discover a variety of tree-damaging insect pests, tour a pine plantation, and learn how foresters manage trees for future generations. These family-friendly activities will be held around the Mary Gibbs Mississippi Headwaters Center.

Saturday, Aug. 27

Fifth Annual North Country Hiking Fest

Come out for a day focusing on the national North Country Trail. There will be guided hikes, food, children's activities and more throughout the park. Presented by the Itasca Moraine and Laurentian Lakes Chapters of the North Country Trail Association. Call 218-699-7251 for more information.

**Jay Cooke State Park**

218-384-4610



Saturday, June 11 11 a.m.–3 p.m.

Outdoor Adventures Day

Admission is free to all Minnesota state parks today! Stop in anytime for an outdoor adventure filled with family activities. Learn how to build a campfire, put up a tent, cast for fish, cook outdoors and use a GPS. Meet at the River Inn Interpretive Center.



Fridays, June 17–Sept. 2 1–3 p.m.

I Can Fish! Shoreline Fridays

Join us to learn about fishing: species identification, casting, equipment and more. Then spend a little time fishing along the shore of the river. Equipment, bait, and instruction provided. Minnesota residents do not need a fishing license. Meet at the River Inn Interpretive Center.

Sunday, June 19

1–3 p.m.

Sundays Outdoors: I Can Fish!

Get off the couch and find new ways to discover the outdoors! Each week you'll have fun learning the basics of an activity while exploring the outdoors. The "Sundays Outdoors" series of programs occurs weekly from June 19 to Sept. 4. Check the event calendar online for dates and topics. This week: Learn all about fishing: identifying, casting, equipment and more. Equipment, bait, and instruction provided. Minnesota residents do not need a fishing license. Meet at the River Inn Interpretive Center.

Thursdays, June 23 to Aug. 11

1–2:30 p.m.

Saturdays, Aug. 20 and Aug. 27

1–2:30 p.m.

Nature Play

Explore the outdoors during this kids' program series. Each week we'll have fun checking out a different topic (e.g.: Incredible Insects) through games and hands-on activities. See the website for details or call 218-384-4610 for more information.

Sunday, June 26

1–3 p.m.

Sundays Outdoors: Camping 101

This week: Learn how to build a campfire, how to stay comfortable in any weather, sample some items you've cooked over an open fire, and what should be on your packing list. Meet at the River Inn Interpretive Center.

Saturday, July 2

1–2 p.m.

Through the Lens: Digital Photography

Discover the park through a camera lens. Learn tips and tricks for taking memorable photographs as we take a short nature walk. Bring your own camera or borrow one of ours. Meet at the River Inn Interpretive Center.

Saturday, July 9

3:30–5 p.m.

Archery in the Park **R**

Join certified archery instructors for hands-on coaching and give archery a try. This activity is suitable for anyone age eight or older. Children 15 and under must be accompanied by an adult. Personal archery equipment is not allowed due to weapons rules within Minnesota state parks. Equipment is provided; register by calling the park.

Sunday, July 10

1–3 p.m.

Sundays Outdoors: Archery

This week: Join certified archery instructors for hands-on coaching and give archery a try. This activity is suitable for ages eight and older. Equipment is provided. Personal archery equipment is not allowed due to weapons rules within Minnesota state parks. Join us anytime during this program and try your hand at target shooting. Meet at the River Inn Interpretive Center.

Sunday, July 17

1–3 p.m.

Sundays Outdoors: Biking Adventures

See listing on page 60 for details.

JAY COOKE STATE PARK *continued*

Saturday, July 23 1–3 p.m.

Wildlife Adventures Day

Stop in at the River Inn Interpretive Center anytime for a family-friendly, wild adventure. Become a track detective, investigate skulls and bones, see a snake up close, meet the magnificent monarch or learn how birds fly.

Sunday, July 24 1–3 p.m.

Sundays Outdoors: Camping 101

See previous listing for details.

Sunday, July 31 1–3 p.m.

Sundays Outdoors: Geocaching 101 **R**

This week: After learning about geocaching and how to use a GPS unit, explore the park for hidden caches. A limited number of GPS units are available. Registration required; call 218-384-4610.

3 p.m. Friday, Aug. 5 – 1 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 7

Becoming an Outdoors Woman—Biking and Outdoor Skills Weekend **R** **F**

This is a new class offered by Minnesota state parks and BOW. Outdoor-skill classes include a four-hour bike ride on the Willard Munger State Trail, geocaching, a geology hike, Dutch oven class with dinner, and beginning archery. Two nights camper cabin lodging, Saturday dinner, instruction and equipment are included. You'll need your own bike and helmet. Cost is \$60, limit of 24. Register by calling Linda Bylander at 218-833-8628.

Sunday, Aug. 7 noon–3 p.m.

Sundays Outdoors: Archery

See previous listing for details.

Sunday, Aug. 21 1–3 p.m.

Sundays Outdoors: Geocaching 101

See previous listing for details.

Sunday, Aug. 28 1–3 p.m.

Sundays Outdoors: I Can Fish!

See previous listing for details.

Sunday, Sept. 4 1–3 p.m.

Sundays Outdoors: Biking Adventures

See page 60 for details.



Explore Minnesota Tourism

Lac qui Parle State Park

320-734-4450 ext. 225

Friday, April 1 8–10 p.m.

Minnesota Star Watch with Mike Lynch

Join us for a night of star watching with meteorologist Mike Lynch from WCCO Radio. The prairie sky will give you the perfect view, and Mike will tell stories about constellations. The presentation will start in the Education Center and will be followed by star watching with Mike's telescopes. Bring warm clothes and lawn chairs.

Saturday, May 14 1–3 p.m.

Saturday, May 28 1–3 p.m.

Go Fly a Kite!

Have some fun and use the prairies for what they are known for: wind! Park staff will track the longest kite-in-flight and the highest-flying kite, and prizes will be awarded. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Meet at the upper campground.

Saturday, May 28 6:30–7:30 p.m.

Saturday, July 30 6:30–7:30 p.m.

The World According to Billy Thompson

Local historian Billy Thompson will give a presentation on the history of Milan and the Lac qui Parle area. Billy, owner and operator of The Arv Hus Museum in Milan, will share stories and interesting life lessons. Meet at the Lower Campground Warming Shelter on May 28. On July 30, meet at the Education Center.

**FREE
Park
Entry**

Saturday, June 11 9 a.m.–noon

I Can Fish!

Bring your family to the boat and dock access on the west side of Lac qui Parle Lake at the lower campground. Park staff and volunteers will help kids fish and identify the fish caught. No license is required when fishing from shore in the state park if you are a Minnesota resident. Equipment is limited, bring your own equipment if you have it. Meet at the boat access.

Saturday, July 9 1–4 p.m.

The Beach Rocks!

Bring swimsuits, sunscreen and curiosity to the park's swimming beach, where kids will have fun learning about rocks and minerals of Minnesota through various hands-on activities.

Saturday, Aug. 21 9 a.m.–4 p.m.

Dragonfly and Damselfly Workshop

Spend a day outdoors learning about and identifying dragonflies and damselflies! Co-sponsored by the Minnesota Odonata Survey Project in conjunction with Rich Baker. Meet at the education center. Call 218-353-7443 or visit mndragonfly.org for more information.



Jim Williams

Lake Bemidji State Park

218-308-2300

Saturday, May 14 8–10:30 a.m.

Annual Spring Bird Survey

All levels of birders are invited to search for returning birds from Lake Bemidji to the Bog Walk and through aspen and jack-pine woods. Meet at the visitor center.

Weekly Pontoon Trips **R**

Naturalist-led pontoon tours explore different themes and areas of the park each week, weather permitting. On the “Paul Bunyan’s Footprint” tour, we will discover the history of the first city on the Mississippi. On the “Explore the Mississippi River” tour, we will travel to the northernmost point on the Mississippi River. On the “Explore Lake Bemidji” tour, we will discover the seasonal changes and lake water quality as we explore Lake Bemidji. Check with the park for dates and times. Registration required; call 218-308-2300.

Sunday, May 29 8–10 a.m.

All Camp Pancake Breakfast **F**

Join us for an all-you-can eat pancake breakfast. Cost is \$5 for adults, \$3 for children ages seven to 12 and free for children age six and under. All proceeds are used to fund a variety of special park projects. This breakfast is sponsored by the Friends of Lake Bemidji State Park. Meet at the park dining hall.



Sundays, May 29–July 3 11:30 a.m.–2 p.m.

Bog Watcher Sundays

The naturalist will be roving the boardwalk to help you locate the flowers of the bog. During this period of late May to early July visitors will find a variety of orchids in bloom and insect-eating plants.

Sundays, June 5–Aug. 28 1:30–2:30 p.m.

Performing Arts on Stage

Enjoy outdoor performances ranging from bluegrass and pop music to old-time melodrama. Bring a picnic lunch and enjoy the park. Hosted by Headwaters School of Music and the Arts and Bemidji Community Theater. Check with the park for specific performance schedule.



Sunday, July 31 8 a.m.–3 p.m.

Folkssports Walk and Bike **F**

Meet friends and walk scenic trails at your own pace for fun, fitness and friendship. Register at the picnic area, \$2 per person. The bike event will be on the Paul Bunyan State Trail. Sponsored by NorthStar Trail Travelers, 612-529-0552 or www.nstt.org.



Every other Friday, June 17–Sept. 2 8:30–11:30 a.m.

I Can Fish! Kids' Fishing Fridays **R**

Kids ages seven to 15 are invited on this guided fishing trip to develop fishing skills and explore our lake environment. For safety reasons, the program is limited to nine young anglers. Call 218-308-2300 to register. Join us once or many times every other Friday, June 17 through Sept. 2.

Sunday, July 31 11 a.m.–1:30 p.m.

International Bog Festival

The festival will be a celebration of the beauty of bogs and conservation awareness. A naturalist will be on the boardwalk to reveal the bogs' hidden mystery and value in the natural world.

Sunday, Sept. 4 8–10 a.m.

All Camp Pancake Breakfast **F**

See previous listing for details.



Lake Bronson State Park

218-754-2200

Saturday, May 7 9 a.m.–1 p.m.

GreenTouch Volunteer Day

Our annual cleanup day is a great opportunity to help improve the park and give to your community. You are invited to clear trails and campsites, rake and assist with other cleanup projects. This event is sponsored by PKM Electric Cooperative. Stop by anytime and join the fun! Meet at the park office.

Saturday, July 16 9 a.m.–4 p.m.

Minnesota Odonata Dragonfly Workshop

Join us for a presentation at the Visitor Center and then take a field trip to search for different dragonfly species in the park.

Saturday, Aug. 6 8 a.m.–8 p.m.

Sunday, Aug. 7 8 a.m.–5 p.m.

International Woodcarvers Festival

See how expert craftsmen and women from all over the world create works of art out of nothing more than a block of wood. In addition to the craft show and vendor stands, the festival includes a carnival with fun and games for kids, live music, an ice-cream social, and a steak fry.



Lake Carlos State Park

320-852-7200

Friday, June 10 1–5 p.m.

Aquatic Explorations

Tour Lake Carlos by pontoon with biologists as we explore the life of the lake and factors that affect it. Help monitor the effects of invasive zebra mussels on Lake Carlos by installing equipment to track their growth. Interact with biologists and enjoy free fishing from the shore of the park. All equipment provided. Meet at the amphitheater.

FREE
Park
Entry

Saturday, June 11 10 a.m.–3 p.m.

National Get Outdoors Day BioBlitz

Admission is free to all Minnesota state parks today! Family activities and food will be provided, then explore the park by accompanying experts from many organizations as we try to identify every living creature on the Maple Basswood Trail during a BioBlitz.

Geocaching 101

Discover the fun of geocaching and use a GPS unit to find hidden treasures at Minnesota state parks. You will receive hands-on training so you can participate in the statewide Geocaching Wildlife Safari, now in its final year. Bring your own GPS unit or use one of ours. Meet at the visitor center.

Saturday, June 18 1–2 p.m.

Saturday, July 16 1–2 p.m.

Saturday, Aug. 20 1–2 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 3 1–2 p.m.

Tuesday, June 21–Thursday, June 23 10 a.m.–2 p.m.

Nature Expert Summer Camp **R** **F**

This multi-day program will provide transportation to explore the prairies of Glacial Lakes State Park, the pines of Itasca State Park, and the hardwoods of Lake Carlos State Park. Intended for kids ages eight to 14, this day camp allows participants to earn patches and prizes. To register and for more information, call 320-852-7200. Program offered in partnership with Alexandria Community Education.

Saturday, July 2 10 a.m.–2 p.m.

Family Fishing Frenzy

Bring the whole family for a day of fishing fun. Learn all about fish; from how to catch and clean them to where they live and what they like to eat. Fish for free from the shores of the park. Other activities include fish printing, lure making and pop can casting. Meet at the amphitheater. All equipment provided.



Friday, July 8 1–5 p.m.

Aquatic Explorations

See previous listing for details.

Fridays, July 8–July 29 7–8 p.m.

DNR Jobs

Meet the people who preserve and protect our outdoor heritage, from fish biologists and archeologists to conservation officers and park rangers. Equipment, tricks of the trade, stories and activities will be shared by a different professional each Friday. Call 320-852-7200 for more information.

Saturday, Aug. 13 10 a.m.–noon

Edible Bike Ride **R**

See listing on page 58 for details.



Rolf Hagberg

Lake Louise State Park

507-324-5249

Saturday, July 30 10 a.m.–noon, 1–3 p.m.,
or 3:30–5:30 p.m.

Paddle Time **R**

This naturalist-led paddle is an opportunity for novice canoeists to get on the water and learn about the park and about canoeing. All safety gear and canoes are provided. Registration is required; call 507-937-3251.



Lake Maria State Park

763-878-2325

Sunday, April 10 1–2 p.m.

The Amazing Hummingbird

Join naturalist and photographer Stan Tekiela as he shares his incredible photos of Minnesota's tiniest bird. You will learn about the hummingbird's natural history during this indoor presentation. Meet at the trail/interpretive center.

Saturday, April 16 11 a.m.–noon

All Things Connected

The Minnesota Zoo-mobile will be on hand for this live animal presentation, focusing on how Minnesota animals are connected. Meet at the trail/interpretive center.

Saturday, April 30 10–11 a.m.

Fish of Lake Maria

DNR Fisheries personnel will be on hand for a show-and-tell of fish that can be found in Maria Lake. You'll see live fish, learn their habits and may even pick up a few fishing tips. Meet at the trail/interpretive center.

Saturday, May 7 10 a.m.–2 p.m.

GreenTouch Volunteer Day **R**

Here's your chance to volunteer at Lake Maria for spring cleanup projects. Come prepared to work outdoors. Refreshments and snacks will be provided. Volunteers will not need a vehicle permit for the day. Registration required; call 763-878-2325.

Saturday, May 14 10 a.m.–3 p.m.

Backpack Camping Workshop

Come to a series of hands-on camping demonstrations to help you plan and enjoy a backpacking trip. Topics include: camping equipment, setting up your campsite, cooking, "Leave No Trace" ethics, rope skills and outdoor safety. Refreshments and snacks provided. Call 763-878-2325 for the schedule of events.

Saturday, June 11 11 a.m.–noon

Raptor Center Program

Admission is free to all Minnesota state parks today! The Raptor Center will be at the park with live birds for this popular program. You'll enjoy a close-up view of the raptors while you learn about their natural history.

FREE
Park
Entry



Lake Shetek State Park

507-763-3256

Friday, July 1 9–10 p.m.

Universe in the Park

The University of Minnesota Astronomy Department will take you on a spectacular tour of the night sky. After a short presentation, you are invited to view planets, stars and other celestial sights through telescopes. If it's cloudy, the presentation will still occur. Meet at the picnic grounds amphitheater.

Saturday, July 9 1–3 p.m.

I Can Fish! **R**

This is a family-oriented fishing program that will teach basic fishing skills and safety. No experience is necessary and we will supply the rods and reels for you! All minors must be accompanied by an adult. This program is co-sponsored by MinnAqua. Minnesota residents do not need a fishing license to participate. Registration is required; call 507-763-3256.

Friday, Aug. 19 9–10 p.m.

Steven's Panorama

View the Steven's Panorama, a collection of paintings that were created by Rochester artist John Stevens that told the story of the tragedy at Lake Shetek to the people of the Upper Midwest. Meet at the picnic grounds amphitheater.

Saturday, Aug. 20 9–10 p.m.

A Visitor from the Past

Learn about the early settlers of Lake Shetek who had a dream for a settlement and a new life. Meet Mrs. Lavina Eastlick, one of the settlers from the past, as she shares her story of how life changed during the U.S.-Dakota Conflict of 1862. Meet at the picnic grounds amphitheater.





Tom Thulen

Lake Vermilion State Park

c/o Soudan Underground Mine State Park:
218-753-2245

Saturday, June 25–Sunday, June 26 noon–noon
Lake Vermilion BioBlitz 2011

Join scientists, natural resource specialists and naturalists to help inventory various plant and animal species at Minnesota's newest state park. The goal is to count as many species of plants and animals as possible in a particular area within a 24-hour timeframe. The event will be outside rain or shine; please dress for the weather and bring a water bottle. Call 218-753-2245 or go to mndnr.gov for more information and a complete schedule of events.



Rolf Hagberg

Maplewood State Park

218-863-8383

Saturday, June 4 1:30–2:30 p.m.
"Diary of a Worm" Children's Program

Join Mary for story time and to create a project that goes with the story! "Diary of a Worm" by Doreen Cronin and Harry Bliss is a wonderful story from a worm's point of view. Children will be making worm bookmarks and must be accompanied by an adult. Ask at the office for location.

Saturday, June 4 4–5 p.m.

Campfire Cooking 101 **R F**

Campers will be given the opportunity to prepare and taste several campfire-made dishes. This class is open to the whole family; children must attend with an adult. All supplies are included. Reservations required; call 218-863-8383. Cost is \$3/person.

Saturday, July 2 1:30–2:30 p.m.

"All About Deer" Children's Program

Join Mary for story time and have fun creating a project that goes with the story! "All About Deer" by Jim Arnosky teaches children about deer and their eating habits and habitats. Children will be making deer headbands and playing a game. Ask at the office for location.

Saturday, Aug. 6 1:30–2:30 p.m.

"Box Turtle at Long Pond" Children's Program

Join Mary for story time and have fun creating a project that goes with the story! "Box Turtle at Long Pond" by William T. George is the story of a turtle's day. Children will be making turtle sun catchers. Ask at the office for location.

Saturday, Aug. 6 4–5 p.m.

Sand Candles

Make a beautiful candle using items from nature. This class is open to the whole family; children must attend with an adult. Ask at the office for location.



Mille Lacs Kathio State Park

320-532-3269

Archery in the Park

Join certified archery instructors for hands-on coaching and give archery a try. This activity is suitable for anyone age eight or older. Children 15 and under must be accompanied by an adult. Personal archery equipment is not allowed due to weapons rules within Minnesota state parks. Equipment is provided; stop by the interpretive center anytime.

Friday, May 27 5–7:30 p.m.

Saturday, June 18 1–4:30 p.m.

Saturday, July 16 9–11:30 a.m.

Saturday, Aug. 6 2–4:30 p.m.

MILLE LACS KATHIO STATE PARK *continued*

Saturday, May 28 10 a.m.–noon

Outdoor Photography Workshop

Bring your camera for an outdoor photography expedition with professional photographer Steve Kohls. Learn about tips, techniques, and equipment. Meet at the interpretive center.



Fridays, June 10–Sept. 2 3–5 p.m.

I Can Fish! Fishing Fridays

Join us every Friday, June 10 through Sept. 2, as we learn all about fishing by identifying species, casting and more. Then take your skills and fish with us along the shore of the Rum River. Equipment, bait and instruction are provided. Minnesota residents do not need a fishing license. Meet at the interpretive center.

Sunday, June 12 9 a.m.–4 p.m.

Outdoor Recreation Day

See and try out recreation gear, including fishing tackle, canoes, kayaks, archery equipment and camping gear. Skills sessions include campfire building, camp cooking, wilderness camping, Leave No Trace, kids' casting range, geocaching and Archery in the Park. The bird-watching class begins at 9 a.m. Displays and skills sessions begin at 10 a.m. Geocaching 101 begins at 1 p.m.

Geocaching 101

Discover the fun of geocaching and use a GPS unit to find hidden treasures at Minnesota state parks. You will receive hands-on training so you can participate in the statewide Geocaching Wildlife Safari, now in its final year. Bring your own GPS unit or use one of ours. Meet at the interpretive center.

Saturday, June 25 11 a.m.–noon

Sunday, July 10 11 a.m.–noon

Saturday, Aug. 13 11 a.m.–noon

Saturday, July 23 8–9 p.m.

Remarkable Reptiles

Live turtles, lizards and snakes will illustrate this family-oriented program about reptiles. Meet at the council ring next to the interpretive center. In case of rain, the program will be held inside the interpretive center.

Saturday, July 30 10 a.m.–noon

Outdoor Photography Workshop

See previous listing for details.

Saturday, Aug. 27 8:30–10 p.m.

Universe in the Park

The University of Minnesota Astronomy Department will take you on a spectacular tour of the night sky. After a short indoor presentation, participants are invited to view planets, stars and other celestial sights through telescopes. If it's cloudy, the indoor presentation will still occur. Meet at the interpretive center.

**Moose Lake State Park**

218-485-5420

Saturdays, June 25 and Aug. 13 4–6 p.m.

Archery in the Park

Join certified archery instructors for hands-on coaching and give archery a try. This activity is suitable for anyone age eight and older. Children 15 and under must be accompanied by an adult. Personal archery equipment is not allowed due to weapons rules within Minnesota state parks. Equipment is provided; meet in the picnic area.

**FREE
Park
Entry**

Saturday, July 16

"Agate Days" Open House

Free admission into the park today! Celebrate the wonder of Lake Superior Agates in conjunction with Moose Lake's "Agate Days" Festival. Visitors may explore the park's Agate/Geological Center and the fascinating gem and mineral displays. This popular, local festival features a two-day gem and mineral show, music, art, food and the world famous "Agate Stampede." Call the park for more information.

**Nerstrand Big Woods State Park**

507-333-4840



Sunday, May 29 8 a.m.–3 p.m.

Minnesota Folkssport Walk

Join the Northstar Trail Travelers at the park and enjoy the company of fellow walkers on the trails as you converse or listen to the sounds of nature. Experience the tranquility of the park trails while getting some exercise. Call the park for more details.



Old Mill State Park

218-437-8174

Thursday, July 28

11 a.m.–4 p.m.

Grinding Day

Stop by anytime to witness the newly-restored, century-old gristmill and steam engine as it grinds flour the old-fashioned way. Listen to Lars Larson describe life at the mill and imagine life in the late 19th century. The pioneer cabin will be open for viewing, and fresh, stoneground flour will be available for purchase.



Rice Lake State Park

507-455-5871



Saturday, May 28

Volksmarch

Join the Northstar Trail Travelers at the park and enjoy the company of fellow walkers on the trails as you converse or listen to the sounds of nature. Experience the tranquility of the park trails while getting some exercise. Call the park for more information.



St. Croix State Park

320-384-6591

Saturday, May 14

2–3:30 p.m.

Geocaching 101

Discover the fun of geocaching and use a GPS unit to find hidden treasures at Minnesota state parks. You will receive hands-on training so you can participate in the statewide Geocaching Wildlife Safari, now in its final year. Bring your own GPS unit or use one of ours. Meet in the St. Croix Lodge.

Saturday, June 4

noon–4 p.m.

In Shape, Outdoors!

See listing on page 60 for details.

Thursday, June 16

noon–8 p.m.

Bird Bonanza Weekend

Attention bird enthusiasts: Join us for St. Croix State Parks's third annual bird count and programs including Live Raptor, Birding for Beginners, Build a Bluebird House, Nighttime Owl Prowl, Photo Contest, and much more! Birding kits can be checked out for free at the park. See full schedule online.

Friday, June 24

6–8 p.m.

Going Batty **R** **F**

Meet the naturalist in the picnic area to learn why we should encourage, not fear, bats. Make your own bat house to bring home by reserving a \$7 kit by calling 320-384-6591; one per family.

Friday, July 1–Sunday, July 3

Outdoor Independence Weekend

The weekend will feature programs for all skill levels. Topics will include archery, geocaching, paddling, fishing, campsite skills and a very special campground cook-off! Call 320-384-6591 or see online calendar for full schedule of events and cook-off registration.

Saturday, July 2

11 a.m.–1 p.m.

Friday, July 22

11 a.m.–1 p.m.

Saturday, Aug. 20

11 a.m.–1 p.m.

Archery in the Park

Join certified archery instructors for hands-on coaching and give archery a try. This activity is suitable for anyone age eight or older. Children 15 and under must be accompanied by an adult. Personal archery equipment is not allowed due to weapons rules within Minnesota state parks. Equipment is provided; meet at the All Seasons Trail Center parking lot.

ST. CROIX STATE PARK *continued*

Saturday, July 9 2–3:30 p.m.

Build a Bluebird House **R** **F**

Love birds? Encourage the bluebird, traditionally a symbol of happiness, to live in your backyard by building a bird house. This is an inexpensive and easy project, even for the least-experienced woodworker. Reserve your \$4 birdhouse kit by calling 320-384-6050. Limit two per family.

Saturday, July 16 2–4:30 p.m.

Canoe Caravan **F**

Travel like the first explorers on a two-hour (five-mile) trip down the peaceful St. Croix National Scenic Riverway. Canoes and kayaks are available to rent. Reserve your boat and get more information by calling 320-384-0508. Meet outside the camp store.

Saturday, July 23 11 a.m.–1 p.m.

Digital Nature Photography **R**

Come to the St. Croix Lodge for an introduction to nature photography. Cameras provided. Please call 320-384-6050 to register.

Saturday, July 30 2–3:30 p.m.

Build a Bluebird House **R** **F**

See previous listing for details.

Friday, Aug. 5 3–4:30 p.m.

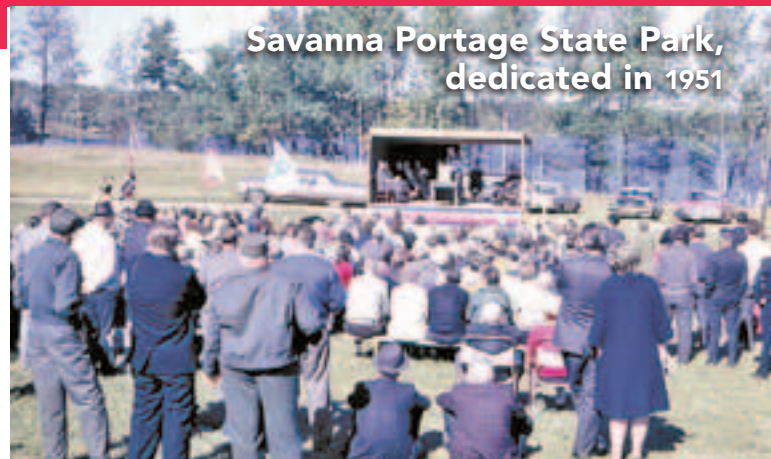
CCC GeoHunt

Remnants of the abandoned Civilian Conservation Corps camp tell the story of the CCC workers. Use a GPS to find the hidden clues and uncover the story! Allow time to bike or walk the 1.5-mile trail to meet at the camp. GPS units available for free checkout.

Saturday, Aug. 20 3–5:30 p.m.

Archery in the Park

See previous listing for details.

**Savanna Portage State Park**

218-426-3271

Archery in the Park

Join certified archery instructors for hands-on coaching and give archery a try. This activity is suitable for anyone age eight or older. Children 15 and under must be accompanied by an adult. Personal archery equipment is not allowed due to weapons rules within Minnesota state parks. Equipment is provided. Please ask the park office for directions.

Saturday, June 18

10 a.m.–1 p.m.

Saturday, July 16

10 a.m.–1 p.m.

Saturday, Aug. 27

10 a.m.–1 p.m.

Saturday, Aug. 13

10 a.m.–2 p.m.

50th Birthday Celebration

Join us for the park's 50th anniversary! Your family will enjoy a fun-filled day of hiking, canoe lessons, cultural and nature presentations, and other activities on this historic day. Discover why this park came to be and the role it played in history. Cake served while it lasts!

Scenic State Park

218-743-3362

Saturday, May 28

7–8 p.m.

History of the CCC

Learn about the Civilian Conservation Corps and how they helped build Scenic State Park. Find out how the New Deal Act allowed the country to survive through the Great Depression while building memorable places. Meet at the historic CCC Lodge.

Saturday, May 28

2:30–3:30 p.m.

Plants 101

Join us for a walk to learn the multiple uses of plants and how to identify a good plant from a poisonous plant. Meet at the historic CCC Lodge for this hour of interesting facts. In case of rain, the program will be in the lodge.



Sibley State Park

320-354-2055

Saturday, April 16 2–3 p.m.

Bluebird Conservation Story

Come see the beautiful eastern bluebird. Listen to its story and find out what you can do to help it survive and thrive. There will be a drawing for a free bluebird poster! Meet at the interpretive center.

Saturday, May 21 9–10 a.m.

Bird Songs of the Forest

The forest is alive with the songs and calls of birds. With the help of a “birdsong identifiyer” we will identify different bird songs and discuss the reasons for singing. Meet at the interpretive center.

Saturday, June 18 10–11 a.m.

Geocaching 101 **R**

Discover the fun of geocaching and use a GPS unit to find hidden treasures at Minnesota state parks. You will receive hands-on training so you can participate in the statewide Geocaching Wildlife Safari, now in its final year. Bring your own GPS unit or use one of ours. Children must be age eight and older and accompanied by an adult. Registration required; sign up at interpretive center or call 320-354-2055.

Saturday, July 16 10–11 a.m.

Prairie Wildflower ID and Use

Take a stroll to examine and identify native prairie wildflowers and explore their historical uses. We will also examine the park staff’s efforts to restore this rare natural resource. Free prairie wildflower poster! Meet at the interpretive center.

Saturday, Aug. 13 10–11:30 a.m.

Digital Photography 101

Learn how to enjoy the outdoors using a digital camera. Take a walk with a park naturalist to learn how to take pictures and share your nature discoveries! Digital camera provided. Limit 12; must be age 14 or older or accompanied by an adult. Sign up at the interpretive center or call 320-354-2055 for more information. Meet at the interpretive center.

Take-A-Kid Fishing Weekend



Minnesotans who want to catch some quality family time are encouraged to take advantage of Take-A-Kid Fishing weekend, which is June 10–12, 2011. Minnesota residents age 16 and older can fish for free during these days when they accompany an angler age 15 or under. Visit mndnr.gov for more information including videos, fishing locations, fishing regulations and fish ID.



Admission is FREE to all Minnesota state parks on June 11.





Soudan Underground Mine Tours

*Mine Tours **F**

May 28–Sept. 30 10 a.m.–4 p.m.
Weekends in October (except Oct. 29 and 30)

Explore the world of underground mining on this 90-minute tour. Grab a hard hat and descend half-a-mile into the earth. Enjoy a short train ride to the last and deepest area mined. Wear sturdy shoes and bring warm clothes for the mine's 51 °F temperature. A perfect way to beat the heat!

*Physics Lab Tours **F**

May 28–Sept. 30 Call for tour times
Weekends in October (except Oct. 29 and 30)

The Soudan Underground Laboratory is the leading deep underground science and engineering laboratory in the United States. Scientists from around the world have been working there for more than 25 years, trying to answer numerous questions: Is matter completely stable? What is the nature of fundamental forces? Can we identify the Dark Matter that seems to permeate our universe? Learn the meanings of acronyms like MINOS detector (Main Injector Neutrino Oscillation Search), CDMS (Cryogenic Dark Matter Search), and WIMP (Weakly Interacting Massive Particles).

*All tours meet at the visitor center. Groups of 10 or more should call 218-753-2245 for reservations. There is a minimum charge of \$90 per tour for groups (\$40 for school groups) with a 15-day advance reservation.

Tour rates for individuals:

Adults (age 13+): \$10

Youth (age 5–12): \$6

Children under 5: No charge

Soudan Underground Mine State Park

218-753-2245

FREE
Park
Entry

Saturday, June 11 noon–4 p.m.

Vermilion Drift Book Signing

Admission is free to all Minnesota state parks today! Join us for a book signing as William Kent Krueger, author of *Vermilion Drift*, visits the park. Find out more about the book and experience the mine around which Krueger modeled his story, and have fun.

Tuesday, June 21 6:30–8 p.m.

Geocaching 101

Discover the fun of geocaching and use a GPS unit to find hidden treasures at Minnesota state parks. You will receive hands-on training so you can participate in the statewide Geocaching Wildlife Safari, now in its final year. Bring your own GPS unit or use one of ours. Meet at the visitor center.

Saturday, June 25–Sunday, June 26 noon–noon

Lake Vermilion BioBlitz 2011

See "Lake Vermilion State Park" listing on page 34.

Saturday, July 16 10 a.m.–5 p.m.

Heritage Day Celebration

Celebrate the heritage of the Iron Range with mine tours, blacksmithing and rock-knapping demonstrations, archery instruction, geology and nature hikes, traditional food and music, and many other family activities. A schedule of activities will be available at the visitor center.

Tuesday, July 19 7–8:30 p.m.

The Early Days of the Duluth & Iron Range Railroad

Mining here would not have been possible without the Duluth & Iron Range Railroad. Learn about the railroad during its early years from historian Todd Lindahl. The program will discuss structures, locomotives and other aspects of the railroad and its impact on the Iron Range. Meet at the visitor center.

Batty About Bats

Join us in a search for these "creatures of the night" and learn their special adaptations and abilities. The evening includes games, songs and the chance to see the bats begin their nightly search for food. The program is held outside; dress appropriately. Meet at the Alaska Shaft (use the winter/service entrance to the park).

Tuesday, July 26 7:30–9:30 p.m.

Monday, Aug. 1 7:30–9:30 p.m.

Saturday, Aug. 6 7:30–9:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Aug. 10 7–9 p.m.

Tuesday, Aug. 23 8–9:30 p.m.

Night Sky of the Northwoods

Join us on a spectacular tour of the night skies. After a short presentation, you will see celestial sights through viewing devices. If it is cloudy, an indoor presentation will still occur. Please use the winter (service) entrance and park by the park office. Be sure to dress for being outdoors. You will be directed where to go from the parking area.



Split Rock Lighthouse State Park

218-226-6377

FREE
Park
Entry

Saturday, June 11 10 a.m.–6 p.m.

Split Rock Lighthouse Open House

Admission is free to all Minnesota state parks today! Visitors can tour the historic lighthouse and explore the park free of charge. Call 218-226-6377 for more information.

Saturday, June 25 10 a.m.–6 p.m.

Split Rock Lighthouse Children's Day

This popular annual event is highlighted by free historic site tours for kids age 17 and under. Visitors will hear stories of the children who have lived there and join in special games, crafts, and a foghorn sound-alike contest.

Friday, July 29 9:30–11:30 a.m.

Biking into the North Shore's Past

See listing on page 58 for details.



Temperance River State Park

218-663-7476

Friday, June 24 9–10 p.m.

Minnesota's Mysterious Moose

Join us for a slideshow about Minnesota's largest wild animal. You will be introduced to this elusive creature of the Northland. Meet near the shower building in the upper campground and bring a blanket or chair to sit on.

Saturday, July 2 10–11:30 a.m.

Nature Cart: Geocaching

Try geocaching and discover how this popular activity can help you learn about history and wildlife and find hidden treasures at Minnesota state parks. Cart will be located in the picnic grounds.

Saturday, July 9 10–11:30 a.m.

Nature Cart: Wild About Wolves

Discover what makes wolves such important predators in Northern Minnesota. Located on River Gorge Path to Hidden Falls.

Saturday, July 30 10 a.m.–2 p.m.

Archery in the Park

Join certified archery instructors for hands-on coaching and give archery a try. This activity is suitable for anyone age eight or older. Children 15 and under must be accompanied by an adult. Personal archery equipment is not allowed due to weapons rules within Minnesota state parks. Equipment is provided; stop in at the park office for directions to the archery site.

Saturday, Aug. 13 10–11:30 a.m.

Nature Cart: Geocaching

See previous listing for details.

Saturday, Aug. 20 8:30–9:30 p.m.

The Gray Wolf

Back from the brink, the wolves of Minnesota are once again roaming the Northland. Join us for a slideshow that will introduce you to this symbol of the wilderness. Meet near the shower building in the upper campground, and bring a blanket or chair to sit on.

Saturday, Sept. 3 10 a.m.–2 p.m.

Archery in the Park

See previous listing for details.



Tettegouche State Park

218-226-6365

Thursday, June 16 10–11:30 a.m.

Nature Cart: Geocaching

Stop by the nature cart near the park office parking lot to discover the fascinating challenge of geocaching. Explore hidden treasures and learn about history and wildlife at Minnesota state parks. A limited number of GPS units will be available free of charge.

TETTEGOUCHE STATE PARK *continued*

Sunday, July 3 9–10 p.m.

Minnesota's Mysterious Moose

Join us for a slideshow that will introduce you to this elusive creature of the Northland. Meet outside the park office, and bring a blanket or chair to sit on.

Sunday, July 10 10–11:30 a.m.

Nature Cart: Wild About Wolves

Stop by the nature cart near the park office to discover what makes wolves such important predators in Northern Minnesota.

Saturday, July 23 3–4:30 p.m.

Nature Cart: Worm Woes

Stop by the nature cart located near the park office to see how worms are having a big impact on our forests. Presentations are ongoing.

Sunday, July 31 10 a.m.–2 p.m.

Archery in the Park

Join certified archery instructors for hands-on coaching and give archery a try. This activity is suitable for anyone age eight or older. Children 15 and under must be accompanied by an adult. Personal archery equipment is not allowed due to weapons rules within Minnesota state parks. Equipment is provided; stop in at the park office for directions to the archery site.

Friday, Aug. 5 8:30–10 p.m.

Universe in the Park

The University of Minnesota Astronomy Department will take you on a spectacular tour of the night skies. After a short presentation, participants will see celestial sights through provided telescopes. If it is cloudy, an indoor presentation will still occur. Meet at the park office.

Saturday, Aug. 6 8:30–9:30 p.m.

The Gray Wolf

Back from the brink, the wolves of Minnesota are once again roaming the Northlands. Join us for a slideshow that will introduce you to this symbol of the wilderness. Meet by the park office, and bring a blanket or chair to sit on.

Sunday, Aug. 14 10–11:30 a.m.

Nature Cart: Geocaching

See previous listing for details.

Sunday, Sept. 4 10 a.m.–2 p.m.

Archery in the Park

See previous listing for details.

**Whitewater State Park**

507-932-3007

Saturday, April 16 1–3 p.m.

Fossil Field Trip

Find and keep fossils of plants and animals that lived here hundreds of millions of years ago. Bring transportation; the site is nine miles from the park. Meet at the visitor center.

Sundays, May 8–Aug. 28 12:30–2:30 p.m.

Thursdays, June 2–Sept. 1 6:30–8:30 p.m.

Bird-banding Demonstrations

Program participants will have the opportunity to handle and release birds after they have been studied, observed and banded. Find out how wildlife researchers learn where birds go and how long they live. Meet at the visitor center.

Sunday, May 15 1–2:30 p.m.

Wildflowers Along the Trail

See listing on page 59 for details.

Sundays, May 29–Aug. 28 10:30 a.m.–noon

I Can Fish! Fishing Sundays

You can trout fish in the park! Join us at the South Picnic Area for fishing fun. Rods, reels, and tackle will be provided at this activity designed to introduce trout fishing to beginning anglers, families and youth groups. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Bring your own bait; worms work best. Fishing licenses and trout stamps are not required for this activity.

Geocaching 101

Discover the fun of geocaching and using a GPS unit to find hidden treasures at Minnesota state parks. You will receive hands-on training so you can participate in the statewide Geocaching Wildlife Safari, now in its final year. Bring your own GPS unit or use one of ours. Meet in the visitor center.

Saturday, June 4 1–2:30 p.m.

Saturday, July 16 1–2:30 p.m.

Saturday, Aug. 13 1–2:30 p.m.



WHITEWATER STATE PARK *continued*

David Fennel

Friday, June 10 7:30–8:30 p.m.

Peregrine Falcon Walk

After an absence of 47 years, peregrine falcons returned in 2009 to nest successfully in the park! The peregrine falcon is known for its dramatic migration and amazing flight. Meet at the Nature Store amphitheater for a walk to see the peregrines' nest. Spotting scopes and binoculars will be provided.

FREE
Park
Entry

Saturday, June 11 1–4 p.m.

National Get Outdoors Day/Family Outdoor Fair

Admission is free to all Minnesota state parks today! Join us rain or shine at the visitor center and go between stations to try new outdoor activities. Stations will include archery, bird watching basics and live raptor presentations, fishing activities and a live trout exhibit, GPS and geocaching, introduction to hunting, making walking sticks, and making a prairie-butterfly garden!

FREE
Park
Entry

Saturday, June 11 1–4 p.m.

Family Outdoor Paddling

Admission is free to all Minnesota state parks today! Several canoes and kayaks will be at the beach for you to try during these hours. No experience is necessary – we'll teach you the basics. This is a cooperative venture with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Upper Mississippi National Fish and Wildlife Refuge.

Saturday, June 18 1–3 p.m.

Rattlesnakes Along the Trail

See listing on page 60 for details.

Saturday, July 9 8–11 a.m.

Pondering Pelicans

In the Weaver Bottoms, a fascinating Mississippi River backwaters area, we will likely see several white pelicans and other wildlife. Discover the history of the Weaver Bottoms and the many paddling opportunities in Southeastern Minnesota. This activity is in cooperation with the Upper Mississippi National Fish and Wildlife Refuge. Canoes, kayaks, paddles and life jackets are available for free use, or bring your own equipment. Meet at the public water access in Weaver. Call 507-932-3007 for more information

Saturday, July 9 1–3 p.m.

Past and Present Wildlife Along the Trail

See listing on page 60 for details.

Friday, July 22 8:30–9:30 p.m.

A Hardwoods Home Companion

Join us for a quirky program featuring music, skits, and famous guests! Our sixth season of the Hardwoods Home Companion features naturalists who make learning about nature fun and entertaining! All ages will enjoy this program. Meet in the visitor center.

Saturday, Aug. 6 9–10:30 a.m.

Birds Along the Trail

See listing on page 60 for details.

Saturday, Aug. 13 8:30–10 p.m.

Perseid Meteor Shower

Experience "meteor whiplash" during the best meteor shower of the year! Members of the Hiawatha Valley Astronomical Society will provide telescopes, expertise and slides about our solar system, galaxy and beyond! There will be a program rain or shine. Meet in the visitor center.

Saturday, Aug. 13 8–11 a.m.

Paddle a Mississippi River Trail

Learn to canoe or kayak the Halfmoon Landing Trail. You'll find out about the many paddling opportunities in Southeastern Minnesota. Explore the backwaters and discover wildlife and other natural resources of the Upper Mississippi National Fish and Wildlife Refuge. Canoes, kayaks, paddles and life jackets are available for free use, or bring your own boats and equipment. We will meet at the public water access in Weaver. Call 507-932-3007 for more information.

Saturday, Aug. 20 9:30–11:30 a.m.

Tag a Monarch

Learn about our amazing native butterflies. After a presentation, we will explore the park to catch, tag and release monarch butterflies. You will be part of a study of the migration of these incredible insects. Bring your own butterfly net if you have one. Meet in the visitor center.

Friday, Aug. 26 8:30–9:30 p.m.

A Hardwoods Home Companion

See previous listing for details.

Saturday, Aug. 27 9–11 a.m.

Digital Photo Safari

Participants will learn the basics of digital photography. Equipment will be provided and all participants will receive a CD featuring their photos. Children are welcome to attend, but must be accompanied by an adult.

Saturday, Sept. 3 9–11:30 a.m.

Tag a Monarch

See previous listing for details.



Wild River State Park

651-583-2125 Park Naturalist: 651-583-2925

Spring Maple-syruping Series **R**

All are welcome to learn hands-on about the basics of maple syruping. You will learn the process of syruping from start to finish. Participants will receive a taste of the sweet treat, too! Registration required; call 651-583-2925. Limit: 30 participants per Sunday.

Sunday, April 3 11 a.m.–2 p.m.
 Sunday, April 10 11 a.m.–2 p.m.
 Sunday, April 17 11 a.m.–2 p.m.

Saturday, April 23 10 a.m.–3 p.m.

Landscape Photography Workshop **R F**

Join photographer Gary Nelson to learn the tricks to landscape photography. The morning will be spent indoors going over basic practices, and the afternoon will be spent outdoors doing more hands-on activities. Participants should bring their camera(s) and a lunch. Dress for indoor and outdoor activities. Cost is \$25/participant. Registration is required; call 651-583-2925.

Saturday, May 28 7:30–9 p.m.

Live Frogs and Other Amphibian Encounters!

See and touch Minnesota's native frogs, toads, and salamanders with local amphibian enthusiast Randy Korb. He'll share stories about unique characteristics and facts. Meet at the amphitheater.

Saturday, June 11 8 a.m.–10 p.m.

Seegwan Annual Spring Celebration and Open House

Admission is free to all Minnesota state parks today! Celebrate spring with Friends of Wild River State Park. Have fun participating in activities including bird walks, seed sowing, scavenger hunts, geocaching, digital photography and a live owl presentation. Get up close to live resident snakes and make crafts to take home. Master Gardeners will be selling native wildflowers and plants. See full schedule online.

FREE
Park
Entry

Saturday, July 9 6–10 p.m.

St. Croix Under the Stars: Moonlight Paddle **R F**

The naturalists will share legends of the river, stories of the stars and more during a 10-mile paddle on the St. Croix River. Participants are welcome to bring their own canoes or kayaks. Five canoes are available for free; call 651-583-2925 if interested. Lifejackets will be provided; bring water and snacks. We will carpool from the main boat landing to the Sunrise landing 10 miles north. Call 651-583-2925 to register.

Sunday, July 10 10 a.m.–2 p.m.

Now and Then: A Guided Paddle on the Scenic St. Croix **R F**

Paddle into the past with park naturalists along 10 miles of the scenic St. Croix River. Participants are welcome to bring their own canoes or kayaks. Five canoes are available for free; call 651-583-2925 if interested. Lifejackets will be provided; bring water and snacks. Carpooling will take place from the main boat landing to the Sunrise landing 10 miles north. Call 651-583-2925 to register.

Saturday, July 16 noon–4 p.m.

Tools from Stone! Flint Knapping

Join flintknapper Joel Osmond as he shares stories and secrets of making genuine spear tips and arrowheads during a demonstration of this ancient craft. Fun for all ages! Stop by anytime at the visitor center.

Friday, Aug. 12 9–10:30 p.m.

Saturday, Aug. 13 9–10:30 p.m.

Perseid Meteor Shower Watch

Join astronomy enthusiast Kenny Bahmer for an evening filled with spectacular stargazing! We will begin at the visitor center with an introduction to nebulae and galaxies, followed by an opportunity to make your own star wheel. From there, drive to the Sky Observation Area near the amphitheater for a look through telescopes and for interpretation of the Perseid meteor shower. Drop-ins welcome at the Sky Observation Area.

Sunday, Aug. 14 noon–2 p.m.

Monarch Tagging

Help track Wild River State Park's monarch butterflies as they migrate to Mexico! Discover the life of these fascinating flyers while catching and tagging them. This is a hands-on activity for all ages. Sturdy shoes and long pants are recommended for walking through the tall-grass prairie. Meet at the trail center.

Saturday, Aug. 20 6:30–8:30 p.m.

Beneath the Big Blue Sky: Musical Performance

Join Pierre Jacques Pleau and the North Star Theater Company for pioneer spirit, folklore and friendship. The live musical performance will be followed by music and folk dancing—fun for the whole family! For more information, visit northstartheatercompany.com. Meet at the amphitheater.

WILD RIVER STATE PARK *continued*

Sunday, Aug. 21 noon–2 p.m.
Monarch Tagging
 See previous listing for details.

Friday, Aug. 26 7–9 p.m.
Live Musical Entertainment!
Dancing Light

Witness the nationally recognized talents of Greg and Kiki Webb of Walker. Greg's acoustic flair combined with Kiki's remarkable vocals make for an entertaining, yet relaxing, evening. Meet at the amphitheater.

Saturday, Sept. 3 11 a.m.–3 p.m.
Autumn Harvest Day
 Experience the fun of fall harvest activities. Explore the prairie through geocaching, nature photography, and crafts. Help restore Wild River State Park's prairies by collecting native seeds, get up close to our live resident snakes, and more! Stop by the trail center anytime.



William O'Brien State Park

651-433-0500

Saturday, April 16 10:30 a.m.–noon
Geocaching 101 **R**
 Discover the fun of geocaching and use a GPS unit to find hidden treasures at Minnesota state parks. You will receive hands-on training so you can participate in the statewide Geocaching Wildlife Safari, now in its final year. Bring your own GPS unit or use one of ours. Call 651-433-0500 to reserve your spot.

Saturday, May 7 11 a.m.–4 p.m.
Celebration for William O'Brien State Park
 The Parks & Trails Council of Minnesota is hosting a celebration that will include a 5K fun run, food and beverages, activities for children, raffles, and music by two local bands. Stroll through newly acquired acres, including woods, a trout stream and native prairie.



Fridays, May 27–Aug. 19 6:30–8 p.m.
I Can Fish!

Explore the basics of fishing and fish identification with a park naturalist. Rods, reels and bait will be provided. Minnesota residents may fish from shore at the park without a license. Meet at the fishing pier on Lake Alice.

Sunday, May 29 10:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m.
Antique Train Ride **F**

Join us on the rails as we take an antique train ride. After a mile walk, a naturalist and a train conductor will take you on a tour of the St. Croix Valley. Learn some of the natural and cultural features and early history of the train era in the valley. At Osceola, Wisc., you can hop off the train to get lunch or continue on the train to Dresser. The train turns around at Dresser, briefly stops at Osceola, and continues back to the park. Bring snacks or lunch if you plan to stay on the train the entire time. Meet at the visitor center. The cost is \$15 for adults, \$10 for kids under age 16, and free for children under four.



Saturday, June 11 9 a.m.–noon and 1–3 p.m.
Fly-fishing Workshop! **R**

Admission is free to all Minnesota state parks today! The St. Croix River is a pristine place that harbors the elusive trout. Join National Park Ranger John Weinberg, the Fly Fishing Federation, Trout Unlimited and the St. Paul Fly Tiers for a day of fly fishing at the park. The morning class consists of fundamentals, equipment, and fly tying. The afternoon session (at the picnic grounds) consists of casting demonstrations with hands-on instruction in small groups. Bring your own equipment or use ours. Call 651-433-0500 for more information.

Saturday, June 18 10:30 a.m.–noon
Geocaching 101
 See previous listing for details.



Saturday, June 18 1–4 p.m.
Kids Fishing Clinic

Join MinnAqua for a kids fishing program at the park. Through hands-on activities, learn about different fish and their unique adaptations. We'll then head to the fishing pier and have fun seeing what we can catch! Equipment will be provided. Meet at the small shelter in the picnic grounds.

Friday, June 24 9–10:30 p.m.
Universe in the Park

The University of Minnesota Astronomy Department will take you on a spectacular tour of the night sky. After a short indoor presentation, you are invited to view planets, stars, and other celestial sights through telescopes. If it's cloudy, the indoor presentation will still occur. Meet at the visitor center.

Saturday, June 25 noon
Boom Day

Join the National Park Service and park staff as we celebrate the cultural and natural history of the historic Boom Site. A boom was used during the logging era to hold and sort the logs floating down the St. Croix River. Through special guided walks, speakers and pontoon rides, learn what makes this area so special.

WILLIAM O'BRIEN STATE PARK *continued*

Sunday, July 3 10:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m.

Antique Train Ride **F**

See previous listing for details.

Saturdays, July 16 and Aug. 13 7:30–8:30 p.m.

Help Wanted in the 1800s

Dwight Wilcox, local storyteller from Forest Lake, will present a characterization of Mr. Martin Mower, one of the first lumber barons of the St. Croix Valley. Mr. Mower was responsible for the passage of legislation that allowed the start-up of the St. Croix Boom Company and many changes that transformed the St. Croix River Valley. Meet at the visitor center fire ring.

Saturday, July 23 10:30 a.m.–noon

Geocaching 101 **R**

See previous listing for details.

Friday, July 29 9–10:30 p.m.

Universe in the Park

See previous listing for details.

Saturday, Aug. 6 1 p.m.

The Amazing Park Race!

Grab a partner, or your family and go on an amazing race! Just like the TV show, there will be puzzles to solve and activities to complete to get each clue. Finish first and win a prize! Start at the visitor center. Call 651-433-0500 for more information.

Friday, Aug. 12 9–10:30 p.m.

Perseid Meteor Shower Party

Join the University of Minnesota Astronomy Department as they take you on a special tour of the night skies. After a short talk on the Perseid Meteor Shower, they will take you outside to view some celestial sights through telescopes as we watch for shooting stars! If it's cloudy, we will still have the indoor presentation. Meet at the visitor center.

Saturday, Aug. 13 7:30–8:30 p.m.

Help Wanted in the 1800s

See previous listing for details.

Saturday, Aug. 20 1–4 p.m.

Kids Fishing Clinic

See previous listing for details.

Saturday, Aug. 27 6–8:30 p.m.

Kayaking

Join the National Park Service at the swimming beach area to learn about kayaking. We will have kayaks and life jackets for your use. Have fun trying something new!

Sunday, Sept. 4 10:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m.

Antique Train Ride **F**

See previous listing for details.



Richard Jensen

Zippel Bay State Park

218-783-6252



Saturday, June 11

National Get Outdoors Day

Admission is free to all Minnesota state parks today! The Friends of Zippel Bay will be greeting visitors with coffee and treats. DNR Fisheries staff will present the annual "State of the Walleye Population" for Lake of the Woods, including up-to-date information for all of our anglers. We'll have a special program for kids, too. Pack a picnic and make it a day to explore for everyone!

Saturday, Aug. 13 8:30 p.m.–midnight

Third Annual Meteor Shower Party

Join us far from city lights for a sunset, a moonrise, a meteor shower, a full moon and campfire for toasting marshmallows! Bring your spotting scopes and binoculars. Pack a big blanket or lounge chair for sky viewing, warm clothes, bug spray, snacks, and a flashlight. You'll be set for a spectacular evening! Meet at the Big Beach.



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