

2008 MINNESOTA STATE PARKS CALENDAR

Commemorating Minnesota's Sesquicentennial of Statehood



150 YEARS
of STATEHOOD
1858-2008



HERE 1475 FT.
ABOVE
THE OCEAN
THE MIGHTY
MISSISSIPPI
BEGINS
TO FLOW
ON ITS
WINDING WAY
2552 MILES
TO THE
GULF
OF MEXICO





MINNESOTA STATE PARKS

Find Your Place in History

CALENDARS ARE wonderfully revealing. The monthly collection of dates provides a road map to our lives—planning ahead and looking back.

In many ways, history allows us to do the same thing. By visiting our past, we can plan for the future, celebrate—and repeat our successes.

When a date as pivotal as the 150th anniversary of Minnesota's statehood comes around, it seems appropriate to take such a look back, if only to provide a renewed sense of who we are as we head into the next 150 years.

Since 1891, when Itasca State Park was established by the Minnesota Legislature, Minnesota State Parks has played a significant role in preserving history. Itasca's designation as a state park not only protected the old-growth pine forests and Headwaters of the Mississippi River, it set Minnesota on a course to establishing one of the oldest and most impressive park systems in the nation. Interstate State Park, established



Headwaters of Mississippi River - Itasca State Park

three years after Itasca, continued the path of preservation by protecting the natural wonders of the St. Croix Dalles. This time it was the phenomenal geologic history revealed in the canyonlike Dalles of the St. Croix River that was set aside for the viewing pleasure of thousands of tourists who regularly boarded riverboats to enjoy the scenery. Single-handedly and far before its time, this act of preserving such beloved natural resources as the Headwaters of the Mississippi River and the Dalles of the St. Croix River, launched Minnesota State Parks into one of its most important roles: protecting places to preserve our heritage.

In the year ahead, we hope this commemorative Minnesota State Park's calendar inspires you to relive past traditions and create new ones too. While the faces and places featured here in this calendar may not be of your family or favorite state park, they are familiar nonetheless, inherent to a history as uniquely Minnesotan as each of our 72 state parks and recreation areas.

Mille Lacs Kathio State Park Featured on Annual Permit

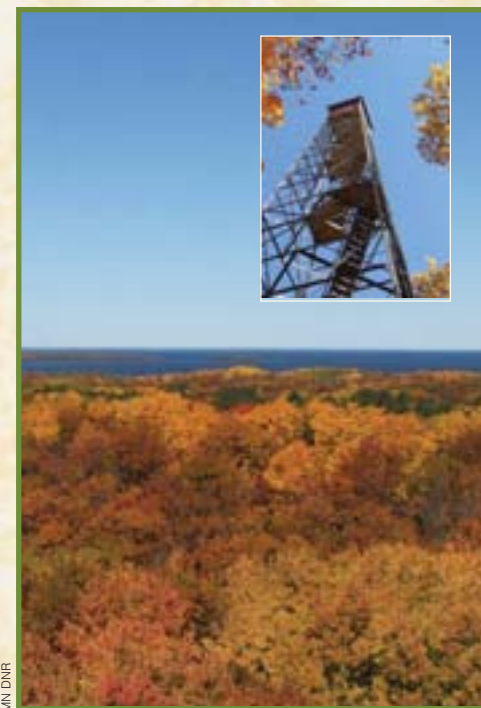
Situated on the shore of Mille Lacs Lake and along the banks of the wild and scenic Rum River, Mille Lacs Kathio State Park is steeped in the heritage of our state and nation. In the 1600s, European explorers Daniel Greysolon, Sieur Duluth and Father Louis Hennepin visited villages of Mdewakanton Dakota people who harvested resources here from the bountiful wooded landscape.

For more than a century archaeologists and historians have studied the forest, lakes and wetlands of Mille Lacs Kathio to discover information about the ancient cultures that gave rise to our state as we know it today. The information they uncovered led to the park being designated a National Historic Landmark District. In 2008, the 150th anniversary of Minnesota's statehood, Mille Lacs Kathio has been chosen to represent the diverse natural and human heritage that can be experienced in all Minnesota's state parks.

Visitors to Mille Lacs Kathio can experience this nationally recognized heritage through interpretive programs, displays at the visitor center and a walk along the self-guided Kathio Landmark Trail. Park visitors also can enjoy a variety of camping opportunities, birding, wildflower viewing, hiking, horseback riding, skiing and snowmobiling



DESIGN AND PHOTOS BY BILL GORGICA. DRAWING BY DICK MILLER. CERAMIC REPRODUCTION BY GRANT GOULTZ.



View from fire tower, Mille Lacs Kathio State Park.

on 40 miles of trails, and fishing and canoeing the wild and scenic Rum River. This 10,000-acre park is less than 100 miles from the Twin Cities.

Visitors can experience several different styles of camping year-round or even "rough it" in one of several heated camper cabins. The 100-foot high historic fire tower is well worth the climb for the majestic view it offers of Mille Lacs Lake. Take part in Kathio's extensive interpretive/

nature programs or hike on the park's varied trail system. Kathio has a wonderful swimming beach plus canoes or rowboats available for rent.

Take some time to visit the Mille Lacs Indian Museum located just three miles north on U.S. Hwy. 169. It is operated by the Minnesota Historical Society and exhibits the history of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, from the time they settled at Mille Lacs in the 1700s to the present day.

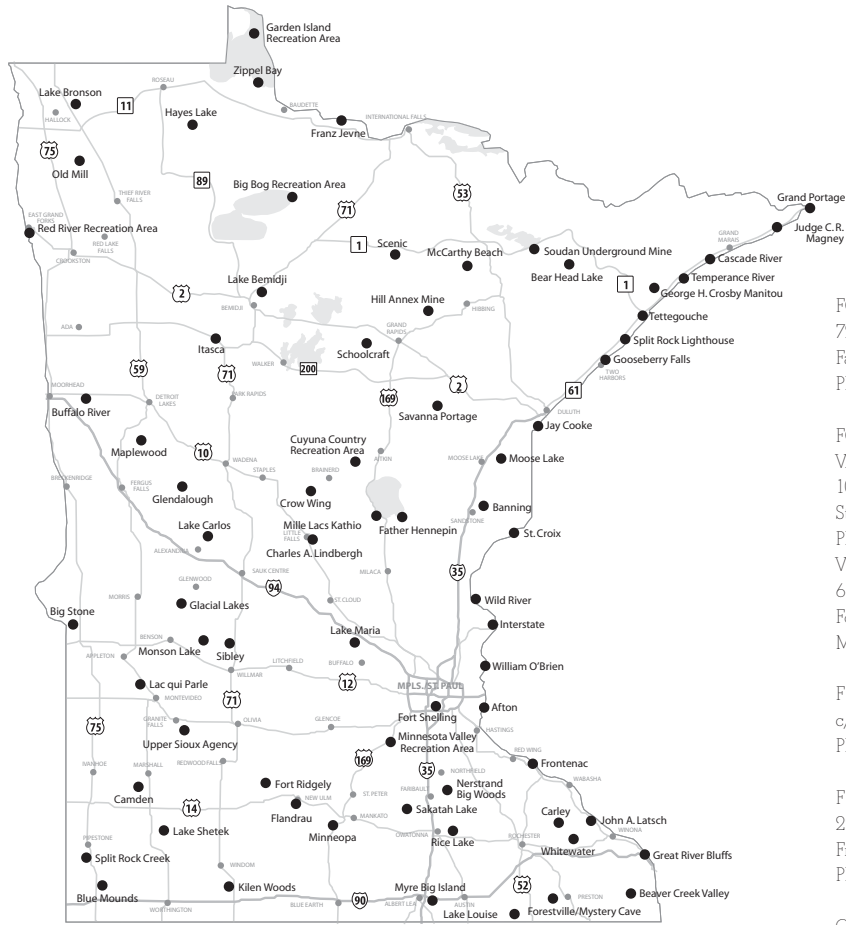


ALBERT MUNSON, MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

Picnicking above Taylors Falls, ca. 1900.

EXPLORE MINNESOTA HISTORY

in Your State Parks and Recreation Areas



AFTON
6959 Peller Avenue South
Hastings, MN 55033
Phone: 651-436-5391
Visitor Center: 651-998-1303

BANNING ★★
61101 Banning Park Road
Sandstone, MN 55072
Phone: 320-245-2668

BEAR HEAD LAKE ★
9301 Bear Head State Park Road
Ely, MN 55731
Phone: 218-365-7229

BEAVER CREEK VALLEY
15954 County Road 1
Caledonia, MN 55921
Phone: 507-724-2107

BIG BOG SRA ★
55716 Highway 72 NE
Waskish, MN 56685
Phone: 218-647-8592

BIG STONE LAKE
35889 Meadowbrook
State Park Road
Ortonville, MN 56278
Phone: 320-839-3663

BLUE MOUNDS ★★
1410 161st Street
Luverne, MN 56156
Phone: 507-283-1307

BUFFALO RIVER ★
155 South Street
Highway 10
P.O. Box 352
Glyndon, MN 56547
Phone: 218-498-2124

CAMDEN ★★
1897 Camden Park Road
Lynd, MN 56157
Phone: 507-865-4530

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

CASCADE RIVER ★
3481 West Highway 61
Lutsen, MN 55612
Phone: 218-387-3053

CHARLES A. LINDBERGH
★★★
1615 Lindbergh Drive South
Little Falls, MN 56345
Phone: 320-616-2525

CROW WING ★★
3124 State Park Road
Brainerd, MN 56401
Phone: 218-825-3075

CUYUNA COUNTRY SRA ★
P.O. BOX 404
Ironton, MN 56455
Phone: 218-546-5926

FATHER HENNEPIN
P.O. Box 397
Isle, MN 56342
Phone: 320-676-8763

FLANDRAU ★★
1300 Summit Avenue
New Ulm, MN 56073
Phone: 507-233-9800

FORESTVILLE/MYSTERY CAVE
★★★
21071 County 118
Preston, MN 55965
Forestville Phone: 507-352-5111
Mystery Cave Phone: 507-937-3251
Forestville also manages Lake Louise
State Park

FORT RIDGELY ★★
72158 County Road 30
Fairfax, MN 55332
Phone: 507-426-7840

FORT SNELLING/MINNESOTA VALLEY SRA ★★
101 Snelling Lake Road
St. Paul, MN 55111
Phone: 612-725-2389
Visitor Center Phone:
612-725-2724
Fort Snelling also manages
Minnesota Valley SRA

FRANZ JEVNE
c/o Zippel Bay
Phone: 218-783-6252

FRONTENAC ★
29223 County 28 Boulevard
Frontenac, MN 55026
Phone: 651-345-3401

GARDEN ISLAND
c/o Zippel Bay
Phone: 218-783-6252

GEORGE CROSBY MANITOU
c/o Tettegouche State Park
Phone: 218-226-6365

GLACIAL LAKES
25022 County Road 41
Starbuck, MN 56381
Phone: 320-239-2860

GLENDALOUGH ★
25287 Whitetail Lane
Battle Lake, MN 56515
Phone: 218-864-0110

GOOSEBERRY FALLS ★★
3206 Highway 61
Two Harbors, MN 55616
Phone: 218-834-3855

GRAND PORTAGE ★
9393 East Highway 61
Grand Portage, MN 55605
Phone: 218-475-2360

GREAT RIVER BLUFFS ★
43605 Kipp Drive
Winona, MN 55987
Phone: 507-643-6849
Great River Bluffs also manages
John A. Latsch State Park

HAYES LAKE ★
48990 County Road 4
Roseau, MN 56751
Phone: 218-425-7504

HILL ANNEX MINE ★★
P.O. Box 376
Calumet, MN 55716
Phone: 218-247-7215
Hill Annex also manages
Schoolcraft State Park

INTERSTATE ★★
307 Milltown Road
Taylors Falls, MN 55084
Phone: 651-465-5711

ITASCA ★★
36750 Main Park Drive
Park Rapids, MN 56470
Phone: 218-266-2100
Campground Phone:
218-266-2129
Douglas Lodge Phone:
218-266-2122

JAY COOKE ★★
780 Highway 210
Carlton, MN 55718
Phone: 218-384-4610

JOHN A. LATSCH
c/o Great River Bluffs State Park
Phone: 507-932-3007

JUDGE C.R. MAGNEY ★
4051 East Highway 61
Grand Marais, MN 55604
Phone: 218-387-3039

KILEN WOODS
50200 - 860th Street
Lakefield, MN 56150
Phone: 507-662-6258

LAC QUI PARLE ★★
14047 20th St. NW
Watson, MN 56295
Phone: 320-734-4450

LAKE BEMIDJI ★★
3401 State Park Road NE
Bemidji, MN 56601
Phone: 218-755-3843

LAKE BRONSON ★
Box 9
Lake Bronson, MN 56734
Phone: 218-754-2200

LAKE CARLOS ★
2601 County Road 38 NE
Carlos, MN 56319
Phone: 320-852-7200

LAKE LOUISE
c/o Forestville Mystery Cave State
Park Phone: 507-352-5111

LAKE MARIA
11411 Clementa Avenue NW
Monticello, MN 55362
Phone: 763-878-2325

LAKE SHETEK ★★
163 State Park Road
Currie, MN 56123
Phone: 507-763-3256

MAPLEWOOD ★★
39721 Park Entrance Road
Pelican Rapids, MN 56572
Phone: 218-863-8383

McCARTHY BEACH ★
7622 McCarthy Beach Road
Side Lake, MN 55781
Phone: 218-254-7979

MILLE LACS KATHIO ★★
15066 Kathio State Park Road
Onamia, MN 56359
Phone: 320-532-3523
Visitor Center: 320-532-3269

MINNEOPIA ★★
54497 Gadwall Road
Mankato, MN 56001
Phone: 507-389-5464

MINNESOTA VALLEY SRA ★★
c/o Fort Snelling State Park
Phone: 612-725-2389

MONSON LAKE ★★
c/o Sibley State Park
Phone: 320-354-2055

MOOSE LAKE
4252 County Road 137
Moose Lake, MN 55767
Phone: 218-485-5420

MYRE-BIG ISLAND ★
19499 - 780th Avenue
Albert Lea, MN 56007
Phone: 507-379-3403

NERSTRAND BIG WOODS ★
9700 - 170th Street East
Nerstrand, MN 55053
Phone: 507-333-4840

OLD MILL ★★
33489 - 240th Avenue NW
Argyle, MN 56713
Phone: 218-437-8174

KEY

- ★ Parks or Recreation Areas featuring National Historic Landmarks.
- ★ Parks or Recreation Areas featuring National Register of Historic Places and Districts.
- ★ Parks or Recreation Areas featuring Minnesota State Historic Sites managed by the Minnesota Historical Society.
- ★ Parks or Recreation Areas featuring historical guides, exhibits, or signs.

RED RIVER SRA ★
515 2nd St. NW
East Grand Forks, MN 56721
Phone: 218-773-4950

RICE LAKE
8485 Rose Street
Owatonna, MN 55060
Phone: 507-455-5871

ST. CROIX ★★
30065 St. Croix Park Road
Hinckley, MN 55037
Phone: 320-384-6591

SAKATAH LAKE
50499 Sakatah Lake
State Park Road
Waterville, MN 56096
Phone: 507-362-4438

SAVANNA PORTAGE ★★
55626 Lake Place
McGregor, MN 55760
Phone: 218-426-3271

SCENIC ★★
56956 Scenic Highway 7
Bigfork, MN 56628
Phone: 218-743-3362

SCHOOLCRAFT ★
c/o Hill Annex Mine
Phone: 218-247-7215

SIBLEY ★★
800 Sibley Park Road NE
New London, MN 56273
Phone: 320-354-2055
Visitor Center: 320-354-2002

SOUDAN UNDERGROUND MINE ★★
P.O. Box 335
Soudan, MN 55782
Phone: 218-753-2245

SPLIT ROCK CREEK ★★
336 - 50th Avenue
Jasper, MN 56144
Phone: 507-348-7908

SPLIT ROCK LIGHTHOUSE
★★★
3755 Split Rock Lighthouse Road
Two Harbors, MN 55616
Phone: 218-226-6377

TEMPERANCE RIVER
c/o Tettegouche State Park
Phone: 218-226-6365

TETTEGOUCHE ★★
5702 Highway 61
Silver Bay, MN 55614
Phone: 218-226-6365
Tettegouche also manages George
Crosby Manitou and Temperance
River state parks

UPPER SIOUX AGENCY
★★★
5908 Highway 67
Granite Falls, MN 56241
Phone: 320-564-4777

WHITWATER ★★
19041 Highway 74
Altura, MN 55910
Phone: 507-932-3007
Whitewater also manages Carley
State Park

WILD RIVER ★★
39797 Park Trail
Center City, MN 55012
Phone: 651-583-2125
Visitor Center: 651-583-2925

WILLIAM O'BRIEN ★
16821 O'Brien Trail North
Marine on St. Croix, MN 55047
Phone: 651-433-0500

ZIPPEL BAY ★
3684 - 54th Avenue NW
Williams, MN 56686
Phone: 218-783-6252
Zippel Bay also manages Franz
Jevne State Park, Garden Island
SRA

For information and historical resources in Minnesota State Parks: www.mndnr.gov and www.mnstateparks.info. For information about the Minnesota Historical Society and its programs: www.mnhs.org.



MN DNR

First designed in 1939 by the Department of Interior, National Park Service, as part of a CCC project, the historic marker (aka the Headwaters Post) has become one of the most notable and photographed icons within Itasca.

ITASCA—



where it all began.

It is a place of beginnings: The Headwaters of the great Mississippi River; Minnesota's oldest state park; the Lodge that launched the state's first foray into tourism. It's Itasca, the park whose history runs deep through so many of us; a history recorded in the photos of family albums or tucked away in our hearts.

In 1891 when Itasca became a state park, perhaps no one could have predicted that this action would be repeated throughout the years to create our present system of 72 parks and recreation areas that serve more than 8 million visitors annually. While each state park may not protect a burial mound or pioneer cemetery, a logging camp or hand-hewn structures built by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), each has both natural and cultural treasures worth preserving. Thanks to the early visionaries who fought to protect the resources at Itasca, and to those who followed in their footsteps, these forward-thinking citizens planned for the future by preserving and protecting the resources and places of the past. That alone is a history work remembering.



MN DNR



JOE BORNING

Spring fed by 43°F water, the Mississippi River continues to flow at its headwaters in all seasons.



Douglas Lodge, Itasca State Park, Minn.

Douglas Lodge postcard.



EMMON FAMILY

Itasca is a place of family traditions...from weddings and honeymoons to anniversaries and family reunions. Maxine and Joe Emmon posed at Itasca in 1939, shortly after their wedding (left). Nearly 70 years later their daughter continued the family photo tradition with her husband.

January



Itasca launch. A hand-colored photograph from the late 1920s of what was probably the first Itasca tour boat. Excursion boats on Lake Itasca have been a part of the Itasca experience for most of the last 80 years.

This month in State Park History

1903. Referring to the mouth of the Split Rock River, now part of **Split Rock Lighthouse State Park**, a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers report states "The Split Rock Lumber Company controls the harbor, the railroad, coal dock and store. The railroad includes 10 miles of main track, 3 locomotives, 70 logging cars, and a roundhouse with 3 stalls." The company employed 400 men and operated between 1899 and 1906.

1937. January 8. The *Rock County Star* newspaper reports the discovery of 500 pounds of dynamite that had been buried at the Mound quarry in what is now **Blue Mounds State Park**.

1953. The first state park vehicle entrance permit is introduced featuring the state mascot; a thirteen-lined ground squirrel commonly known as a gopher.

SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

30	31	1 NEW YEAR'S DAY Whitewater River Valley Christmas Bird Count Whitewater State Park	2	3	4	5 Introduction to Winter Trout Fishing Whitewater State Park
6 EPIPHANY	7 ORTHODOX CHRISTMAS	8 NEW MOON	9	10	11	12
13	14 ORTHODOX NEW YEAR	15 FIRST QUARTER	16	17	18 Moonlight Snowshoeing Whitewater State Park	19 Lantern Lit Ski & Campfire Itasca State Park Candlelight Ski Wild River State Park
20	21 MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY OBSERVED	22 FULL MOON	23 150 YEARS of STATEHOOD 1858-2008	24	25	26 Historic Ice Harvesting Demonstration Whitewater State Park
27	28	29 LAST QUARTER	30	31	1	2

December 07 February

1	1	2
2 3 4 5 6 7 8	3 4 5 6 7 8 9	
9 10 11 12 13 14 15	10 11 12 13 14 15 16	
16 17 18 19 20 21 22	17 18 19 20 21 22 23	
23 24 25 26 27 28 29	24 25 26 27 28 29	
30 31		



Visitors today walk in the steps of the miners as they travel underground to tour the Soudan Mine.



Going home. The end of a work shift at the Soudan Mine.



SOUDAN UNDERGROUND MINE—

where history runs deep.

The birth of iron mining in Minnesota dates before the written record of 1884 when the first load of iron ore was shipped to Lake Superior and the world. As the largest producer of iron ore in the United States, Minnesota's underground mining history changed with the closing of Soudan Mine in 1962. Following its donation to the State of Minnesota in 1963, the mine reopened for public tours as Tower Soudan State Park in 1965. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the park offers a rare opportunity to travel by mining cage ½ mile below the surface to the 27th and last level where mining operations took place. Although the park's name was modified to Soudan Underground Mine State Park in 1988, the unique opportunity to explore the history of this pivotal Minnesota industry remains in place as solidly as the mining equipment left behind over 40 years ago.



The lower level in Soudan Mine in 1963. Photo by Minneapolis Tribune.

February



Cold winter afternoon
at Soudan Mine.

This month in State Park History

1918. Carbide lamps first used in the Soudan Mine, now **Soudan Underground Mine State Park**.

1924. 3:45 p.m., February 5. Forty-one miners lose their lives in the Millford Mine Disaster. The story is told today at the nearby historic Croft Mine in **Cuyuna Country State Recreation Area**.

1935. February 5. Despite below zero temperatures the Veterans Conservation Corps crews at **Camden State Park** use heated concrete to pour the footings for bridges over the Redwood River. The bridges were damaged and ultimately destroyed due to flooding.

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

27	28	29	30	31	1	2 GROUNDHOG DAY
3 Lions Club Fishing Derby Lake Bronson State Park	4	5 MARDI GRAS	6 ASH WEDNESDAY	7 CHINESE NEW YEAR	8	9 Bird Banding Demonstration Whitewater State Park
10	11	12 LINCOLN'S BIRTHDAY	13	14 VALENTINE'S DAY	15	16 Candlelight Ski Mille Lacs Kathio State Park Candlelight Ski Fort Snelling State Park
17	18 PRESIDENT'S DAY	19	20	21	22 WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY <small>Moonlight Snowshoeing Whitewater State Park</small>	23 Candlelight Snowshoe & Hike Split Rock Lighthouse State Park
24	25	26	27	28	29 LEAP DAY	1

January

March

1 2 3 4 5	1
6 7 8 9 10 11 12	2 3 4 5 6 7 8
13 14 15 16 17 18 19	9 10 11 12 13 14 15
20 21 22 23 24 25 26	16 17 18 19 20 21 22
27 28 29 30 31	23 24 25 26 27 28 29
	30 31



FORT SNELLING—

where great rivers meet.

To the native Dakota people, this “Bdo-te” or junction of the Minnesota and Mississippi rivers is a special place. For centuries the Dakota people lived in villages along both rivers and gathered here at the river confluence. The rivers also brought the first Europeans to the area to trade with the Dakota. In 1805, Lt. Zebulon Montgomery Pike visited the area during his exploration of the Mississippi River and secured land that would later become Fort Snelling. Since then, many more cultures have entered Minnesota through this Bdo-te area. Whether they came by canoe, steamboat, railcar, automobile or airplane, each contributed to the rich story of the place now called Fort Snelling State Park.



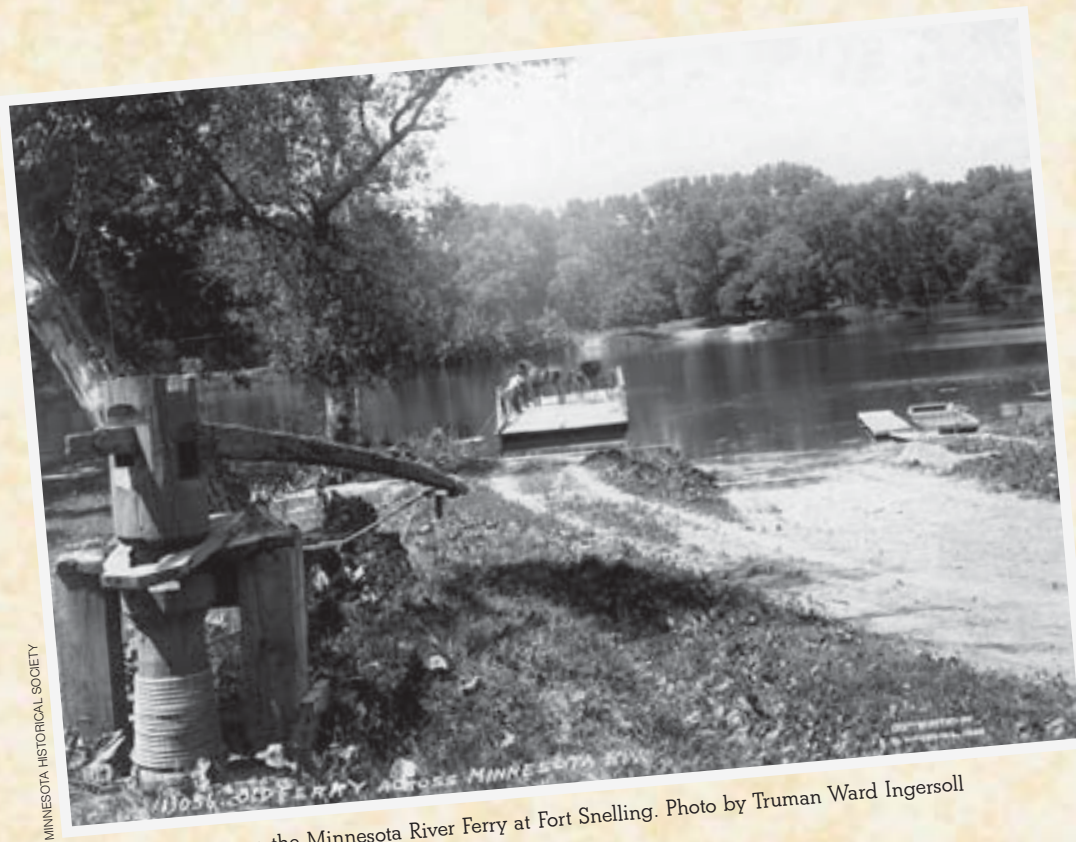
MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

At the end of a sad chapter in Minnesota’s history, some 1,700 Dakota people, mostly women and children, were held prisoner below Fort Snelling in the aftermath of the U.S.–Dakota Conflict of 1862.



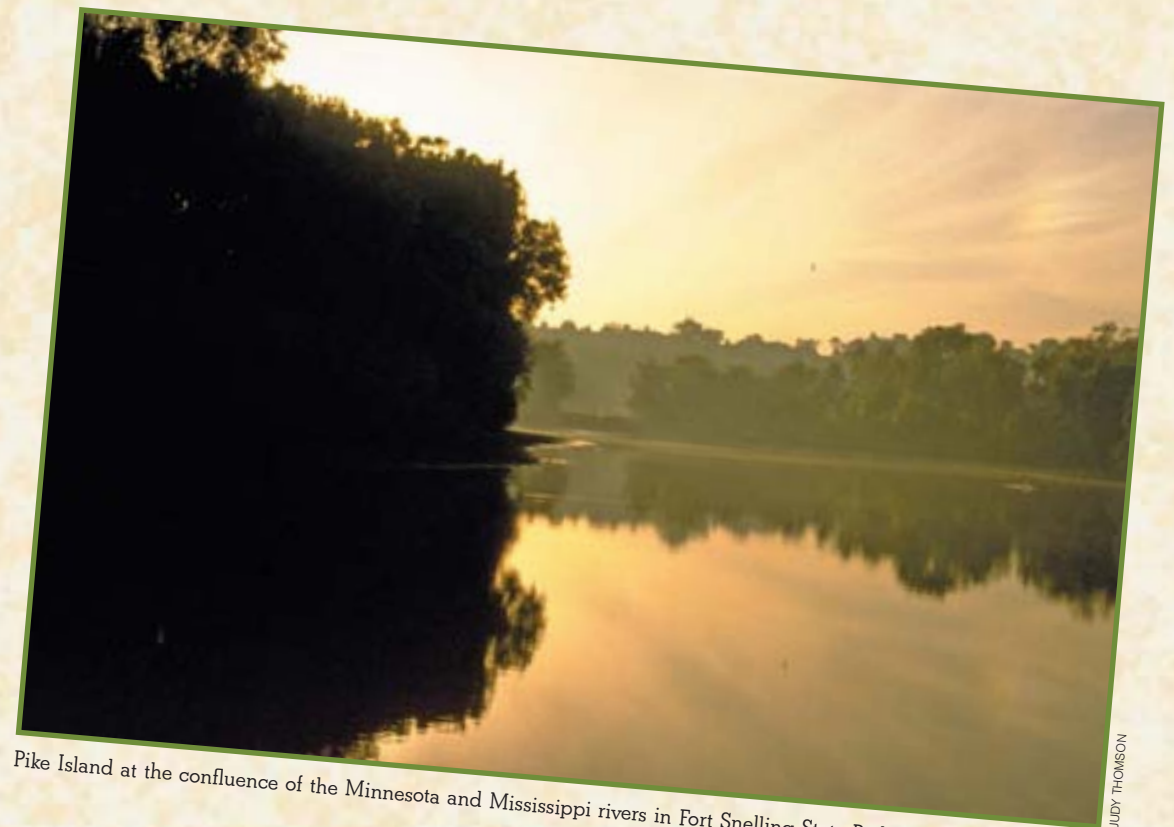
MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Fort Snelling and Pike Island. Watercolor by John Casper Wild. 1844.



MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Horse and buggy on the Minnesota River Ferry at Fort Snelling. Photo by Truman Ward Ingersoll Postcard. 1904



Pike Island at the confluence of the Minnesota and Mississippi rivers in Fort Snelling State Park.

JUDY THOMSON

March



FRANCIS L. WRIGHT, MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

People, horses and buggies cross over the Fort Snelling bridge as a steamboat passes underneath. Ca. 1900.

This month in State Park History

1885. March 9. The Minnesota Legislature appoints five commissioners to select and begin acquisition of land including the Minnehaha falls as a state park. Four years later an appropriations bill turns over jurisdiction of the site to the city of Minneapolis with no state park designation.

1945. March 8. The Minnesota Legislature officially changes the name of Cottonwood River State Park to **Flandrau State Park** to honor Charles F. Flandrau who helped organize the town of New Ulm's defense against Dakota Indian attacks in 1862. Flandrau later drafted the first Minnesota constitution.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
24	25	26	27	28	29	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8 <small>Bald Eagle Field Trip Whitewater State Park</small>
9 <small>DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS</small>	10 <small>ORTHODOX LENT</small>	11	12	13	14 <small>NEW MOON</small>	15
16 <small>PALM SUNDAY</small>	17 <small>ST. PATRICK'S DAY</small>	18	19	20 <small>VERNAL EQUINOX PURIM BEGINS AT SUNSET</small>	21 <small>GOOD FRIDAY</small>	22 <small>Maple Syrup Making Demonstration Whitewater State Park</small>
23 <small>EASTER</small>	24	25	26	27	28 <small>FIRST QUARTER</small>	29
30	31				28 <small>FULL MOON</small>	29 <small>Sugaring Time: Maple Syrup Program Itasca State Park</small>
						29 <small>LAST QUARTER</small>

February

April

1 2	1 2 3 4 5
3 4 5 6 7 8 9	6 7 8 9 10 11 12
10 11 12 13 14 15 16	13 14 15 16 17 18 19
17 18 19 20 21 22 23	20 21 22 23 24 25 26
24 25 26 27 28 29	27 28 29 30



INTERSTATE—

*Birthplace of Minnesota
tourism.*

Visitors to Interstate State Park today enjoy the same rustic beauty that has attracted tourists for more than 100 years. As early as 1838, steamboats carried tourists through the "Dalles of the St. Croix," the historic name for the rocky cliffs and rushing river in this area. In the late 1800s tourists came by rail to picnic or view the spectacular logjams on the river. Watching logjams is a thing of the past but visitors today can still see world-famous glacial formations, watch rock climbers or picnic in a 1930s Depression-era stone building.

PHOTO BY JACOBY, MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Steamboat *Gracie Kent* with excursion at Taylors Falls. Built in 1897-1898 by George Muller of Stillwater, for the Interstate Navigation Company of Stillwater, 1898.

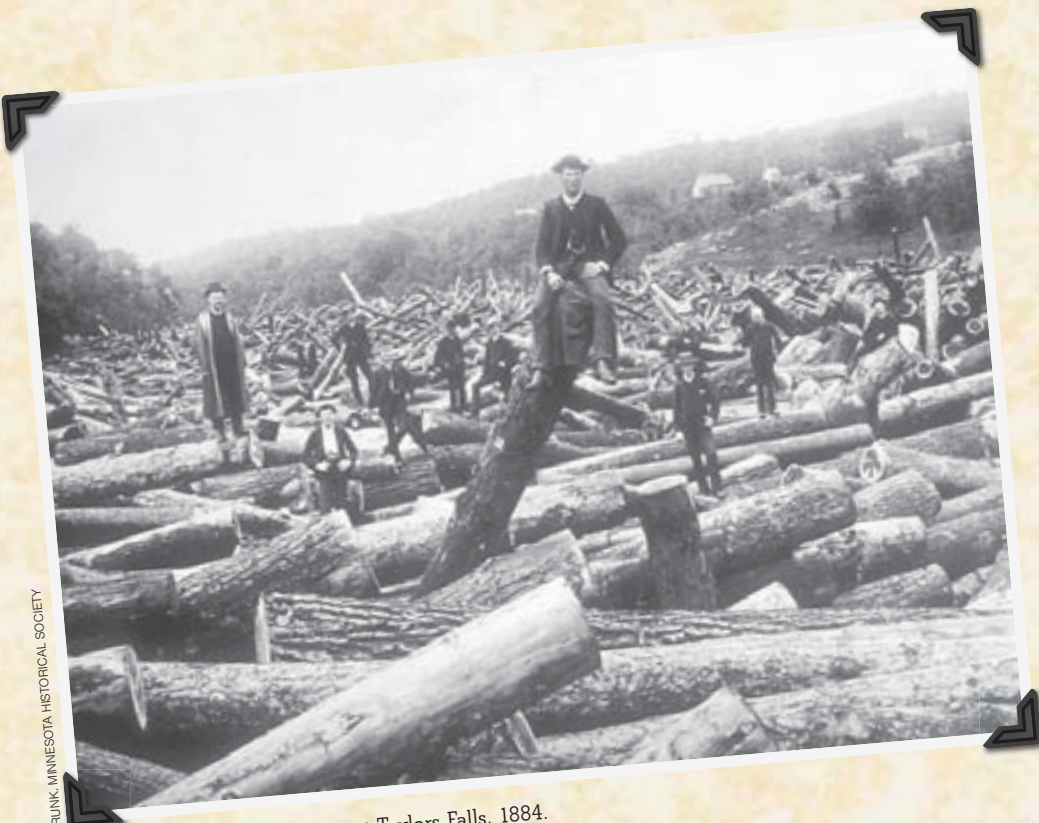


PHOTO BY JACOBY, MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Logjam on the St. Croix River at Taylors Falls, 1884.



PHOTO BY JOE NIZNIK

Boat tour in the scenic Dalles of the St. Croix.

April

ALBERT MUNSON, MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Picnicking above Taylors Falls, ca. 1900.

This month in State Park History

1889. April 24. The Minnesota Legislature authorized the acquisition of ten acres of land near Montevideo to be considered as a state park. Known as Camp Release, the site was the location where Colonel Henry H. Sibley released 269 captives at the end of the U.S.-Dakota Conflict of 1862. Although this was the second site to be recommended as Minnesota's first state park, it has always been a wayside picnic area and historic site.

1891. April 20. The Minnesota Legislature establishes Itasca as a state park. "No one will ever fully realize how necessarily strenuous were the exertions which finally resulted in establishing **Itasca State Park**, April 20, 1891." Jacob V. Brower, father of Itasca State Park.

1895. April 25. **Interstate** was established as Minnesota's second formal state park. As a park in both Minnesota and Wisconsin, it was the first inter-state park in the nation.

1903. April 15. Mary Gibbs, first women park superintendent in North America, makes her courageous stand against the lumbermen to protect the tall pines and Mississippi Headwaters at **Itasca State Park**.

1935. April 19. The Division of State Parks is established, along with **Lake Carlos** and **Camden** state parks.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
30	31	1 APRIL FOOL'S DAY	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11 Fly Fishing Whitewater State Park	12 Make a Prairie Wildflower Garden Whitewater State Park
13	14	15	16	17	18	19 PASSOVER BEGINS AFTER SUNDOWN Science Saturday: Egg-cellent Eggs! Itasca State Park Walk for Glendalough Glendalough State Park
20	21	22 EARTH DAY	23 ADMINISTRATIVE PROFESSIONALS' DAY 1858-2008	24	25	26 Fossil Field Trip Whitewater State Park
	27 ORTHODOX EASTER	28	29	30 ARBOR DAY	1	2
						3

<i>March</i>	<i>May</i>
1	1 2 3
2 3 4 5 6 7 8	4 5 6 7 8 9 10
9 10 11 12 13 14 15	11 12 13 14 15 16 17
16 17 18 19 20 21 22	18 19 20 21 22 23 24
23 24 25 26 27 28 29	25 26 27 28 29 30 31
30 31	



DAVE HANKE

Reenactment at Fort Ridgely State Park.



FORT RIDGELY—

Building on the past.

When Fort Ridgely was established as a state park in 1911, nearly 50 years had passed since the former frontier military post found itself at the heart of one of Minnesota's greatest conflicts. Only a part of the fort's commissary and foundations of the fort buildings remained as concrete testimony to the two-day battle fought during the U.S.–Dakota Conflict of 1862. There would be no way for the U.S. government to know that when it originally built Fort Ridgely as a military outpost in 1853 it would be rebuilt in 1934 as a Minnesota State Park.

Fort Ridgely State Park was one of 30 Minnesota state parks to be started or developed during the New Deal period in Minnesota. Under the direction of the U.S. Army, the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) established a work camp in Fort Ridgely from July 31, 1934 to November 1, 1935. After the CCC camp was relocated, a Veterans Conservation Corps (VCC) camp continued construction from October 1936 until July 1939. Their efforts to restore historic park features remains a testimony to the role Minnesota State Parks continues to play today in preserving the stories of our state for people, past and present.

Hungry Civilian Conservation Corps enrollees eagerly wait for lunch to be served. Fort Ridgely's CCC mess hall served three meals a day and was noted for its good and plentiful food.



NATIONAL ARCHIVES, WASHINGTON, DC



MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

By 1940 this wheel was all that remained from an 1850s supply wagon that traveled between Fort Snelling and Fort Ridgely.



MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

On August 20, 1896, hundreds of people attended the dedication of the Fort Ridgely monument to memorialize the U.S.–Dakota Conflict of 1862.

May



MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

By 1900 the remains of the Fort Ridgely Commissary was used to house livestock. The building was restored to its original size and appearance in 1938 by the Veterans Conservation Corps and now serves as the historic site's interpretive center.

This month in State Park History

1889. Construction of the railroad spur into the sandstone quarries in **Banning State Park** begins. The large blocks of sandstone quarried from this site helped build Duluth, Minneapolis and other Minnesota cities.

1928. May 8. **Fort Ridgely Golf Course** celebrates its grand opening. More than 100 players take part in the official opening event. Funds to build the course were raised by a local group charging \$10 for a membership and \$15 for yearly playing privileges.

1950. The historic swinging bridge at **Jay Cooke State Park** washes away during the largest flood on record for the St. Louis River. It would take three years to raise funds to repair the bridge.

1963. May 20. The Omnibus Act signs into law the addition of 11 new state parks: **Banning, Forestville, Glacial Lakes, Lake Louise, Lake Maria, Maplewood, Rice Lake, Sakatah Lake, Upper Sioux Agency, Soudan Underground Mine and Little Elbow Lake.** No longer a state park, Little Elbow Lake was later transferred to the White Earth Indian Reservation.

1989. May 25. Minnesota Legislature establishes **Grand Portage State Park**. It is the only state park in the United States located on land owned by an Indian tribe.

1993. May 8. Heavy rains and floodwaters overtop and burst the dam at **Split Rock Creek State Park**. The dam and dikes were rebuilt by March 1994.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
27	28	29	30	1 MAY DAY ASCENSION DAY	2	3 Morel Mushrooms in Abundance Whitewater State Park
4	5 CINCO DE MAYO 	6	7 NATIONAL TEACHER'S DAY	8	9	10 MN FISHING OPENER Birding by Kayak Whitewater State Park
11 MOTHER'S DAY STATEHOOD DAY  	12	13	14	15	16	17 ARMED FORCES DAY Spring Celebration Wild River State Park Orchid Walk Whitewater State Park
18	19 VICTORIA DAY (CANADA) 	20	21	22	23	24 Daily Tour Season Begins Soudan Underground Mine Daily Tour Season Begins Mystery Cave Weekend Tour Season Begins Hill Annex Mine Spring Blooms! Wildflower Walk Itasca State Park
25	26 MEMORIAL DAY	27	28	29	30	31

April

June

1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	6	7		
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
27	28	29	30	29	30								



WAYNE L. BUCK

Present-day upper Minneopa Falls.



BLUE EARTH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Roughly hewn footbridges and wooden stairs provided access to the ravine below the falls for many years before Minneopa State Park was created.



MINNEOPA—

a beautiful place for a picnic, today as always.

For hundreds, if not thousands of years, people have been drawn to the natural beauty of Minneopa's waterfalls. Named by the Dakota Indians as Minneopa or "water falling twice," area settlers quickly learned of the falls. They traveled to this revered scenic destination by foot, horse and buggy, and later by trains and cars. The popularity of the falls led to the area's designation in 1905 as Minnesota's third state park, named after its trademark feature. Visitors today still find the double waterfalls, shady sugar maples, and woodland wildflowers a quaint and timeless place for a picnic.

BLUE EARTH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Back in the days when hard physical labor was a common and routine part of the six-day workweek, time in the park meant a leisurely and relaxing day with family and friends, sight-seeing, enjoying a picnic and cold beverages at the park's refreshment stand. This stand operated from 1911 until 1930.

June

This month in State Park History

1822. June 13. First recorded flood on the Minnesota River. Henry Sibley writes, "On the 13 [June] the St. Peters [Minnesota River] overflowed all our fields and gardens on the bottom land, after rising 18 feet above its ordinary level." This flood "carried off or destroyed all moveable property...on Pike Island." Pike Island is now part of **Fort Snelling State Park**.

1935. June 10. A Veterans Conservation Corps (VCC) sets up camp in Cottonwood State Park, now **Flandrau State Park**. They immediately begin to build the camp's wooden buildings, clear land for both the swimming pond and the dam's earthen dikes.

1937. Over 8,000 people attend the dedication ceremony of the Works Progress Administration (WPA) facilities built at **Lake Bronson State Park**, including the now historic observation/water tower.

1941. WPA offers first guided nature programs in Minnesota State Parks.

1958. June 1. A dedication ceremony draws an estimated 7,500 people to celebrate the six-year restoration of **Old Mill State Park's** steam engine-powered grist mill. The mill still operates during the park's annual Grinding Days held each August.



BLUE EARTH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Posing for the camera near the upper falls was a favorite activity of park visitors in 1911.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 State Park Open House Day Outdoor Recreation Day Mille Lacs Kathio State Park	2	3 NEW MOON	4	5	6	7 Take a Kid Trout Fishing and Electrofishing Demonstration Whitewater State Park
8 SHAVU'OT BEGINS AT SUNSET	9	10 FIRST QUARTER	11	12 Concerts at the Confluence Fort Snelling State Park	13	14 FLAG DAY Biking to Save the Turtles Whitewater State Park
15 FATHER'S DAY	16	17	18	19	20 EMANCIPATION DAY	21 SUMMER SOLSTICE Introduction to Sea Kayaking Whitewater State Park
22	23	24	25 FULL MOON	26 LAST QUARTER	27	28
29	30	1	2	3	4	5

<i>May</i>	<i>July</i>
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

OLD MILL—



powerful traditions.

At 287 acres, it's one of Minnesota's smallest state parks and yet Old Mill offers a glimpse of Minnesota history as grand as the vast rural landscape in this northwestern corner of the state. Still surrounded by fields of wheat that continue to supply Minnesota's historic international flour milling industry, the park preserves the early milling history of rural communities across the state.

In 1886, homesteader Lars Larson Sr. built the first grinding mill by harnessing the power of the Middle River. Destroyed by flooding in 1888, a new wind-powered mill was built in 1889. After its destruction in a windstorm, a second water-powered mill was built further upstream, and in 1896, a third mill was built by Larson's son John. Now the grinding wheel was powered by new technology; a Case manufactured steam engine Model No. A359. In 1897 both mills were moved to their present location in the park, and were still operational when Middle River State Park was established in 1937.

The park's name was changed to Old Mill in 1951 to reflect the significance of the historic mill, restored to operation and dedicated in 1958. In addition to a new name, the park changed too thanks to the WPA project that expanded traditional recreation areas into first-rate state park facilities. Today, Old Mill State Park offers a welcome recreational site for picnics and camping amid the significant historic landscape that fostered its creation.

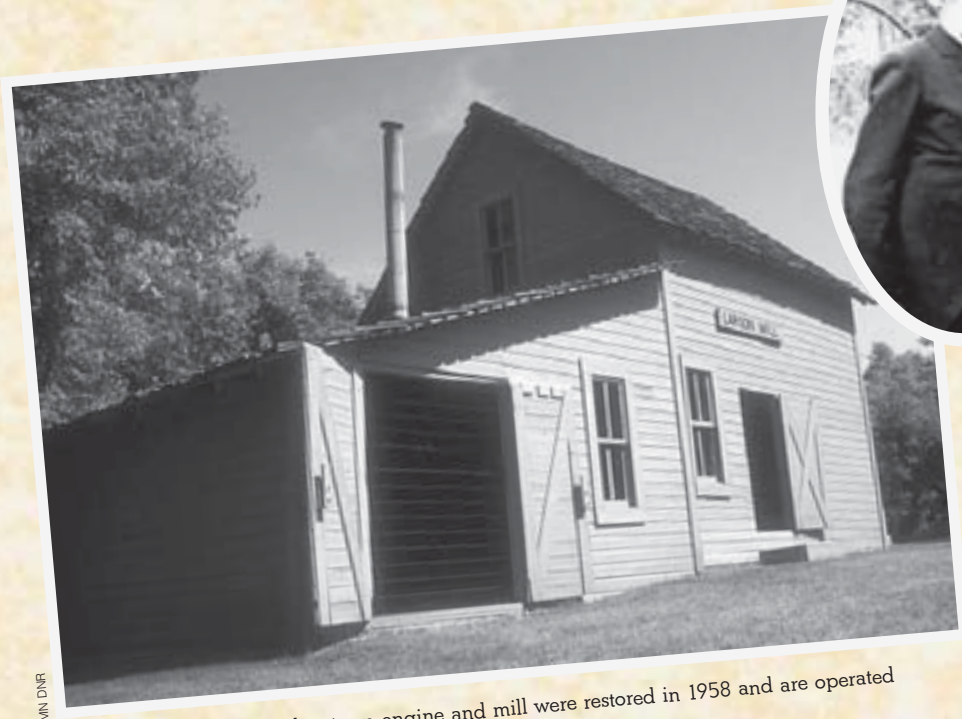


The creation of a swimming pond in the 1930s upgraded the park from a popular local feature to a regional attraction.

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Lars Larson Jr.
MN DNR



In operation since 1897, the steam engine and mill were restored in 1958 and are operated annually during the park's August Grinding Day event.

MN DNR



The restored cabin near the mill depicts life in the late 1800s.

MN DNR

July



1930s-era visitors enjoy the cool waters of the Middle River.

This month in State Park History

1679. July 2. Daniel Greysolon, Seieur duLhut (now spelled Duluth) plants the flag of King Louis XIV at "the great Village of Izatys, where never a Frenchman had been." This location, where the Rum River flows out of Mille Lacs Lake, is in present-day **Mille Lacs Kathio State Park**.

1832. July 1. On their journey seeking the source of the Mississippi River, Henry Rowe Schoolcraft and Reverend William Boutwell camp during torrential rain at a portage that later becomes part of **Savanna Portage State Park**. Reverend Boutwell found it impossible to conduct a Sunday service. "But the Indians were not daunted by the ceaseless rain and mosquitoes. Hymns, camp songs, dance tunes and the reverberating of the pounded drums fill the swamp with a furious noise," wrote the clergyman.

1910. July 31. The beacon in **Split Rock Lighthouse** is lit for the first time by keeper Orren "Pete" Young.

1923. Charles A. Lindbergh, Jr. commands the first solo flight in his first airplane, a Curtis JN-4d he called "Jenny." The 21-year-old pilot landed in a farm field in what is now the state park named for his equally noteworthy father, Charles A. Lindbergh, Sr.

1937. July 9. WPA workmen at Mound Springs Recreation Area, now called **Blue Mounds State Park**, uncover an Indian mallet while digging in the park.

1971. July 31. Ground is broken for construction of a new dam built to create the lake at **Hayes Lake State Park**.

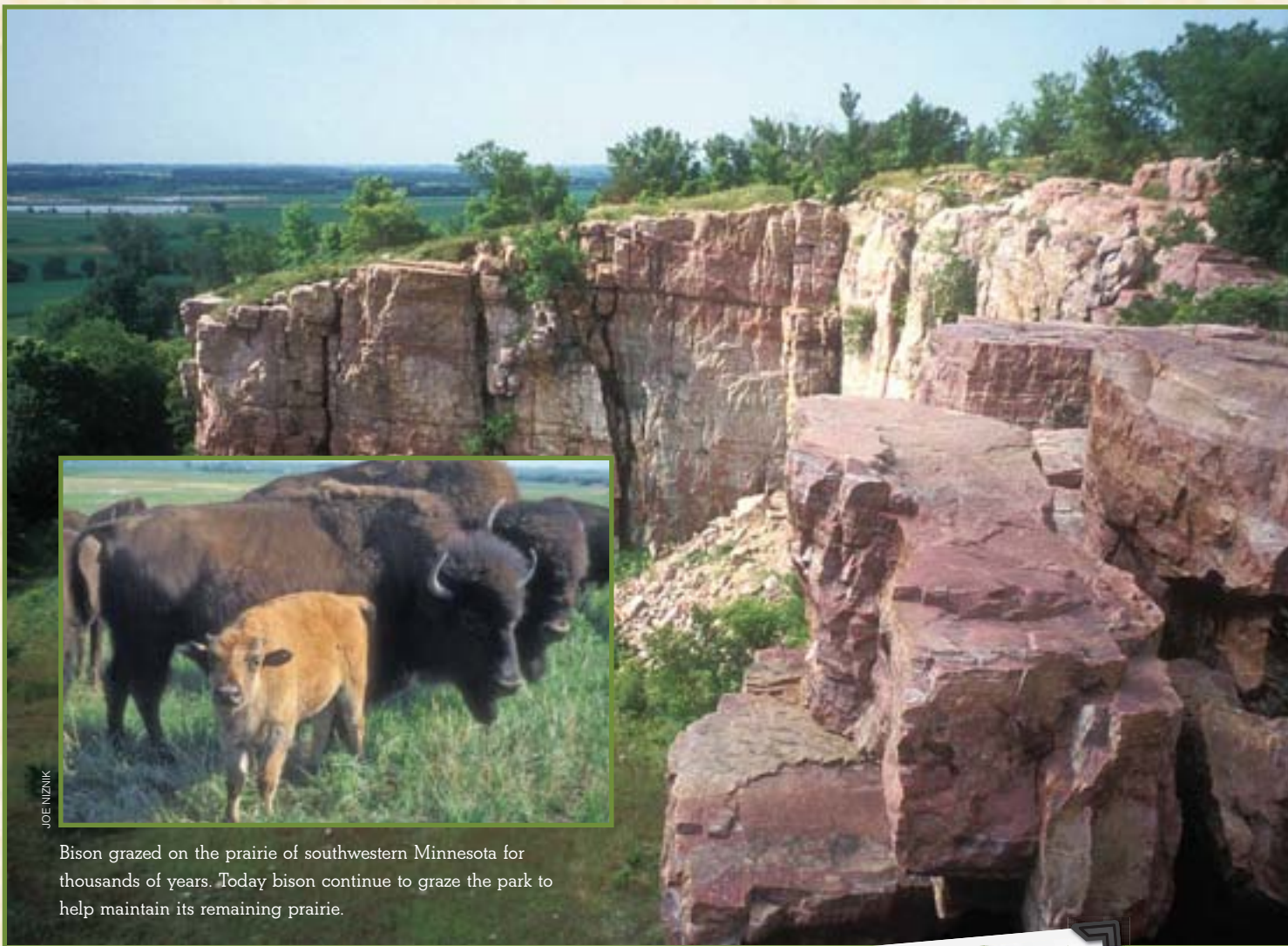
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
29	30	1 CANADA DAY	2	3	4 INDEPENDENCE DAY	5 Jam Making Demonstration Whitewater State Park
6	7	8	9	10 Concerts at the Confluence Fort Snelling State Park	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24 5th Annual Itasca Smokey Bear Day Itasca State Park	25	26
27 PARENT'S DAY	28	29 Ordinary Men, Extraordinary Soldiers, First Minnesota Regiment Whitewater State Park	30	31	1	2

June

August

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29 30	24 25 26 27 28 29 30
	31

The Cliff-line Quarry was the largest quarry in Blue Mounds State Park with walls almost 60 feet high.



JOE NIZNIK

Bison grazed on the prairie of southwestern Minnesota for thousands of years. Today bison continue to graze the park to help maintain its remaining prairie.

JOE NIZNIK



BOB BECK

The Rock County courthouse can be seen today in Luverne, Minnesota. It was constructed of Sioux quartzite quarried from one of the quarries now in Blue Mounds State Park.



BLUE MOUNDS—

a prairie born of stone.

At Blue Mounds State Park in southwestern Minnesota a landmark eruption of stone in the tall-grass prairie stands boldly against the western sky, showing colors of blue, then red, or perhaps purple in the sun. From a distance it is a car-stopping, startling sight, a dark mound of stone popping up across a neutral prairie landscape. Up close, this “blue mound” of bedrock, geologically known as Sioux quartzite, reveals a story in its weathered face of a time when it was quarried to build towns and communities.

The first commercial rock quarry in what is now Blue Mounds State Park operated from the 1880s to the late 1890s, supplying the hard quartz-grained stone for area building construction. By the early 1900s the quarry was abandoned when masonry brick, which cost less and was easier to produce and handle, replaced Sioux quartzite as the building material of choice.

By the 1930s, industry standards gave way once again to easily mined and inexpensive gravel and asphalt paving. Further compounded by the economic effects of the Great Depression, the quarry closed. The historic cliff-line shortly thereafter became the natural foundation for Blue Mounds State Park.



MIN DNR

A railroad siding at the crushing plant enabled shipment of crushed rock to nearby cities and towns.

August



Quartzite Quarry Company crushing plant under construction in 1919. At its peak operation the Quartzite Quarry Company employed 32 men and could crush hundreds of tons of rock a day.

This month in State Park History

1819. August 24. Lieutenant Colonel Henry Leavenworth lands at the mouth of the St. Peter's River (Minnesota River). He establishes the temporary post of Contonment New Hope during a difficult winter in hopes of creating the first military outpost on the upper Mississippi. The site at the confluence of the Minnesota and Mississippi rivers is now part of **Fort Snelling State Park**.

1862. August 20-22. Soldiers at Fort Ridgely battle Dakota Indian warriors during the U.S.-Dakota Conflict of 1862. The historic significance of the event leads to the designation of **Fort Ridgely** as a state park in 1911. Other state parks touched by this pivotal moment in Minnesota history include **Lake Shetek**, **Upper Sioux Agency** and **Monson Lake**.

1870. August 1. The Lake Superior & Mississippi Railroad is completed, connecting St. Paul to Duluth. Today, portions of Highway 210 and **Jay Cooke State Park's** hiking trails follow the original railroad route.

1905. Ezra G. Valentine completes "Valentine's Camp" and what would later be named the Glendalough Lodge. The 1905 lodge, now restored with exhibits, serves visitors at **Glendalough State Park**.

1957. August 19. Known as the "Man High 2 Project," a hot air balloon described as "nothing but a rather profoundly engineered vegetable bag," carries USAF Major David Simons more than 19 miles into space from a mine pit in what is now **Cuyuna Country State Recreation Area**.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
27	28	29	30	31	1 	2 Woodcarvers Festival Lake Bronson State Park
3 FRIENDSHIP DAY Woodcarvers Festival Lake Bronson State Park	4	5	6	7	8 	9
10	11	12	13	14 Concerts at the Confluence Fort Snelling State Park	15 Croft Mine Heritage Days Cuyuna Country State Recreation Area	16 Croft Mine Heritage Days Cuyuna Country State Recreation Area Introduction to Sea Kayaking Whitewater State Park
17 Croft Mine Heritage Days Cuyuna Country State Recreation Area	18	19	20	21	22	23 Snakes of the Blufflands Whitewater State Park
24 Grinding Day Old Mill State Park	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

July

1	2	3	4	5		
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

September

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7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				



The Glendalough Camp Lodge, built in 1903 to host dignitaries and guests as part of the "Old Camp" has been restored to its 1930s appearance.



GLENDALOUGH—

private preservation for the public good.

Minnesota's strong public history of resource preservation is paralleled by an equally noteworthy record of private citizens conserving and protecting land. In 1991, a century after Jacob V. Brower lobbied to establish Itasca, a private retreat nearly as old became one of Minnesota's newest state parks. Originally developed as a summer camp in 1903 by Ezra Valentine, the property and its purpose expanded as it changed hands over the years. Renamed Glendalough by Minneapolis Tribune owner F.E. Murphy in 1927, it was used as a game farm and hunting preserve. The retreat was sold, along with the Tribune, to the John Cowles family in 1941 who donated the property to the Nature Conservancy. Although Glendalough's history of hosting presidents and other dignitaries is noteworthy, it is the stewardship efforts of private landowners who guided its preservation and continued the emphasis on wildlife management that are the real story behind Glendalough State Park.



Vice President Richard M. Nixon at Glendalough with game farm manager Alex Johnson, October 13, 1956. Nixon's V-neck sweater is the famous "loaner" worn previously by other dignitaries.



Turn of the century swimmers ham it up along the shores of Annie Battle Lake. Swimsuit styles have changed, but family traditions and fun at Glendalough remains the same. Ca. 1905.

September



Rowing on Annie Battle Lake at Glendalough ca. 1930s.

This month in State Park History

1805. September 23. Zebulon Pike meets with Dakota Indian leaders on Pike Island, now **Fort Snelling State Park**, to negotiate the first treaty between the U.S. government and Dakota nation.

1862. September 23. Chief Mazomani was fatally wounded during the Battle of Wood Lake while attempting to end the U.S.-Dakota Conflict of 1862. Chief Mazomani is buried in **Upper Sioux Agency State Park** where the Minnesota and Yellow Medicine rivers join.

1894. September 1. The Great Hinckley Fire sweeps through east-central Minnesota scorching thousands of acres of land near areas that are now the sites of **Banning** and **St. Croix state parks**.

1907. September 13. The largest hydroelectric plant in the state produces its first spark of electricity in Thomson. Land from the project, including some of the most spectacular stretches of the St. Louis River was donated to establish **Jay Cooke State Park** in 1915.

1931. September 11. Spurred by winds reaching speeds of 60 miles per hour, a deadly peatland wildfire scorched 137,194 acres in and near what is now the **Big Bog State Recreation Area**, threatening the towns of Waskish and Baudette.

SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

31	1 LABOR DAY Weekend Tours End Hill Annex Mine State Park.	2 RAMADAN	3	4	5	6 Baby Turtle Rescue Whitewater State Park
7 GRANDPARENTS' DAY	8	9	10	11 PATRIOT DAY Concerts at the Confluence Fort Snelling State Park	12	13 Rare Plants of Minnesota Whitewater State Park Canoeing/Kayaking the Weaver Bottoms Whitewater State Park
14 FIRST QUARTER	15 FULL MOON	16	17 CITIZENSHIP DAY CONSTITUTION DAY	18	19	20
21	22 AUTUMN EQUINOX LAST QUARTER	23	24 150 YEARS of STATEHOOD 1858-2008	25	26 NATIVE AMERICAN DAY	27 Hawk Walk Whitewater State Park
28	29 ROSH HASHANAH BEGINS AT SUNSET Voyageur Encampment William O'Brien State Park	30 Daily Tours End Soudan Underground Mine State Park.	1	2	3	4

August

October

1 2	1 2 3 4
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10 11 12 13 14 15 16	12 13 14 15 16 17 18
17 18 19 20 21 22 23	19 20 21 22 23 24 25
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31	

JORDAN INDEPENDENT, AUGUST 6, 1908. MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY



The St. Lawrence Hotel was a three-story hotel that once stood across from the Strait House. A maple staircase led to an open-timbered ballroom that filled the top floor with music. With the failure of the town it served as a farmer's hay barn for most of the next century before burning to the ground in 1958.

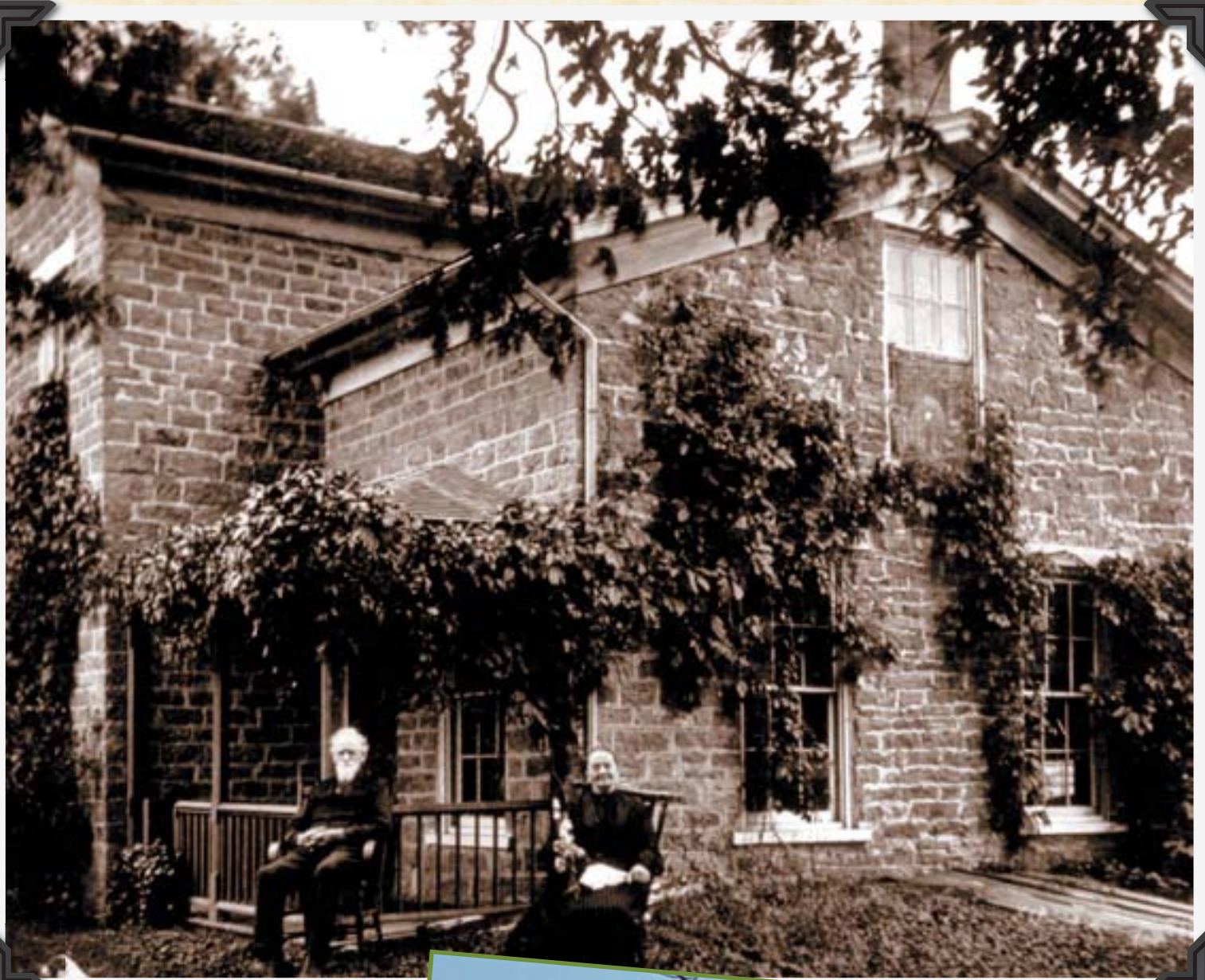


MINNESOTA VALLEY STATE RECREATION AREA—

the valley of dreams.

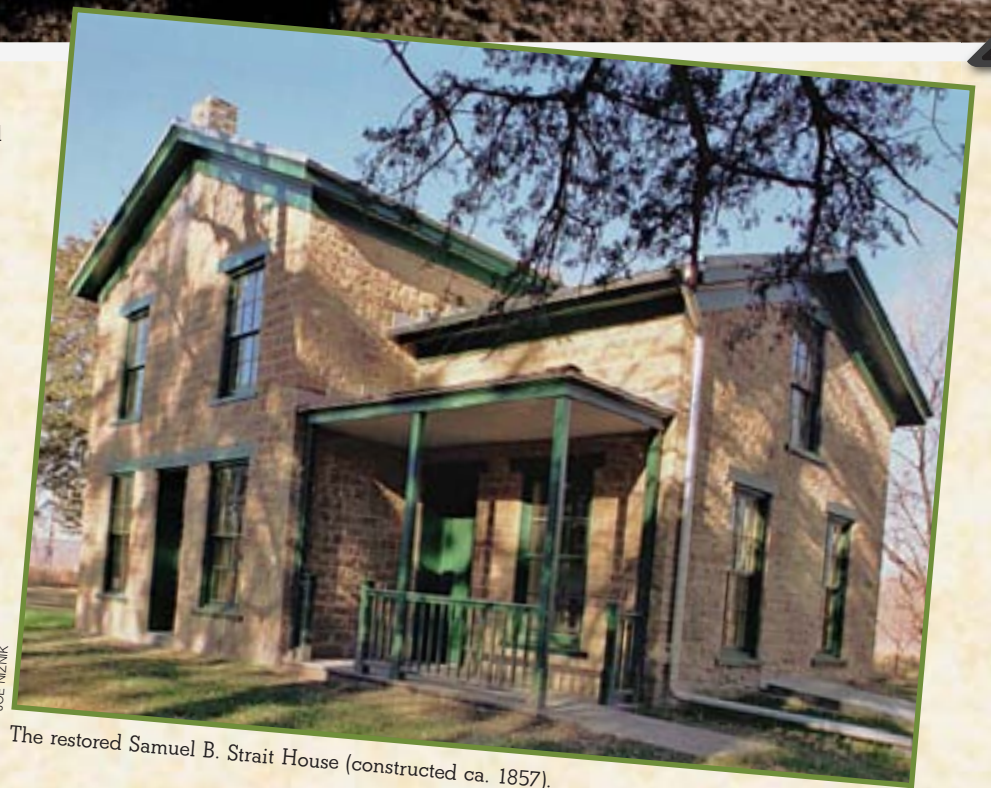
Even before the promise of statehood gleamed brightly on the horizon, enterprising settlers drew their dreams for prosperity as imaginary Minnesota towns and cities. Land speculators flocked to river valleys like the Minnesota anticipating the commerce steamboats full of homesteaders would generate. Such was the vision of Samuel B. Strait, one of the original owners and promoters of the town of St. Lawrence, platted in November 1856 along the Minnesota River between Belle Plaine and Jordan. Putting his convictions to the test, Strait built this house in 1857 using limestone blocks from a nearby quarry. As statehood came and went, so, too, did the town of St. Lawrence, by-passed by the railroad and abandoned in 1869. The Strait House survived over a century before being restored in 1999, a tangible reminder of early visionaries along the river flowing through Minnesota River Valley State Trail and Recreation Area.

SCOTT COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Samuel's son Edgar Strait and his wife Elizabeth occupied the Strait House in the 1890s. It remained in the family until the 1920s.

JOE NIZNIK



The restored Samuel B. Strait House (constructed ca. 1857).

October



EDWIN WHITEFIELD, MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Early settlement in the Minnesota River Valley.

This month in State Park History

- 1805. October 15. Zebulon Pike, on his expedition to find the source of the Mississippi River, establishes a winter fort near present day **Charles A. Lindbergh State Park**.
- 1885. Wilhelm F. Zippel and his family start a commercial fishery at the mouth of Zippel Bay to harvest lake sturgeon from Lake of the Woods. The site is now part of **Zippel Bay State Park**.
- 1926. Irving H. Hart and William Ingersoll attempt to retrace the Savanna Portage. The Savanna Portage trail had been abandoned soon after a military road was built between Duluth and St. Paul in 1858. Visitors today can also retrace the steps of the voyageurs at **Savanna Portage State Park**.
- 1936. October 7. Veterans Conservation Corps Company 2713, having spent two years at **Camden State Park**, left by truck to set up camp and begin work at **Fort Ridgely State Park**.
- 1963. October 2, U.S. Steel company turns Soudan Mine land over to the state. **Soudan Underground Mine State Park** was established by the Minnesota Legislature during the 1963 legislative session.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
28	29	30	1	2	3	4 Pioneer Home Fall Color Visit Whitewater State Park Weekend Mine Tours Through October 19 Soudan Underground Mine State Park
5	6	7	8 YOM KIPPUR BEGINS AT SUNSET	9	10	11 Headwaters Harvest Moon Lantern Lit Walk & Campfire Itasca State Park Nuts and Teas if You Please Whitewater State Park
12 NATIONAL CHILDREN'S DAY	13 COLUMBUS DAY SUKKOT BEGINS AT SUNSET	14	15	16 NATIONAL BOSS DAY	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24 UNITED NATIONS DAY	25
26	27	28	29	30	31 HALLOWEEN	1

September

November

1	2	3	4	5	6	1							
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
28	29	30	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30			



FORESTVILLE—

a snapshot in time, above and below.

The small town of Forestville was once a bustling southeastern Minnesota trade center for local farmers. When the railroad by-passed the town in 1899, it was kept alive by Thomas Meighen who owned the town, employed the residents and continued to operate the area as a farm. Historic Forestville lies within the boundaries of Forestville State Park and is a designated Minnesota Historic Site managed by the Minnesota Historical Society. These boundaries also extend below ground, protecting a vast network of limestone caverns and passageways known as Mystery Cave. After 50 years of commercial tours, Mystery Cave was incorporated into Forestville State Park in 1987 as Minnesota's first and only state cave tour operation, offering visitors to Forestville/Mystery Cave State Park a uniquely diverse array of state park experiences.



Foster family portrait. One of the first settlers in Forestville, along with the Meighens.

FILLMORE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Thomas Meighen's store and inn at Forestville. Watercolor by Josephine Lutz Rollins. 1948.



FILLMORE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Forestville's "brick school." Since Forestville did not have a church or meeting hall, the school served as the town's social center. A middle-aged Thomas Meighen stands in front of the school in this 1890s photo, taken shortly before the school was demolished.



FILLMORE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Meighen and Luedtke sawmill. Powered by a steam engine, the mill helped meet the huge demand for lumber in Forestville's early days.

November

FILLMORE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



The Forestville "graded school" with teacher Myrtle Cummings and her class. The graded school replaced the crowded brick school. Miss Cummings left Forestville to homestead a farm on her own in what is now Itasca State Park. In her honor, a small lake in the park was named Myrtle Lake.

This month in State Park History

1862. November 7. Seventeen hundred Dakota Indians, mostly women and children, are imprisoned at Fort Snelling in the aftermath of the U.S.-Dakota Conflict of 1862.

1905. November 28. The Mataafa Storm, the worst storm in Great Lakes recorded history, wrecks or damages 20 vessels. Six of the wrecked ships are on Lake Superior within a dozen miles of the Split Rock River. The event triggered action by the government to contract for construction of Split Rock Lighthouse.

1926. November 8. The Mendota Bridge opens to traffic as the longest concrete arched bridge in the world (at the time). The structure, an ever-present shadow over Fort Snelling State Park, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
26	27	28	29	30	31	1 ALL SAINTS DAY
2 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS	3	4 ELECTION DAY	5	6	7	8
9	10 Edmund Fitzgerald Commemoration and Lighthouse Beacon Lighting Split Rock Lighthouse State Park	11 VETERANS DAY	12	13	14	15 Swan Field Trip Whitewater State Park
16	17	18 Leonid Meteor Shower Watch Itasca State Park	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27 THANKSGIVING	28	29
30 ADVENT BEGINS						

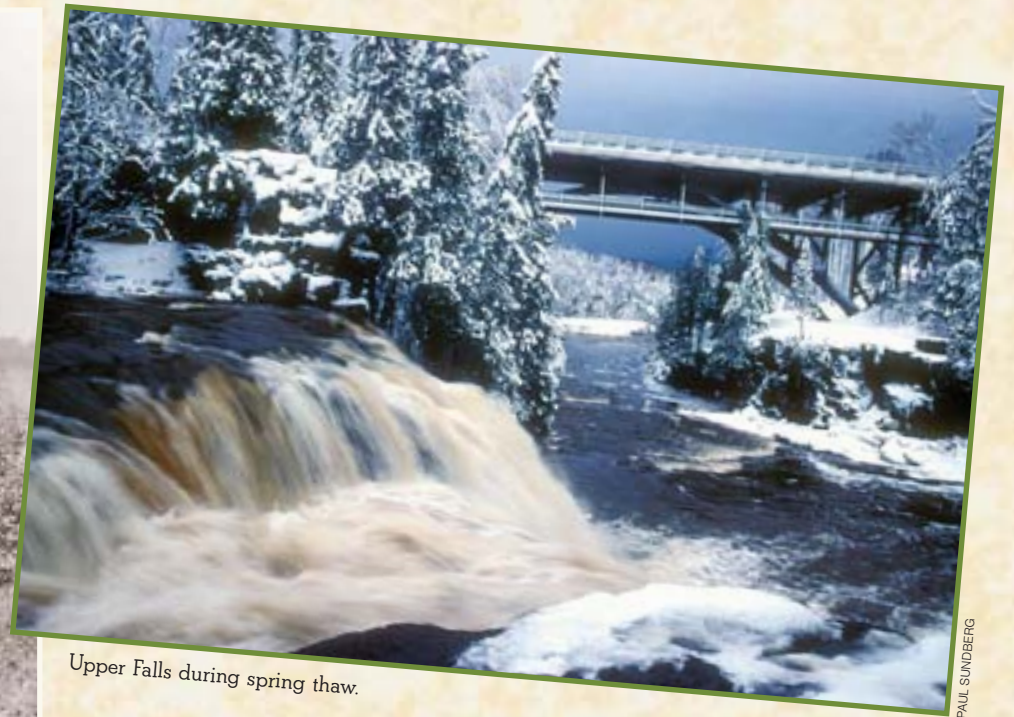
October

December

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19 20 21 22 23 24 25	21 22 23 24 25 26 27
26 27 28 29 30 31	28 29 30 31



The Roleff family campsite at the mouth of the Gooseberry River in 1922. Photo by William Roleff.



Upper Falls during spring thaw.

PAUL SUNDBERG

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY



GOOSEBERRY FALLS STATE PARK—

historic gateway to the North Shore.

In 1937 Gooseberry Falls became the first of eight state parks to be established along the North Shore of Lake Superior. Often referred to as Minnesota's crown jewels for their spectacular resources and scenic beauty, these parks stretch along Highway 61 from Two Harbors to the Canadian border with Gooseberry Falls serving as the gateway.

Born of Depression-era work relief programs, Gooseberry Falls was among a group of nine parks established in 1937. Four years earlier, the Minnesota Legislature authorized preservation of the area around Gooseberry Falls. The highway department, in partnership with the state's Conservation Commission, acquired 640 acres including the lower river and its trademark waterfalls. In 1934, the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) began to develop the area. The boys of the CCC created picnic areas, campgrounds, trails, buildings and a highway bridge concourse made of wood and stone—structures that are still in use today. The original 640 acres and all the CCC/WPA buildings and structures in the park are now designated a National Historic District.



MNDNR

Posing for photos to send home was an almost daily activity for the boys of the CCC at Gooseberry.

December



Sunrise over Lake Superior reflecting on the Lakeview Shelter.



Visitors posing for photo at Lakeview Shelter in the 1940s.

PAUL SUNBERG

MN DNR

This month in State Park History

1892. More than a half million tons of iron ore, a record, ships from the Soudan Mine, now **Soudan Underground Mine State Park**.

1934. With the aid of a local conservation committee who furnished feed and volunteers, the **Fort Ridgely State Park** Civilian Conservation Corps distributes grain to hundreds of ring-necked pheasants, prairie chickens and other birds after heavy snow covers their feeding grounds.

1935. Veterans at the **Sibley State Park** Veteran Conservation Corps camp celebrate Christmas with free cigarettes, candy and nuts provided by Army officers and National Park Service supervisors.

SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

30	1	2	3	4	5	6
					FIRST QUARTER	Caving Field Trip Whitewater State Park
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
			Moonlight Walk & Campfire Itasca State Park			Winter Bird Feeding Whitewater State Park
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
					FULL MOON	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
HANUKKAH BEGINS AT SUNSET WINTER SOLSTICE				CHRISTMAS DAY	KWANZAA BEGINS BOXING DAY (CANADA)	
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
			NEW YEAR'S EVE New Years Eve Candlelight Walk Fort Snelling State Park			NEW MOON

November January 09

1	1	2	3
2 3 4 5 6 7 8	4 5 6 7 8 9 10		
9 10 11 12 13 14 15	11 12 13 14 15 16 17		
16 17 18 19 20 21 22	18 19 20 21 22 23 24		
23 24 25 26 27 28 29	25 26 27 28 29 30 31		
30			

MINNESOTA STATE PARKS—

windows to original Minnesota.

PRESERVING NATURAL PLACES

is more than just setting aside a stand of trees or an acre of prairie—it is about maintaining the history of the land and providing a window to our past. These landscapes offer a living reminder of the resources that drew us here throughout history. In 2008 as we commemorate Minnesota's 150 years as a state we invite you to explore its history reflected in our state parks.

Although bits and pieces of Minnesota's historic pre-statehood landscapes can be found throughout Minnesota, most are preserved in its state parks. As a result, while visitors enjoy the natural resources for recreation and their sheer beauty, they also gain a sense of the rich heritage that helped form who and what we are today.

During 2008, explore your state parks and the rich history of our state. Visit the 150 Years of Statehood Web site to see all the programs, activities and events during this very special year.



Minnesota Sesquicentennial Commission
Web site: www.mn150years.org

The calendar provides a listing of just some of the nature and history programs being offered during Minnesota's 150 anniversary year. Inside you will find a list of addresses and phone numbers for state parks and state recreation areas, with notes of historic resources found in each. It's an ideal reference list and tool for planning your next visit.

\$12.95

Proceeds from calendar sales help fund resource management and education programs including preservation and interpretation of our historic past in Minnesota State Parks.

January

ITASCA—
where it all began.

FORT SNELLING—
where great rivers meet.

February

SOUDAN UNDERGROUND MINE—
where history runs deep.

March

OLD MILL—
powerful traditions.

April

INTERSTATE—
birthplace of Minnesota tourism.

May

FORT RIDGELY—
building on the past.

June

MINNEOPA—
a beautiful place for a picnic, today as always.

July

BLUE MOUNDS—
a picnic, today as always.

August

GOOSEBERRY FALLS STATE PARK—
historic gateway to the North Shore.

September

GLENDALOUGH—
private preservation for the public good.

October

MINNESOTA VALLEY STATE RECREATION AREA—
the valley of dreams.

November

FORESTVILLE—
a snapshot in time, above and below.

December

GOOSEBERRY FALLS STATE PARK—
historic gateway to the North Shore.

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Cover Photos

(left to right from upper left) *Fort Snelling from Two Miles Below*, Watercolor by Seth Eastman. Minnesota Historical Society; Family of Ezra G. Valentine at Glendalough, DNR Parks; President Dwight D. Eisenhower at Glendalough, DNR Parks; Two people on boat on Lake Itasca, DNR Parks. Center Photo: Colorized photo of North Shore Drive near Gooseberry and Split Rock Lighthouse ca. 1939, Walter H. Wetschreck, MN DNR, Gooseberry State Park Civilian Conservation Corps tent camp at Fort Ridgely, Minnesota Historical Society; Itasca postcard at the Headwaters of the Mississippi River, DNR Parks; Civilian Conservation Corps enrollees, Gooseberry Falls, DNR Parks; Fort Ridgely, 1880 oil painting by James McGrew, Minnesota Historical Society.

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