

Wildtales Country Journal

by Heather A. Wallis Murphy ©2003



August: Named for Julius Caesar's successor, Augustus Caesar. (It seems August is also the month of Adventurers).
August's Birth Flower is GLADIOLUS, and the Birthstone is **SARDONYX** or **PERIDOT**.

August Dates To Celebrate:
1st William Clark born 1790,
3rd C. Columbus set sail 1492,
4th Louis Armstrong born 1901,
11th Full Moon,
11th Dog Days of Summer - end,
13th Perseid Meteor Shower,
13th Annie Oakley born 1860

15th Sir Walter Scott born 1771,
15th (Th.E) Lawrence of Arabia born 1888,
17th Davy Crockett born 1786,
18th Meriwether Lewis born 1774,
19th Nat'l Aviation Day,
19th Orville Wright born 1871,
22nd Clark's Nutcracker found 1891,
24th Mt. Vesuvius erupted 79 AD

Nature Tales:

In August the Natural world celebrates all things that fly. Young eaglets leave the nest. Hummingbirds bulk up on nectar prior to their flights back to Mexico and South America.

The Clark's Nutcracker was discovered this month during the Lewis & Clark Expedition, in Idaho 1805. Butterflies are found in abundance feeding on garden flowers and Alpine meadow dews.

This month celebrates 100 Years of Nat'l Aviation Day with Orville Wright's birthday. Other things that fly are the flying squirrel and the spotted owl.

In Old growth and mixed forests we watched a pair of spotted owls preening. Then the male took off and in 5 minutes returned with a flying squirrel - a disguised gift for food. The flying squirrel is an awesome animal to watch in its glide, but popular with parkgoers.



BUTTERFLIES the fascinating insect that brings beauty to us humans. Each day of their short life, they seem to lead the charge of *Carpe Diem* or "Seize the Day." make the most of this life, for indeed life is short. Smell the roses and drink the nectar of good health.

They begin as egg masses, laid by the female. They advance from small caterpillars having 4 to 6 growth changes (instars) until they are a large sized caterpillar. They then spin the pupae or **chrysalis** (some species overwinter).

The transformation from caterpillar to pupa to beautiful butterfly is an incredible, highly advanced metamorphosis in the insect world.

In the wild, butterflies feed on many plants, flowers, shrubs, leaf and grasses. I have observed Mourning cloaks, butterflies in August feeding on Lupine, composites and perhaps Indian paintbrush. Common Blue Butterflies in Spring feed on Lupine, as observed near our home. Other good butterfly plants are: penstemon, sweet pea, violet, thistle, spirea, balsamroot, arnica, valerian, aspen, tiger lilies, and Fragaria - **LOOK FOR THESE!**



CREPUSCULAR FLIGHT occurs at dusk and dawn. The species most commonly thought of emerging at dusk and returning at dawn is the Bat.

A twice daily thrill is to watch bats leave their daytime roost to begin the night hunt for mosquitos, flies, moths, ants, and beetles during the "Dog Days" we



once watched 51 bats leave their chambers, a nursery colony, most likely. Thinking of all the bugs being consumed, bats are quite helpful in the night sky - while watching August's meteor showers.

Four Friends For All Seasons:

Summer
Summer's Golden home, of tanagers, trilliums, and wild ginger grasses.

Wee sweet hummingbirds heed butterflies' lullabies outside the screen door.

Rivers mimic life, waters flowing with the past into the future.

She glances back once more, while summer's warm memories chime in her heart.



Has Your Murphy been a Feature in the News? It's an honor to be featured in the news. Address: Heather A. Wallis Murphy, 10000 S. 10th St., Suite 100, Tukwila, WA 98168. Website: www.wildtales.com. Call: 206-835-1000.

Field Journal Entries - Things That Fly



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