

Wildtales Country Journal

by Heather A. Wallis Murphy ©2003



October: From the Roman, or Julius Caesar, Calendar - the 8th month of the year. Now the 10th month of the Gregorian Calendar. 1582 adopted. October's birth flower is Calendula or Pot Marigold. The birth stone is opal.

October Dates To Celebrate:

- 2nd Oct. Birthday Gault; 1861, Country Music 1939, 2000, 2019 (1951)
- 3rd Oct. 1st Telephone Calls; 1977

- 4th St. Francis of Assisi;
- 6th YAKIMAZU Jewish Day of Atonement;
- 10th HUNTER'S FULL MOON;
- 12th 1492 Columbus discovered N.A.M.

- 13th Thanksgiving Day in Canada & Columbus Day observed USA;
- 16th Fleck Webster born 1758;
- 23rd Gertrude Ederle born 1906 1st woman to swim English Channel.

- 25th 1200 am Daylight Savings ends;
- 27th Ramadan begins 1 month fasting Muslim;
- 27th Pres. Theodore Roosevelt born 1858;
- 28th St. Jude Day, Patron Saint of the Improbable;
- 31st All HALLOW'S EVE - HALLOWEEN

Nature Tales: As Autumn advances, the days become sunny & warm and the nights become crisp & cool - one last stand for the Indian Summer. The final transition between Summer's heat and winter's lengthy nights.

October is the month for major wildlife migrations. Waterfowl in the Cascades flock to large lakes and rivers prior to their flights southward. It's a great time to birdwatch. Hike on high mountain lake in October and you are sure to see waterbirds. In 1997 October 11, I was hiking to Heather Lake with nephew

Tom. The lake was covered with mists and snow. Come on at a glorious sunset. The smells & sights were overwhelming in this wilderness late. But the highlight was the long low calls from a pair of loons. What a gift to us lone hikers - the chortling of the most ancient of birds. Ursulately are also migrating during October. Elk and Deer have the most dramatic movements and offer prey base for carnivores such as Coyotes. Be on the watch for bears and large cats.



Heather A. Wallis Murphy is a feature writer from Vancouver, who shares her field notes as an artist, writer and wildlife naturalist. She produces Wildtales magazine. Write her at: hwallis@wildtales.com

Four Friends For All Seasons: Autumn

Fall's auburn fawn awakens at breaks edge, Indian paintbrush in hand. The mountains sing with huckleberry melodies of pika, ursus, and finch.

Backlit emerald waters of morning, turn jade by afternoon's light.

Autumn's gentle beauty reaches out to trust, in her windows to the soul.

— Heather A. Wallis Murphy ©'03 for Laura J. on her road trip

