

# Wildtales Country Journal

by Heather A. Wallis Murphy ©2003



**September:** SEPTEMBER means Seven, from the Roman 7th month of the year (the original Calendar). SEPTEMBER'S birth flower is ASTER, and the birth stone is SAPPHIRE (found in Montana).

**September Dates To Celebrate:**  
 1<sup>st</sup> Labor Day, 10<sup>th</sup> Harvest Moon, Full Moon  
 15<sup>th</sup> James Fenimore Cooper 1797-1851, 15<sup>th</sup> Subalpine Fir described 1840s, 16<sup>th</sup> James I Hill Born 1838, 16<sup>th</sup> B. King Born 1925, 17<sup>th</sup> Mule Deer discovered 14C 1804, 23<sup>rd</sup> Autumnal Equinox 9:49am, 23<sup>rd</sup> John Coltrane Born 1926, 23<sup>rd</sup> Ray Charles born 1920, 29<sup>th</sup> Racey & Bullwinkle 1961, 25<sup>th</sup> Vasco Núñez de Balboa 1513 a. discovered Pacific Ocean 1492, 26<sup>th</sup> Johnny Appleseed born 1774, 27<sup>th</sup> Rosa HASKANIAN, Jewish (1904-1994)

## Nature Tales:

The refreshing High Country in September is at its premier best. Fall flowers are at season ending bloom and seed set. Wildlife observations pick up in the mountains of September. Black bears can be found feeding on high elevation huckleberry fruits. Pike and marmot are cutting their "HAY" of grasses and forbs. Deer are finishing alpine meadow feeding, preparing for migration to the low country - out of deep snow. Ground Squirrels, marmots and chickadees work the ripe cones



The Spirit of the High Country has been described as the majestic Mountain Goat. Living on glaciers and permanent snow fields, thriving on cliffs and rock with limited vegetation to feed on year round. What a remarkable species! Lewis & Clark actually discovered the Mountain goat Aug 24, 1805 in Lemhi, Idaho. Capt. C saw one at a distance today. (Notes from copyright 1960). Field Studies show mountain goats feed on leaves, conifer needles, shrub lichens.

The high elevations above 4000 feet endure deep winter snows, steady winds over ridges, and rocky shallow soils producing fragile vegetation of the Alpine regions. Mountain streams start in this country, tumbling down into forests and rivers, the waters eventually traveling to the Pacific.

Once doing wolf howling songs on a mountain top, I was awed that night by the Aurora Borealis - a fantastic night time visitor with fines of white, green, red and yellow.

## Smithbrook Dippers

Smithbrook falls and pools to our delight, cooing through the Cascades.

Dipper walks the under-waters with teal frogs and caddisfly, murmuring, tumbling, dipping, feeding.

Smithbrook's cool forested waters also speaks to the hearts of children and women - through water color poetry.

- American Dipper
- Water ouzel
- Tector-butts
- Cinclus mexicanus

Heather A. Wallis Murphy ©1996 for Wendy & Jerry

- AMERICAN DIPPERS
- Small water birds
- of mountain streams
- feet behind waterfalls
- Solitary, song, a loud musical trilling.
- Feeds on aquatic life: caddisfly, dragonfly, snails, small fish, specialized for cold water, swimming, swimming.

Mountain Rain: "A night on the mountain brought the aurora borealis, blasts of colors, flowing from the North." - Sept 12, 1933 - HA Wallis Murphy



## Rainier's Blanket of Wildflowers, A Quilt:

- Wildflower Windows
- Shop at Steam Mill
- Spring Breakers flower lilies
- Next and next cascade Lupine, oblate, valerian.
- All friend of the fish country Mountain Butte
- Shimmering, beautiful Indian Pentstemon mountain Butte
- Wet Meadows of Shooting Stars, Forsythia, Flowering Tiger Lilies.
- Last flowers before Snow Blue gentian, Aster, Fragrant Flower.

Wendy Murphy of Wildtales Country is a nature lover on her farm. She always has a field of wildflowers on an acre or so. She produces a national calendar and an almanac. Her journal drawings are available.



Mount Rainier - 14,410'  
 September 1993 - Aurora Borealis  
 Black bear, Mule deer, Black tail deer, Mountain goat, Alb. Golden-mantled ground squirrel

## Field Journal Entries - High Country is Home

September 2003 Heather A. Wallis Murphy



Hurricane Ridge - 8,210'  
 September 2003 - Olympic Marmot, Black tail deer, Black cap chickadee, Blue cross, Pike, Black bear



Mount McKinley - 20,320'  
 September 1992  
 Gray Wolf, Grizzly Bear, Dall Sheep, Caribou, Arctic Ground Squirrel, Willow Ptarmigan, Lemming, porcupine, Arctic hare



Ben Nevis - 4,406'  
 Scotland - Great Britain's tallest peak  
 Snow Bunting, Buzzard, Red Grouse, Merganser, Osprey

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 Rainier Wildflowers © 1993 edition