

What's Happening out in The Grove this FALL

Early Fall:

- ▣ Woodchucks fatten up in preparation for hibernation
- ▣ Orb-weaver spiders construct intricate round webs
- ▣ Warblers begin moving south for fall migration
- ▣ Bees are busy collecting nectar from the wildflowers
- ▣ Hawks migrate overhead sometimes in large groups
- ▣ Goldenrods and asters bloom in the prairie
- ▣ Wild grapes and other vines are fruiting
- ▣ A variety of mushrooms can be seen on the woodland floor
- ▣ Mud dawber wasps make tubular clay nests for their eggs
- ▣ Prairie grasses like big bluestem & Indian grass reach their peak
- ▣ Frogs burrow under logs and rocks to hibernate

Mid Fall:

- ▣ Hickory nuts, walnuts and acorns abound on the trees and ground
- ▣ Flocks of juncos begin arriving to spend the winter
- ▣ Wild cherries, elderberries and dogwood berries ripen
- ▣ Monarch butterflies migrate to Mexico
- ▣ Bats hibernate in hollow trees or bat boxes
- ▣ Baby snapping turtles hatch and move to the pond
- ▣ Sandhill cranes migrate and may be heard calling above
- ▣ Blue bottle gentians bloom in the prairie
- ▣ Garter snakes make their way to hibernacula to spend the winter
- ▣ Sumac leaves turn fiery red
- ▣ Yellow jacket wasps are at their peak and feed ravenously

Late Fall:

- ▣ Muskrats are bulking up and adding extra fur for the winter
- ▣ Tree leaves turn gold, orange, red and brown
- ▣ Crows roost communally in the trees
- ▣ White-tailed deer mating season starts and bucks are rutting
- ▣ Toads and salamanders burrow underground in the woodlands
- ▣ Blue-winged teal & other ducks stop at the pond during migration
- ▣ Chipmunks and squirrels cache nuts and seeds for winter
- ▣ Cattail seed heads open and are dispersed by the wind
- ▣ Woodchucks enter hibernation in their dens
- ▣ The weasel's brown summer coat turns white
- ▣ Owls look for winter homes and establish territories