

# 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