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Before the Fall & Winter Holiday Season

Planning to spend some relaxing time outdoors BEFORE the Holiday rush? Or maybe incorporating some outdoor time during the holidays?

September and October are great months to be outdoors by yourself or with friends and family. The weather is usually cooler, mosquitos disappear, and the colors change with each day.

The Seneca Parks offer many monthly walks and other fall programming for all ages. Check out the program calendar at www.SenecaCountyParks.com for a full listing of available programs and park locations that you can visit sunrise to sunset each day.

Below are some quirky nature-related fun fall facts to wow your family and friends:

- One hundred years' worth of records show that grasshopper abundance rises and falls rhythmically every 9.2 years.
- Sunspots have been on a 12-year cycle, coinciding with the amount of rainfall in London, England.
- There is a 7.4-day cycle in the ability of bean seeds to take up water, which corresponds with the phases of the Moon. Peaks in water uptake occur at new moon, full moon, and intervening quarters. This lends credence to the age-old practice of planting by the Moon.
- Over a span of 133 years, bank deposits vary on a clear 9-year cycle, as does the number of cows kept for milk on US farms.
- One gallon of apple cider requires around 36 apples.
- Every 9.6 years in Canada, there is a peak in the abundance of lynx, snowshoe rabbits, coyotes, martens, mink, muskrats, fisher cats, red foxes, and skunks.
- Precipitation in the US shows an 8-year cycle over 145 years of data. Also, oddly, cigarette production falls into the same cycle period.
- Fall Woolly Bear caterpillar stripes do not predict the upcoming winter weather, the stripes tell how productive the summer growing season was that year.
- (Human) Babies born during the autumn months are more likely to live to 100 than those born any other time of year.
- Bobbing for apples was a fall courting ritual in England. Men were assigned an apple and women bobbed for the apple from the man she had her eye on.
- Evolution of the name of the season: Latin 'autumnus'. French 'automne'. English 'harvest'. English language introduced 'autumn' in late 1300 literature. English 'fall' is a shortening of the original phrase 'fall of the leaf', commonly used in England from around the 1500s-1700s. After the American Revolution, most of the newly formed states continued using the term 'fall' while English terminology mostly changed back to the term 'autumn'.

- Around 2,500 different types of apples are grown in the US.
- The full moon, called Harvest Moon, that occurs during the fall equinox is much brighter and rises earlier than a typical full moon cycle.
- Pumpkin spice has no pumpkin flavor. It is a mix of cinnamon, nutmeg, dry ginger, and cloves.

Enjoy the Fall season!