

Autumn Arriving

Autumn, in case you haven't noticed, is definitely headed this way.

It is evident in the crispness of the air, the slight change in color of the blue sky, and the shortening of the days. We've seen it coming for a while.

Fall officially arrives today, Sept. 22, at 5:18 p.m. EDT. It is something you can feel in your bones, and it is an exciting sensation.

The refreshing change in temperature is welcome after the heat of summer. Tennessee's mountains and lakes and rivers beckon to the hiker, the motorist and the cyclist to come away from the hectic pace of daily living and the necessary pursuit of money to meditate on life's meaning and purpose, to bask in the radiance and exuberance of God's world in its primitive form.

Ah, the glories of autumn ...

- The sound of a breeze bending boughs of pine.
- The gurgle of a mountain stream swirling, leaping or coasting lazily along its course.
- The jerk of a deer's head and the rhythm of its feet in departure.
- The pungent aroma of coffee perking over an open campfire and the crackle of bacon in the frying pan.
- The honking of geese high overhead, flying in formation, as the migration South begins.
- The crackle of fresh-fallen leaves underfoot.
- The glow of red dogwood berries hanging in clusters from crooked limbs.
- The incomparable taste of marshmallows, teased by dancing flames and toasted on a forked branch pulled from a blackgum tree.
- The scurry of squirrels hastening to prepare for the coming cold and desolation in the woods.
- The deepening purple in the twilight haze.
- The mellowing of a golden moon.

Truly, autumn is a marvelous happening.

It is a gift of God too often ignored or unappreciated. Don't let it happen this time.

– Beecher Hunter