

# The SIRENS OF SUMMER

Summer 2020 began with the solstice this past Saturday, June 20, at 5:43 p.m. (EDT). While the Memorial Day holiday is often viewed as the start of summer, the season officially begins with the solstice – which is determined when the sun reaches its farthest point north of the equator.

This means that the summer solstice is the day with the most hours of sunlight during the whole year. It also reminds us that we are near the midpoint of the 2020 calendar, which is remarkable. It doesn't seem long ago that we were celebrating Christmas.

But enough of the science! Fun is what summer is all about. It is a season for ...

- Picking blackberries. The picking part is not so enjoyable, but partaking of the finished product, whether it be a cobbler pie or berries adorning hot pancakes, certainly is.
- Wading barefoot over slippery rocks in a cool, gurgling stream.
- Enjoying a backyard barbecue or picnic by some little-known waterfall.
- Pausing to admire white Queen Anne's lace or orange tiger lilies bobbing in the breeze of a patchwork meadow.
- Being awed by a golden full moon hanging low over a purple Tennessee mountain peak.
- Listening to the soulful song of a whippoorwill in the far-off forest.
- Cherishing the images of here-and-there lightning bugs as they pierce the night's darkness.
- Hearing a brisk wind rustle the leaves of hardwood trees in the edge of a woodland.
- Staring in fascination at the dance movements of window curtains, rhythmically responding to summer breezes gently flowing through an open window.



These are the Sirens of Summer, and they lure me to distraction from the busy-ness of daily demands.

Welcome, Summer. I'm glad that you're here again.

– Beecher Hunter