

November



November is a time of shorter and shorter days, but warm spells often invite us outside. This is a good time to walk along the shore of Salt Pond*, watching for arriving winter ducks, or to go out to The Knob* to watch the color drain out of the afternoon sky. Wherever you go, here are some things to look for in November:

The red berries of the low evergreen **Wintergreen** ripen now. Taste them; they are a little dry but strongly wintergreen-flavored, and they last all winter.

The **ponds** continue to cool, as evidenced by the steam rising from them on still mornings.

The **first hard frost** may not occur until well into November.

Asters continue blooming until hard frost. After frost the fluffy seed heads blow apart and the tiny seeds are carried off on their silken parachutes by winter winds.

Deer hunting season usually is the two weeks beginning the Monday after Thanksgiving. Hunting is allowed in many town conservation areas in Falmouth, so be aware before you go walking.

The berries of the native **Holly** turn red after frost. A good place to see them is from the trail around Long Pond*.

Wintering ducks like Common Goldeneye, Lesser Scaup, Common Eiders and Red-breasted Mergansers arrive in large numbers, and can be found with the earlier-arriving Buffleheads in ponds and estuaries.

Leaves fall in all the woodlands, revealing the shapes of the bare branches against the sky.

The **leaves of Cranberries** change to their cold weather color, burgundy, making a startling field of color against the gray and brown lands around them.

The **Leonid meteor shower** occurs on the night of the 17th. If it is clear during the pre-dawn hours look for shooting stars—by then the sky may be dark enough even without seeking out an especially dark place.



Male Red-breasted Merganser. Photo by Craig Gibson

The **first snow** often flies in late November, sometimes just flurries, sometimes many inches.

* trail maps at: www.300committee.org/maps.htm

Preserving Open Space for Falmouth

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