

Community Comment – Oct. 12th, 2015

By Jon Sapper

Autumn

Fall is in the air. I like that song. I've been humming it lately, but only in the shower where it sounds really good. Maybe the words are Spring is in the air. Not sure. Anyway.... Fall is a great time of year with the warm days, starting to get cool nights, the last full baskets from the summer garden and the leaves turning color. Yes, even locally.

Fall is chopping and stacking wood, seeing the salmon making their way up the rivers, catching a glimpse of the first flights of Northern Mallards heading south and listening to the raspy bugle of a bull elk as he tries to entice a potential girlfriend. Amidst the nostalgia of Falls gone by, I'm quickly reminded that the dead flowers need to be plucked, the ground needs to be turned, the wood stove and flue needs to be cleaned and the warm jackets need to be taken out of the upstairs closet.

The canner is in full swing.....but not to the degree as in past years. Needed more bees this year to produce more fruit. It didn't happen. And the pears had to be shared with the resident bear. I didn't mind him taking some pears, but does he have to break the limbs? And then eat so much that he throws it up right next to the tree? Yuck, I know that doesn't sound appetizing, but that's what he did and has done for the last several years. He's a stupid bear.

Also, you can have the spiders and their webs. I don't like 'em. I kinda wish we didn't have Halloween, because all the spiders come out for that Holiday. And if you really want to get excited, remember that Christmas is right around the corner. In fact, I saw some Christmas displays in a large local retailer the other day. I recoiled, adding up there's only 74 days left to get your shopping done.

And what would Fall be without the pumpkin patches? I did hear there is going to be a shortage of pumpkins for Thanksgiving pies and they recommended you go out and buy canned pumpkin now. What a great way for the media to help eradicate a surplus. Pumpkins are the Fall version of Zucchini. How do you get rid of them? I read an article telling me 28 things I can do with a pumpkin. Now, don't go south on me here. I can make whipped pumpkin butter lotion. Don't

think so. I can make pumpkin sugar body scrub. Don't think so. How about pumpkin spice omega 3 smoothie or pumpkin hard squash hummus? Way too earthy for me. Now I might try pumpkin mac and cheese. Not really. And for you guys out there, how about a pumpkin seed necklace that you can give to your wife or girlfriend. One question...What do you do when it sprouts? It might be the last gift you ever have to give them.

This has been Jon Sapper for Community Comment.