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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

Dr. Charles F. Brooks,  
Secretary, American Meteorological Society  
Tells about

THE FOGS OF AUTUMN

Autumn brings with it much of what the meteorologists call radiation or lowland fogs, which form in valleys and depressions, especially over rivers, ponds and lakes. These fogs occur in summer, too; in fact, a common name for them is "summer fog." But they are more frequent and much heavier in fall.

In the course of still, warm days much water is evaporated into the lower atmosphere over water surfaces and low-lying land, where in most part it remains as long as there is no wind. This air, because it is humid, and the ground with which it is in contact, both radiate their heat rapidly on a clear, calm night, until finally the air is cooled to a temperature below its dewpoint, making a fog. The surfaces of lakes and rivers steam as if there were fires beneath them. Thus, on many nights hollows and valleys become puddles and ponds of whiteness, which from nearby heights in the light of early morning give the impression of greatly extended sheets of water. Sometimes, however, the fogs are very limited; and a hollow such as a deep railroad cut will fill with fog, while there is none anywhere else in the immediate vicinity.

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(Tomorrow: Lake Waters Are Getting Cold.)

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