

Signs of Spring

Spring is bursting out all over in Southeast Tennessee, and it is our hope that you are experiencing some of these benefits where you live, too – even though the season does not officially arrive until next Monday, one week away.

Driving through the mountains Sunday afternoon, my wife, Lola, and I spotted the first redbud trees in bloom this year. The redbud, sometimes referred to as the Judas tree as it dates back to biblical times, is one of the first harbingers of spring. Its reddish-purple flowers dramatically change the drab, gray landscape created by winter. These trees were joined in the color parade by daffodils, their yellow and white heads weaving and bobbing in a brisk breeze, by the bright yellow forsythia limbs on roadside bushes, and by an occasional pink-leaved decorative cherry tree.

But there were some other signs that spring will soon be here:

- A man climbing high in a maple tree to prune its limbs.
- A teenager washing his car.
- A housewife trimming weeds from around a flower bed.
- A man inspecting his garden tiller.
- A flock of robins scouring the ground for worms.
- A squirrel, halfway up a tall tree, flicking his tail as he surveys the woods around him.
- A woman shaking the dust from some rugs.
- A little boy playing in the edge of a creek.
- A young woman in shorts soaking up some sunshine.

It appears that all of us are ready for a change of seasons, and this preview of spring is most welcome, indeed.

--Beecher Hunter