

Welcome, Spring

In case you didn't notice over the weekend, spring came tripping in. You may have difficulty believing that where you live, since some parts of our country are still experiencing snow, ice and shivering temperatures. But, nevertheless, spring is here! And that's cause for cheer!

Spring officially arrived Sunday at 7:34 a.m. (EST). The realization that the season is finally with us produces an exhilarating feeling.

Spring – it's nature's renewal of life, and nowhere does the beauty of the great out-of-doors burst upon the scene with such breathtaking splendor than in Tennessee, and especially in Southeast Tennessee. Our gently rolling meadowlands and pastures, our majestic mountains robed in greenery, our forests with gurgling streams give us reason to celebrate the wonders of nature's revival. We long to ...

- Sit on a creek bank under the flowing branches of a willow tree and cast a fishing line into the water.
- Take off our shoes, roll up our pants and wade through the still-chilly waters of a brook with a stony bed.
- Try a bit of kite-flying in the gusty breath of March and early April.
- Listen to the songs of birds rediscovering their favorite haunts after a winter's absence.
- Get caught up in the drama of a baseball game.
- Smell the incomparable odor of honeysuckles crawling over a fence along the roadside.
- Cook a hamburger on an outdoor grill.
- Begin warming up the arm for some horseshoe pitching.
- Admire the splash of color across the heavens in a sunset viewed from the patio.
- Look for four-leaf clovers as we work in the yard.
- Fall under the spell of the magic of a hike along a lakeshore.

Welcome, spring.

We've missed you sorely since we parted company.

--Beecher Hunter