

Spring 2020

Just a few short weeks ago, Spring had not yet fully sprung here in our valley, though she was hunched down on her haunches, ready and anxious to leap into full splendor. Sure, Snowdrops and Crocus had shown up earlier, but they were more of a last gorgeous gasp of Winter; a welcome, but still chilly sign of things to come.

Then what were the muted greens of grasses and weeds one day seem to have brightened and sharpened their contrast with the earth tone browns and tans of trees and the leaves they let go in the Fall.

But when Daffodils start to dot the gardens and the yards, one cannot help but think the arrival may be upon us. Yet quickly they make it clear they have just begun their display and these dots rapidly turn into bunches and clusters of gentle whites, vibrant yellows even occasional soft oranges.

Not to be outdone, Forsythia's then take their turn to show off their own shades of yellow and one cannot help but notice since they are painted on larger canvasses than the Daffodils. Continuing the sequential natural order, Quince's next completely change the color scheme with dazzling reds and pinks from the other side of nature's palette.

And the miss-named Redbuds are just now showing those hints of dark fucia buds that slowly change to the brighter fucia flowers soon to decorate yards, roadsides and along creeks and runs. While inspecting these buds, the wind kicks up and I am sprinkled upon by petals of a White Dogwood's flowers, whose high blossoms I had somehow missed by looking too closely at just eye and ground level.

Ah, but down by the river, it is unquestionable. The Bluebells have truly rung in the season with their pink buds that have transformed to countless baby blue and lavender flowers. They carpet the ground in large patches along the river between the Sycamore, Tulip Poplar and occasional Black Walnut trees. Their unique colors demonstrate the vast variety of hues this wonder of a season can bring forth.

Indeed, Spring is here. I could not tell you the exact moment it arrived, but rather felt and saw its slow transition occur bringing its annual rebirth to this small part of our earth.

Just a few short months ago our human species - members of the animal kingdom - became embattled in a monumental struggle with the minutest of pathogens. Our natural order has been disrupted and endangered and many members of our species have already succumbed. The plant kingdom and its many species have had their own struggles with survival, but they continue to play their part in the emergence of each day and each day after that as the earth spins and unfolds its most life affirming season of our shared natural cycle of life on this planet.

While we necessarily stay apart from those within our own species, perhaps getting together and becoming more intimate with our indigenous plant species would be a

fruitful effort. When confronted by their astonishing elegance, beauty and resilience, we may find some comfort from those attributes, but may also gain some insights from their ceaseless perseverance through whatever may transpire.

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