

FIERY GIZZARD IS SECURE!

By Mary Priestley
Friends President

We've done it ... just about! The 6,200 acres in and around the Fiery Gizzard that were the focus of the Fiery Gizzard Project have been purchased and preserved at a total cost of \$8.1 million. About 2,900 of those acres have been transferred to the State of Tennessee for inclusion in the South Cumberland State Recreation Area.

A conservation buyer has purchased the remaining 3,300 acres with a conservation easement attached, restricting its future development. The Land Trust for Tennessee (TLTT) holds the conservation easement.

Of the \$8.1 million purchase price, \$2.1 million in private funds were needed. All except about \$250,000 has been raised, and TLTT has secured a low-interest loan for that amount from The Conservation Fund.

Jeanie Nelson, TLTT's executive director, said, "Based on the donations and support from the community, and the fact that individuals and foundations have reported they are still actively considering making gifts soon, we felt confident on moving forward to close the project."

To date, the Friends of SCSRA have raised just over \$100,000 for the project. That



includes a special fund honoring Sewanee biology professor *emeritus* Harry Yeatman. We had anticipated contributing \$50,000 so we were gratified by the tremendous response from our membership.

Chris Roberts, TLTT's South Cumberland project manager, commented, "The Fiery Gizzard Project is the culmination of all of the great things that Gov. (Phil) Bredesen has accomplished. We feel extreme gratitude for his leadership."

We couldn't have said it better! Many thanks to our partners and to all of those who helped to make this a reality. Look for news of a celebration this spring.



(Photo courtesy of Mary Priestley)

WHAT A VIEW! Park Manager John Christof explains the importance of protecting the Fiery Gizzard during one of several hikes to Raven Point to show prospective donors and other folks the land that was purchased with funds raised in the Fiery Gizzard Project.

FRIENDS TO SPONSOR TRAILS & TRILLIUMS IN APRIL

Trails & Trilliums, a successful spring event that was founded in 2004 at St. Andrew's-Sewanee School for hikers and wildflower enthusiasts, will be organized and directed by the Friends of South Cumberland this year for the first time. It will take place April 15-17.

The festival has attracted attendees from four states who come to the mountain to enjoy hikes, purchase native plants, and participate in the Cumberland Wild forum which is focused on environmental health of the Cumberland Plateau.

"We have grown to love Trails & Trilliums," said

Friends President Mary Priestley. "When we learned that

it was not going to be held at SAS in 2011, the Friends board decided that continuing the event would be both a service to the greater community and a way to gain visibility for the Friends and for South Cumberland State Park.



FRIENDS OF SOUTH CUMBERLAND

LOOKING BACK—2010 WAS A VERY GOOD YEAR!

By **John Christof**
Park Manager

As we enter the new year, it seems appropriate to look back at the accomplishments that occurred during 2010. We should all feel very proud of the land acquisition successes that have benefitted South Cumberland.

The third phase of our effort to protect critical recreation and con-



Friends of South Cumberland
State Recreation Area, Inc. newsletter
is published four times a year

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servation property adjacent to the Fiery Gizzard was completed. The State of Tennessee committed about \$4 million to acquire a threatened 2,900-acre portion of the Fiery Gizzard Trail and viewshed. This was part of a larger campaign to protect 6,200 acres.

The state's contribution was supported by conservation groups including the Friends of SCSRA that set a goal of raising \$2.1 million to finalize the transaction. The private-public partnership was able to protect the scenic and ecological values of the Fiery Gizzard area as well as to conserve the recreational assets that enhance tourism and the local economy in Grundy and Marion counties.

The Friends of South Cumberland supported the Land Trust for Tennessee and The Conservation Fund as partners with the state to raise a total of \$8.1 million--\$4 million from the state, \$2.1 million in private fundraising, and \$2 million from the sale of a portion of the property to a conservation buyer.

The Friends of SCSRA were fortunate to have such a large and loyal base of support for this effort. In particular, recognition is offered to the late Marvin Runyon, a long-time member of the Friends, who was instrumental in securing nearly \$2 million in federal grant funding to initiate the series of acquisitions.

Visitors to South Cumberland have long been recipients of the generous good graces of private landowners along the Fiery Gizzard Trail. The park offers sincere gratitude to its neighbors for allowing the public to hike sections of the trail that cross private property. There are few folks

left in our world that match the kindness of our neighbors along the Fiery Gizzard. Last year, 172,184 hikers traversed all or part of the Gizzard, which represents 25 percent of the park's total annual visitation.

Outgoing Gov. Phil Bredesen and his administration were very kind to South Cumberland by making protection of our park a high priority and recognizing that this is a crucial time to protect land on the Cumberland Plateau.

Acquisition of critical property along the Fiery Gizzard Trail, coupled with land purchases around the border of the Savage Gulf State Natural Area, have moved the park much closer to its goal of protecting the wilderness views that visitors enjoy along existing hiking trails.

Tennessee taxpayers have invested in the conservation of wild land at South Cumberland since the early 1970s when the park was established. Ever since that time, many people have worked hard to continue the dream of creating this park. We should all be very happy that decades of persistent effort have been rewarded with significant progress during the past year.

The Friends recognize that the job is not yet finished and that very real threats still exist to the protection of the park. We should try to build on our successes and continue our efforts until the world-class wilderness views from park's hiking trails are completely protected. Your membership in and support of the Friends is essential to protect the investment we have all made in the South Cumberland, which is one of the most treasured places in our beautiful state.

HIKE BRINGS TO LIGHT IMPORTANCE OF OUR SOUTH CUMBERLAND WORK

By Mary Priestley
Friends President

A January hike to the Fiery Gizzard with my son Thomas brought home for me the purpose of the work we are doing to preserve this majestic place.

It was a cold, clear day. The sunlight was reflected from icicles hanging from the rock faces along the trail. We had had a big rain so the creek was pounding through Black Canyon with tremendous force.

I thanked my lucky stars yet again for the foresight of people like Herman Baggenstoss, the leadership of those like Mack Prichard, and the steadfast resolve of people like Woody McLaughlin to leave this place as untouched as possible for other mothers and sons who visit the Fiery Gizzard for some quality time together in nature.

Nature? Writer Louise Dickinson Rich said it beautifully: "Nature is simply something indispensable, like air and light and water, that we accept as necessary to living, and the nearer we can get to it the happier we are."

I am grateful for our conservation partners, including especially Jeanie Nelson of The Land Trust for Tennessee and Rex Boner of The Conservation Fund with whom we are working on the Fiery Gizzard Project.

When told that much of the land in and around the Gizzard had been put up for sale and nearly went to a developer, a Friends member exclaimed, "People don't need to be building houses there! How will people know about God if they can't see the gorges?"

Precisely! And thanks to many Friends members and others, this is one gorge that mothers and sons—and dads and daughters and grannies—will be able to see and visit from now on.

As you will read elsewhere in this newsletter, the Friends have decided to take on the leadership of Trails and



FUN ON THE TRAIL. Friends President Mary Priestley and her son Thomas take a brief break during their January hike in the Fiery Gizzard.

Trilliums this spring. This celebration of wildflowers and their woodland habitats has for years drawn people to the mountain for a lovely spring weekend, and we believe that putting our beautiful state park at the focus of the festival will create even more interest. I hope to see you there. Circle the dates—April 15-17—and check our Web page in the coming weeks for more information.

Speaking of that, our Webmaster, Eric Dempsey, has revamped the Web page. It's streamlined and easy to navigate, and it's packed with good information and beautiful photos. Periodically, Eric publishes the Trail Tracker online to keep us up to date on late-breaking happenings in and around the park. Sign up for this free bulletin on the Web site. And be sure to visit the Friends' Facebook page and post your pictures and stories from trips to the park. That way all of us, even the armchair adventurers, can enjoy your expeditions.

Please let me know if you have questions or concerns. And thanks for the privilege of serving this beautiful park and working with its accomplished and dedicated staff!

LOW COUNTRY BOIL BENEFITS FRIENDS

By Nancy Crais

About 150 hungry folks showed up at the National Guard Armory on January 15 to participate in the Monteaule Mountain Chamber of Commerce's Low Country Shrimp Boil, some of the proceeds from which benefited the Friends of South Cumberland.

Recently, the chamber and the Friends decided to partner in ways that would benefit each group, and this was the first effort.

Friends President Mary Priestley manned a table with information about our organization. She secured e-mail addresses of potential members.

"We hope to continue to be involved with chamber events as we share many common interests in promoting tourism on the mountain," Priestley said.

Among such events are the annual Fog Festival set for February 11-13 and Taste on the Mountain scheduled for March 14. Both of these events can be expected to attract people to our area who can be encouraged to hike South Cumberland's trails.

Oh, about the food at the Low Country Boil—in addition to shrimp, folks enjoyed sausage, corn, potatoes and locally made French bread plus several yummy desserts.

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"Under FSC leadership we want Trails & Trilliums to focus attention on our great hiking and wildflower walks, be a boon to tourism and the local economy, strengthen partnerships among environmental organizations, and encourage people to appreciate the great natural areas found here," Priestley added.

Several key pieces have fallen into place. Margaret Matens, who was the founder of Trails & Trilliums, recently retired from St. Andrews-Sewanee School and is now a Friends board member; she has agreed to chair the event. And the board of the Monteaule Sunday School Assembly has generously agreed to host the event and donate use of all its facilities.

"We are indebted to the Assembly for their strong show of support," Matens said. "Their location is ideal, and their enthusiasm for hosting Trails & Trilliums is truly heartening. We are excited at the opportunity to continue our 'perennial' event, which has grown from a small native plant sale into a regional event that is an

anticipated part of many people's spring schedules."

Trails & Trilliums will include a native plant sale, guided hikes by South Cumberland park rangers and others, Wine & Wildflowers with the presentation of the Yeatman Environmental Education Award and the Service Award, family fun, workshops, a garden tour and more. A complete schedule will be posted soon on the Friends web site.

Priestley emphasized that the Friends will continue to hold the Cumberland Wild Forum to provide an opportunity for serious dialogue about environmental issues faced on the Plateau.

The Rev. John T. Thomas, head of St. Andrew's-Sewanee School, expressed strong support for the Friends' efforts to continue Trails & Trilliums.

"St. Andrew's Sewanee School is proud to have initiated a wildflower celebration on the mountain and to have provided a home for Trails &

Trilliums for its first seven years. Its adoption by the Friends of South Cumberland and its partners is a testament to the widespread interest in the natural beauty of our area," he said. "We look forward to seeing the event's expansion as it moves beyond our campus."

WE NEED YOU!

Trails & Trilliums' success will depend on the contributions of energetic volunteers. Whether you have been involved with the Friends for decades or always wanted to become a part, this is your chance! Volunteers, environmental organizations or other groups, and vendors who would like to participate should contact Margaret Matens by e-mail at margaretmatens@yahoo.com or by phone at (931) 924-2623.

"We are eager for new ideas and new groups who want to be involved, so let us hear from you," Matens said.



LEARNING ABOUT NATURE. As part of the Friends' educational outreach program, Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency wildlife rehabilitator and educator Margaret Matens has presented native wildlife programs for more than 400 children last fall assisted by volunteers from the University of the South and elsewhere. Matens visited Monteagle Elementary, Sewanee Elementary, Rock Creek Elementary in Estill Springs, and the Otey Childcare Center in Sewanee and was lining up more school visits at press time. In photo at left, excited youngsters at Otey help Matens hold Elvis, a very long California king snake. In other picture, a Monteagle Elementary student registers an interesting reaction to Priscilla, a king snake.



LOOKING MIGHTY SHARP! Friends member Margaret Patten models the Friends' new Fiery Gizzard t-shirt designed by Jim Ann Howard. It's for sale at the park visitor center for \$20. Colors are sand and putty green. While you're at the visitor center check out the Friends' aluminum water bottles that sell for \$15.

PLEASE READ THIS NOTICE

We are beginning to edit our mailing list so that the newsletter goes only to people who enjoy receiving it. If you are a "regular" member (not a sustaining member, special project donor, or life member) the date of your latest dues payment is printed on your mailing label. If you are behind but would like to continue receiving the newsletter, please send in your dues payment today. Use the form printed in this newsletter or pay online, whichever is more convenient for you. Thanks!

SOUTH CUMBERLAND IN THE SPOTLIGHT

State Naturalist Randy Hedgepath had plenty of praise for South Cumberland State Park in an article in *The Tennessean* newspaper in Nashville. The October 9, 2010, article featured outdoor experts sharing their favorite hikes and was illustrated with photos including one from Raven Point on the Fiery Gizzard Trail.

Hedgepath listed the Big Creek Rim Trail in Savage Gulf State Natural Area and the Fiery Gizzard Trail among his favorite hikes and the Great Stone Door as one of his favorite fall overlooks. He said the Great Stone Door "cannot be beaten for the great view of unbroken forest with diverse color."

THOSE DARN SQUIRRELS

Artwork & Column by Jill Carpenter

Editor's Note – Jill Carpenter, a retired science teacher living in Sewanee, is a regular contributor to this newsletter.

Squirrels are to me like electric typewriters were to my Dad. They go too fast. The twitchy creatures never stop. Males chase females up and down trees. They eat nervously, yuk-yuking and flicking their tails. They play hide and seek on tree trunks. They are like circus acrobats, jumping from tree to tree, walking high wires to get from Point A to Point B.

Bird feeder “baffles” are mostly laughable; nothing much baffles a squirrel. If it wants to get somewhere it can do so. A squirrel is one of few mammals that can turn its back feet around and descend a tree trunk head first.

Squirrels don't hibernate, and their antics are more visible in the wintertime when the trees are naked. It's also easy to see their leafy nests, called dreys, that are built in tree crotches 25 to 30 feet high. A drey looks like a knot of leaves with associated twigs. Squirrels add a roof, soft grasses, mosses, lichens and feathers to make the place cozy.

In dreys and in tree holes squirrels rear two litters a year, each with as many as nine, but averaging three young to each litter.

Our Eastern gray squirrel (*Sciurus carolinensis*) has a fluffy tail as long as its body. The tail is a stabilizer, signaling device and blanket. Occasionally, we also see the fox squirrel (*S. niger*) which is reddish and heavier with a smaller tail.

Gray squirrels love oak-hickory forests and their associated acorns and nuts. They also like other seeds, berries, flowers, mushrooms and the sap of maples. They are “scatter hoarders,” meaning they bury nuts in many places and find about 85 percent of them later by smell.

Living in the here and now, it's hard to imagine what used to be. That's especially true of the teeming native biota on the American continent just a few hundred years ago.—bison, prairie dogs, beavers, waterfowl, passenger pigeons, elm trees, endless forests.

Squirrels overran the country when the English colonists arrived. Biologist Victor H. Cahalane writes that squirrels “raced in from the forests like swarms of grasshoppers and destroyed the new crops in the [colonists'] tiny corn fields.”

In 1749, Pennsylvania was fed up with squirrels. They paid a bounty of three pence per squirrel scalp and shelled out 8,000 pounds sterling for the carcasses of 640,000 squirrels. In 1840, two teams of six Kentuckians bagged 9,780 squirrels in seven days. I'm told that stewed squirrel is delicious.

Sometimes squirrels go on cross-country treks like lemmings, swimming rivers if necessary. An 1842 migration in Wisconsin involved half a billion squirrels and lasted four weeks. A migration of thousands of squirrels took place in Georgia, North Carolina and Tennessee in 1968. The cause was thought to be good nut production and a high squirrel reproduction rate in 1967 followed by a late frost and scarcity of nuts in 1968.

After the Civil War, coincident with

extensive logging and land clearing, U.S. squirrel populations dropped precipitously. Creation of parks and national forests allowed them a comeback of sorts. They also were introduced in West Coast cities where they quickly became established in parks.

Britain gave us the pesky starling more than a hundred years ago, and at about the same time gray squirrels were introduced to Britain as pets and became pests. They have outcompeted and replaced the native red squirrel in several areas, are established at locations on the continent, and are expanding their range. Brits are now eating gray squirrels in the interest of saving their native red squirrel.

S. carolinensis is a native here, but it is included on a list of “100 World's Worst Invaders” generated by the Global Invasive Species Database that is maintained by the University of Auckland, New Zealand.

In *Those Darn Squirrels!*, a children's book by Adam Rubin, Old Man Fookwire, a bird artist, has a squirrel problem at his feeders. Rubin writes, “Not many people know this, but squirrels are the cleverest of all the woodland creatures... They can make a house out of a tree, a bed out of a bunch of leaves, and a box kite out twigs, dirt and squirrel spit. They are also excellent in math.”



INNER LIFE AND NATURE CONVERGE IN POEM BY EMILY DICKINSON

By Tom Strawman

Editor's Note – Dr. Tom Strawman, chair of the English Department at Middle Tennessee State University, writes a column focused on nature in poetry for each issue of this newsletter. He frequently hikes and takes photos in South Cumberland State Recreation Area.

There's a Certain Slant of Light

There's a certain Slant of light,
Winter Afternoons—
That oppresses, like the Heft
Of Cathedral Tunes—

Heavenly Hurt, it gives us—
We can find no scar,
But internal difference,
Where the Meanings, are—

None may teach it—Any—
'Tis the Seal Despair—
An imperial affliction
Sent us of the Air—

When it comes, the Landscape
listens—
Shadows—hold their breath—
When it goes 'tis like the Distance
On the look of Death—

By Emily Dickinson

Born in 1830, Emily Dickinson lived an outwardly placid life in the small village of Amherst, Massachusetts, but she left nearly 1,800 poems that reveal a cosmopolitan, well trained intellect and an inner life that was far from ordinary, staid or predictable. Her work is often linked with that of Walt Whitman (a poet whom she disdained and refused to read) because, unbeknownst to each other, they all but established in comple-

mentary ways the outlines of modern American poetry. Together they rescued its fitful beginnings from the predictable influences of Britain and Old Europe by using the language of the American vernacular speech as it was heard in the streets and villages, the schoolyards and shops of the youthful nation.

Both poets also were attentive and true to their American place, observing carefully and representing faithfully the unique local details of their daily physical experience. As Wordsworth advocated from his own poetic practice earlier in the 19th century, "I have at all times endeavoured to look steadily at my subject."

Pioneering a Romantic revolution in taste that found significance, meaning, and even epiphany in the ordinary and the commonplace, all three poets sought to express difficult ideas and states of mind—often philosophical or metaphysical—through the language and material culture of real people.

So, Dickinson writes poems entirely from the concrete, direct language of everyday life; these include words, many monosyllabic, such as stone, air, bird, grass, landscape, angle-worm, oars, butterflies, velvet head, river banks, quartz, lead, wall, beetle, shadow, snow, winds, sea, port, mooring, compass, chart, dew, tankard, pearl, foxgloves, fellow, burglar, banker, beggar, father, gate, burying ground, tomb, etc.

The characteristic movement in many of Dickinson's poems occurs when poverty is suddenly transformed into abundance. In order to

record those moments of interior riches, she sought what T. S. Elliot would later call the "objective correlate," a precise sensory image that perfectly captures in the language of poetry the difficult, complex state of mind drawn from the poet's own, intensely personal, inner life.

The "certain Slant of light" developed by Dickinson as the central image of this poem is wintry, as oppressive as "the Heft / Of Cathedral Tunes," and hurtful though it leaves "no scar," only the imprint of "Despair--/ An imperial affliction."

Abundantly clear is that this naturalistic light, no different from other northern lights in winter, slanting at an angle from a sun hanging low in the southern sky, stimulates the imaginative life of the poet and creates "internal difference,/ Where the Meanings are."

Readers finally learn in the last stanza of the poem that Dickinson's "certain Slant of light" (whose arrival silences the landscape and compels the shadows to "hold their breath") is a private means of giving voice to the poet's consciousness of death.

This symbol works both naturalistically in the sensory detail of poetic description but also in its embodiment as a striking instance of *memento mori* (or reminder of death), an insistent theme in literature from around the globe that admonishes humans with a knowledge of their inevitable death.

Despite her faith in the richness and
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HALF MOON MOUNTAIN MAGIC BOOSTS FIERY GIZZARD PROJECT

Last October 15, the Friends held Half Moon Mountain Magic at the DuBose Conference Center pavilion with mountain music, festival foods, children's activities, and recognition of key donors to the Fiery Gizzard Project.

Head Wizard Harry Yeatman told the crowd, "If we all join together we can protect magical places like Fiery Gizzard which are unique to the Cumberland Plateau."

Major local donors to the project were honored by Randy Hedgepath of Nashville, Tennessee's state naturalist.

Margaret Matens, Half Moon Mountain Magic chair, says, "The attendance and support were great. So many people wanted to be 'a wizard for Fiery Gizzard!'" Matens adds, "We loved seeing the number of children who visited the Young Wizards Tent for special activities that included 'The Critters of Fiery Gizzard' with snakes, turtles and possums as well as a costume contest, face painting and fortune telling."

Special thanks to all the Friends volunteers and committee chairs, to DuBose Conference Center for donating use of their pavilion, to Clifftops for set-up support, and to Jim Ann Howard for her new Fiery Gizzard t-shirt design.

Thanks, as well, to vendors Dutch Maid Bakery, Mountain Breeze, Lupi's Pizza and Flury's Grocery, and to the musicians who provided lively music without charge. They included Bazzania, The Fiery Gizzard String Band, Peckerwood (playing under their new name, Broad Mountain Brewgrass Band), and Sarah Mallory.



FUN FOR ALL. Vice Chancellor and President of the University of the South John McCardell (left) joined Head Wizard Harry Yeatman to encourage participation in Half Moon Mountain Magic sponsored by the Friends of South Cumberland as a fund raiser for the Fiery Gizzard Project.

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imaginative potential of human life, Dickinson returned with near obsessive frequency in her poetry to the frightening approach of death, an event that seems to have produced sexual excitement in her unique psychological make-up.

One of her best known poems, "Because I Could Not Stop for Death," pictures Death as a gentleman caller

or lover who woos the poet into his carriage, as if for a night out, except the "Horses' Heads/ were toward Eternity."

In the symbol of the "certain Slanted light" there is none of the allegorical play or witty conceit found in the earlier image of Death as a lover. Dickinson approaches in this mature poem the calm acceptance and grav-

ity of Keats' great ode "To Autumn," a poet she both read and admired. Release comes at poem's end when that oppressive light departs (perhaps at nightfall?); then "'tis like the Distance/ On the look of Death--." Relieved for a time from the paralyzing dread of death (now set at a distance), the world and the poet can return again to the normal, cyclical, seasonal pattern of life.

CHECK OUT THE TREES THIS WINTER

Artwork & Column by Mary Priestley

Editor's Note – Botanist and Friends of SCSRA president Mary Priestley contributes a botanical column to each issue of this newsletter.

A walk in the woods is a great way to experience winter-time. The creeks are full; the woods are quiet; the deciduous trees—oaks, hickories and the like—stand starkly bare, their trunks and branches clearly defined against the winter sky.

These trees lost their leaves in October and won't begin to re-leaf until April. We know they aren't dead, but are they asleep? What's going on with those sentinels of our forest?

It may seem a stretch, but leafless winter trees have been aptly compared to long distance runners, poised to begin a race for which they've been preparing for months. Last summer each tree produced buds along its twigs—tiny packets containing embryonic leaves, flowers or both. Now they wait for the right combination of factors—relative day and night lengths, the number of days of low temperatures, and finally a pulse of warm weather which is the “starting gun” that signals them to bloom and leaf out once again.

For most trees, flowering and leafing happen independently, responding differently to environmental and genetic cues. Whereas

all of our deciduous trees seem to leaf out at about the same time in the spring, flowering can happen anytime between March and November, depending on the species.

Many of our earliest blooming trees are wind-pollinated, a strategy that is more effective if there are not a lot of leaves in the way. Oak trees, for instance, produce their dangly pollen-laden catkins weeks before their leaves mature. Insect-pollinated trees like basswood and tulip-poplar flower after their leaves have unfurled. Witch-hazel, the last to bloom, displays its delicate yellow flowers in late fall after many trees have lost their leaves.

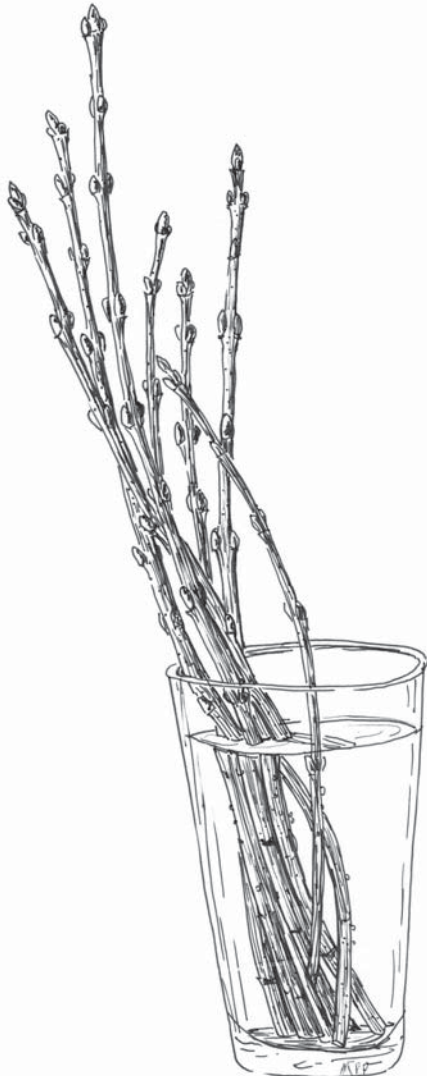
The earlier the trees leaf out, the sooner they can start photosynthesizing and growing. But it's dangerous to jump the gun. Plants that break bud too early risk frost damage to tender developing flowers or leaves. Frozen flowers mean the tree won't produce fruit this year, which is hard on the wildlife. But frozen leaves must be replaced if the tree is to survive, and that takes energy. A tree's flowers are expendable; its leaves are not.

Non-native trees and shrubs are often tricked into breaking bud early in response to a warm spell. This usually doesn't happen to native plants, but the Easter freeze in April 2007 was an exception. Forest trees had leafed out after an early warm spring, only to be zapped by an arctic air mass that brought freezing temperatures. Weeks later, by early June, the trees had re-leafed. Most did not produce fruit, and wildlife biologists say they are still seeing the effect on some woodland animal populations.

Nature writer Bernd Heinrich sometimes snips a few twigs of maple, alder or willow in January or February, takes them inside, and tries to coax them to bloom early. Often he succeeds. The tiny flowers bloom, showering his desk with pollen and reminding him of the vibrancy of our deciduous trees even when they appear to be on hold.

In any event, things won't be held back for long, so don't wait to take that winter walk. Before you know it, the buds will fatten and spring will be upon us.

*NOTE – For more on the woods in winter see *Winter World, the Ingenuity of Animal Survival* by Bernd Heinrich.*



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