

## Let Nature Be Your Teacher

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Weather: Air Temp when we began \_\_\_\_\_ °F Sky Conditions \_\_\_\_\_  
Wind Speed \_\_\_\_\_ MPH Wind Direction \_\_\_\_\_  
Air Conditions \_\_\_\_\_

### From MN Weather Guide

Record High \_\_\_\_\_ °F, Year \_\_\_\_\_ Record Low \_\_\_\_\_ °F, Year \_\_\_\_\_  
Average High \_\_\_\_\_ °F, Average Low \_\_\_\_\_ °F  
(Average temperatures are based on records dating back to Col. Snelling 1819 at Fort Snelling in St. Paul.)

Sunrise \_\_\_\_\_ AM Sunset \_\_\_\_\_ PM

Total Sunlight \_\_\_\_\_ Hrs \_\_\_\_\_ Min

Minutes gained or lost since yesterday: \_\_\_\_\_

Where were we today? \_\_\_\_\_

Major habitat of the study area: \_\_\_\_\_

My five most significant (to me) observations:

1. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Something I learned today I did not know:

Something that struck me today as being beautiful (could be as small as the eye of an insect or as large as entire forest.)

# SPRING HAPPENINGS

As you make these observations and record the dates of SPRING HAPPENINGS, you will develop a greater awareness of this time of year and become a special kind of scientist called a "Phenologist".

## Things People Do In Spring

(Record the date)

\_\_\_\_\_ First kite flying



\_\_\_\_\_ First time you see someone playing baseball in your neighborhood



\_\_\_\_\_ First runners or walkers in shorts

\_\_\_\_\_ First time it's warm enough to open the windows to hear and smell spring



\_\_\_\_\_ First local fishing from shore or boats



\_\_\_\_\_ First boats, canoes, sailboats, windsurfers or water skiers on local lakes

\_\_\_\_\_ First time you see someone raking and cleaning a yard

\_\_\_\_\_ First day the local golf course opens for the season - name or location of course \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ First time lawn grass is mowed



\_\_\_\_\_ First rhubarb stalks pulled for making pies or sauce

\_\_\_\_\_ First farmers seen plowing or preparing fields for planting crops

\_\_\_\_\_ In farming areas, first alfalfa hay cut

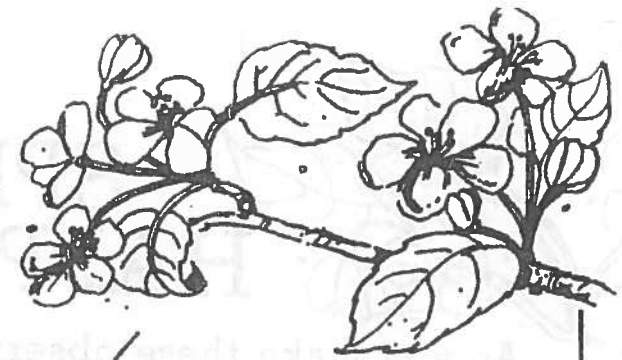


\_\_\_\_\_ First time you see someone planting seeds or plants around a home

\_\_\_\_\_ First time someone goes sunbathing outdoors

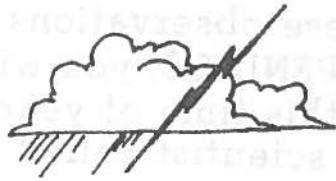







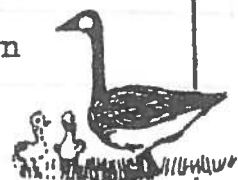



## HENNEPIN PARKS



# Nature At Work In Spring

(Record the date)

- \_\_\_\_\_ First thunderstorm 
- \_\_\_\_\_ Date when all snowbanks in parking lot are gone
- \_\_\_\_\_ First outdoor crocus flower seen 
- \_\_\_\_\_ First tulip blooming 
- \_\_\_\_\_ First daffodil flowering 
- \_\_\_\_\_ First dandelion flower seen near a building 
- \_\_\_\_\_ First ants on the sidewalk
- \_\_\_\_\_ First robin hunting for earthworms or insects on the lawn 
- \_\_\_\_\_ First robin building a nest
- \_\_\_\_\_ First day a lake or pond is no longer covered by ice (except maybe along the shoreline) name of lake or pond \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ First earthworm observed on sidewalk or in yard 
- \_\_\_\_\_ First butterfly 
- \_\_\_\_\_ First time someone is bitten by a spring mosquito
- \_\_\_\_\_ First mass of dandelions blooming on roadside or lawn
- \_\_\_\_\_ First baby geese or ducks seen in your neighborhood 
- \_\_\_\_\_ First time trees have enough new leaves to make shade
- \_\_\_\_\_ First lilac flowers
- \_\_\_\_\_ Apple trees starting to bloom
- \_\_\_\_\_ First time you observe a young wild mammal alone or with mother or siblings - examples are deer fawns, young raccoons, skunks, gray squirrels, woodchucks and 13-lined ground squirrels 

Name of observer (phenologist) \_\_\_\_\_

## FIND NATURE IN THE CITY

### Things To See

Green grass between cracks in sidewalk

Tree pushing sidewalk out of shape

Robin

Flying insect

Clouds moving

~~Fruit~~ on a tree or shrub

Partly eaten acorn

Spider with web

4 leaf clover (good luck!)

Squirrel nest or hole

Bird nest

A predator and prey

Dead tree

Baby tree

Butterfly

Green plant growing on a tree

Ant carrying something

Evidence of an earthworm

### Things To Hear

Leaves rustling

Flag blowing

Squirrel

A fly

Bird singing

Loud people voices

Dripping water

### Things To Smell

Yellow flower

Grass you just walked on

Soil

New green leaf

### Things To Feel

Warmth from sun

Wind

Shade

Tree seeds

Rough tree bark

Insect walking

Hug a big tree

A smooth rock

A man-made or man-changed rock

## Spring Morning

Where am I going? I don't quite know.  
Down to the stream where the king-cups grow-  
Up on the hill where the pine-trees blow-  
Anywhere, anywhere. I don't know.

Where am I going? The clouds sail by,  
Little ones, baby ones, over the sky.  
Where am I going? The shadows pass,  
Little ones, baby ones, over the grass.

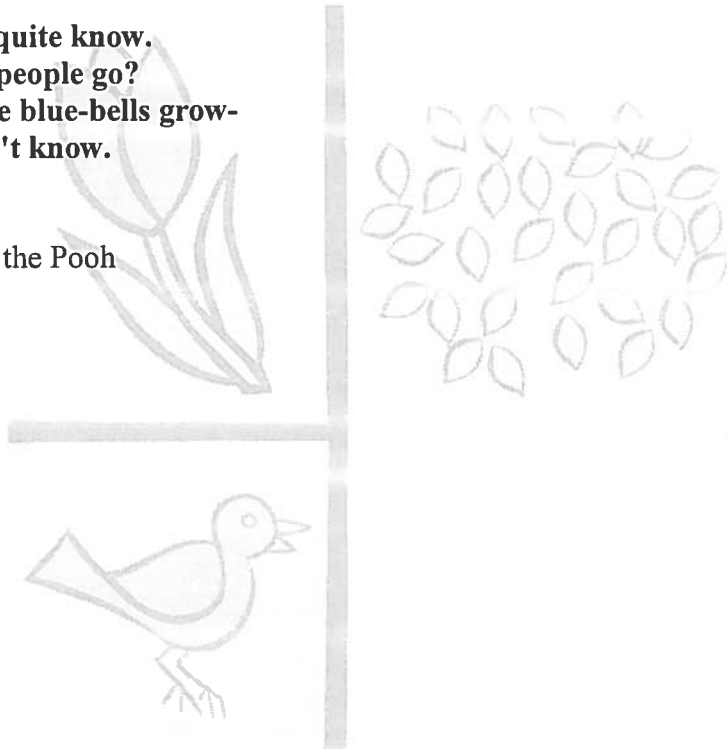
If you were a cloud, and sailed up there,  
You'd sail on water as blue as air,  
And you'd see me here in the fields and say:  
"Doesn't the sky look green today?"

Where am I going? The high rooks call:  
"It's awful fun to be born at all."  
Where am I going? The ring-doves coo:  
"We do have beautiful things to do."

If you were a bird, and lived on high,  
You'd lean on the wind when the wind came by,  
You'd say to the wind when it took you away:  
"That's where I wanted to go today!"

Where am I going? I don't quite know.  
What does it matter where people go?  
Down to the wood where the blue-bells grow-  
Anywhere, anywhere. I don't know.

- A.A. Milne
- Author of Winnie the Pooh



## **The Road Not Taken**

Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,  
And sorry I could not travel both  
And be one traveler, long I stood  
And looked down one as far as I could  
To where it bent in the undergrowth;

Then took the other, just as fair,  
And having perhaps the better claim  
Because it was grassy and wanted wear,  
Though as for that the passing there  
Had worn them really about the same,

And both that morning equally lay  
In leaves no step had trodden black.  
Oh, I marked the first for another day!  
Yet knowing how way leads on to way  
I doubted if I should ever come back.

I shall be telling this with a sigh  
Somewhere ages and ages hence:  
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I,  
I took the one less traveled by,  
And that has made all the difference.

Robert Frost

## **The Sound of Trees**

I wonder about the trees.  
Why do we wish to bear  
Forever the noise of these  
More than another noise  
So close to our dwelling place?  
We suffer them by the day  
Till we lose all measure of pace,  
And fixity in our joys,  
And acquire a listening air.  
They are that that talks of going  
But never gets away;  
And that talks no less for knowing,  
As it grows wiser and older,  
That now it means to stay.  
My feet tug at the floor  
And my head sways to my shoulder  
Sometimes when I watch trees sway,  
From the window or the door.  
I shall set forth for somewhere,  
I shall make the reckless choice  
Some day when they are in voice  
And tossing so as to scare  
The white clouds over them on.  
I shall have less to say,  
But I shall be gone.

Robert Frost