

on the north coast  
It's springtime, and I notice the front page of yesterday's Times-Standard featured a picture of people basking in the sun as they lunched on the Arcata Plaza.

~~This spring~~  
~~The past few weeks~~ I've seen a lot of Highway 101, ~~going south~~ <sup>esp. between Eureka & S. Rosa.</sup>

I have often enjoyed the scenery skirting the Eel River; but this spring the drive has been especially colorful! Not only along the Eel, but also along the Headwaters trail, where my wife and I have been walking the past few weeks: the ~~countless~~ <sup>bountiful</sup> lupine, scotch broom, buttercups and poppies have been plentiful. I am not sure why; maybe it's the later rains or lighter rains?

Maybe I'm just getting older and moving slower with greater appreciation for the natural beauty <sup>that surrounds</sup> ~~of the north coast~~. Whatever the case, it's springtime and the north coast flowers are fully in bloom: a brief blaze of glory before summer wilts and blows them away.

It's springtime and the rivers are <sup>still</sup> flowing. The Eel has settled into a clear aquamarine ribbon of H<sub>2</sub>O flowing from south to north; its little tributaries are melodic and lively. Nature's elixir of life ~~is still~~ <sup>clear</sup> flowing inexorably toward the mighty Pacific in spite of the drought.

It's springtime and the forests are sprouting clean and fresh with new growth. The firs, redwoods and deciduous trees are verdant this time of year and those myriad shades of green are especially wondrous when struck by sunshine, which we've seen in abundance the past few days. It's springtime and the days are lengthening and warming. *I love it!*

It's springtime and the boys of summer are ~~already~~ <sup>still</sup> playing. I noticed the Giants beat the Dodgers in Los Angeles the other night in extra innings. I used to root for the Dodgers since I was raised in the southland and remained a loyal Dodgers fan well into my 40's; but no longer. I've switched to the Giants: —

It's springtime and summer plans are on the calendar. Some of the youth from our area will soon be headed for Japan and later to camp. Many families will be taking summer vacations, as the pace of life shifts into a lower gear --- ~~for many~~ <sup>slower</sup>, *let's hope.*

I love the rhythm of the seasons and spring may ~~just~~ <sup>grey</sup> be the best time here in Humboldt because it reminds us of the return of life and light from the darkness ~~and~~ dormancy of winter. Could there be any better celebration of this rhythm than Easter? I think not. Easter celebrated the joy of life's return, and the God who gives ~~life~~ <sup>life</sup>. As Easter fades into the receding weeks it's good to remember in the deepest hours of winter that spring will come! May spring come early and linger long!

This has been Dan Price for Community Comment

---