

# The Artist's Almanac

March 2006

*...daffodils*

*That come before the swallow dares, and take  
The winds of March with beauty*

Shakespeare, *The Winter's Tale*

"Today is the first day of my garden, remarked good wife, checking her supply of rose sprays.

It was part anticipation, as she is good at schedules, and part lament, for the loss of her quiet February days, with good books by a fireside on a snowy day or conversations with friends over afternoon tea.

March sneaks up on us. By now we are conditioned to winter's quiet, hats, wraps, and long walks on sunny days when we can see forever and not worry about weeds or ticks, snakes or humidity.



Suddenly, bold buttercups swarm the ground and the trees are hazed with buds straining towards the light. February's mud turns to dust and March winds swirl it into our eyes. Windows are open on cars thronging the highways surging with noise and raucous radios.

We are swarmed with duties. Longer light draws us outdoors and reminds us what we must do to participate in this great awakening – planting, pruning, painting, and pitching the baseball. Kites and grandchildren let us feel and see the wind.

March is volatile, winter howling its defiance with cold winds and late snowstorms. Summer responds in kind, with tornadoes and spring floods. Yet the sun finally prevails, surrounding the ice with growth and melting it into nourishing streams which gladden green valleys.

Now the artist must be out and about, catching nature in its flamboyant dance. He tries now to translate this teeming passion of rebirth into a painting, done at speed, that captures the glory about him with colors a tenth the power of light.

My beautiful wife's beautiful mother passed on to her daughter her secrets, praise God, of cooking and gardening. One was that there was a certain day in spring before which it is futile to plant anything.

From Ash Wednesday dark struggles with light for forty days and nights. Then it is Easter and the Light prevails.

Let the planting begin.

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### Upcoming Events

**La Dolce Vita** – Fifteenth Annual Gala, Huntsville Museum of Art, 6PM, March 4<sup>th</sup>, North Hall, Von Braun Center, Auction followed by Dinner and Dancing

**Art In Bloom** – Fine Art Sale by The Junior Service League of Gallatin, Opening Reception at Gallatin Civic Center, Friday March 10<sup>th</sup>, with General Showing Saturday 10-4

**Sumner Regional Health Systems**, Volunteer Auxiliary Spring Benefit Evening Reception featuring Live Auction of Southern Light Artists of America paintings, Thursday March 23<sup>rd</sup> 5-7PM

**The Harding Show** – An Exhibit & Sale of Fine Art Presented By Harding Academy, 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Show, 170 Windsor Drive, Nashville, 37205-3794, Opening 5 PM Thursday May 4<sup>th</sup> through 4PM Saturday May 6<sup>th</sup>.