

On being a farm wife -And other hazards Joyce Bupp



Over the years, the color yellow has gotten somewhat of an unfair rap.

Yellow, for instance, often marks a warning of some sort.

Highway departments have long favored a muted, yellow-gold shade for signs running the gamut of directional and safety messages, anything from "caution" to "cattle crossing." Yellow traffic lights signal a slow down or alert us to stop for the red that flashes up next. And solid yellow lines delineate on which side of the highway we'd best drive our vehicles.

The color also comes in for some pretty negative connotations; someone perceived as less than courageous is labeled "yellow." Color of a coward.

Happy celebrations bring the red, white and blue of July 4th, the homey reds and greens of Christmas, the exiting orange of Halloween, and purples and pinks of Easter. Yellow edges into the

spotlight a little at Easter, but purple overshadows it.

Yellow's image seemed doomed to an eternal ho-hum state. Then along came singer Tony Orlando belting out "Tie a Yellow Ribbon 'Round the Old Oak Tree" and gave the cheery color a deserved image boost.

Indeed, yellow's popularity soared right up there with Old Glory's red, white and blue in recent months. And millions of yards of shiny yellow ribbon wove our nation together in a bright pattern of patriotism to welcome home our nation's heroes.

I glanced out the kitchen window the other day and realized that for ages Mother Nature has likewise been "tying yellow 'round" to welcome us back to another growing season.

Slender, pliant branches of a sprawling forsythia just outside the window sway in a gentle afternoon breeze. Each waving branch is covered with clear yellow

blooms, perfect and long-lasting despite the wet snow which piled among them just days before.

Sparrows squabble among the tangled yellow mass and a picture-perfect male cardinal perches on a branch, stunning scarlet contrast to the brilliance of the bush at peak bloom.

Flowering tendrils of yellow dance outside the dairy barn, as a graceful weeping willows unfurl tiny fuzzy blooms and embryonic leaves. Yellow only in brief transition, the golden willows will soon fade to green through days of stronger sunshine and lengthening light.

Daffodils dot the perennial borders with random scatterings of golden yellow, like drops of sunshine nestled in the clusters of spiked, green foliage. Some are of the old-fashioned, cluster-petaled doubles, descendants of colonies which grew on the bank long before our arrival on this farm. Many are the solid yellow singles, the "classic" daffodil.

My favorite, though, opens creamy white petals with a dainty, pale-yellow cup. Each cup is deeply crimped and scalloped-edged, like miniature ballet tutus for the mythical fairies which are supposed to inhabit gardens.

A few brave dandelion blooms peek out of sheltered corners, opening wide their yellow blossoms to soak up the warming sunshine. Within a week or two, the lawn will be temporarily polka-dotted with cheerful dandelion blooms. Whether dandelions are weeds or valuable, edible, nutritious, flowering plants can be hotly debated.

Still, none of those dandelions now dotting the landscape is our first of the season, having been long beaten by a single precocious one which flowered back in early January. Or maybe that one was just running way late from last year.

Fluttering around the finch feeder are as many as ten gold-finches at a time, jostling for perches at the supply of oil sunflower seeds. In varying stages of color change, their feathering ranges from pure neon yellow to just the faintest hint of sunny overcast to

their gray winter plumage.

Once associated with cowardice, yellow seems much more fitting as a symbol of hope and welcome and celebration.

Mother Nature just figured that out long before some of the rest of us.

Auction To Benefit Handicapped Youth



A benefit auction will be held on Saturday, April 20, at the Blue Ball Market, located behind the fire company on Rt. 322 in Blue Ball, beginning at 9 a.m. Donations such as quilts, crafts and other items have been gathered from local merchants, neighbors and friends by the members of the Dutch Trail Cutters Snowmobile Club, sponsors of the event. All proceeds from the auction will go to help the families of Lance Stoudt and Kelly Yoder. Lance is from the Churchtown area and was paralyzed from a swimming pool accident last summer. Kelly, who is 12 years old, was diagnosed with muscular dystrophy about a year and a half ago and lives in the Intercourse area.

Bee Keepers

(Continued from Page B3)

of the "Home On The Range" section.

The Wamplers process their own honey by heating the liquid that gravity feeds through a cheesecloth for straining before being bottled.

"Our process is slow compared with commercial processes, but we think it tastes better because it is not filtered," said Wampler.

"We love working with bees,"

Wampler said. "But with our back problems and my allergy to smoke, we're going to have to quit it."

Wampler plans to buy a steer farm where his children Ruth, 21; Wilbur, 19; Marlin, 16; and Melvin, 14; will help with the heavy work.

The Wamplers may be contacted at 141 N. Colebrook Rd., Manheim, PA 17545 or call (717) 665-4350.

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