

# NORTHERN REACH

Showcase of the *Greater* Inland Northwest

Inland  
Northwest  
Garden  
Variety

Plus:  
Art of the Ironman  
Priest Lake's Entree Gallery  
Gentlemen on Horseback

and More

Spring 2010

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# Seasons Springing Forward

Story and Photos  
by  
Nancy Owens Barnes

Seasonal patterns abound. On one level these patterns include outdoor activity seasons such as hunting, berry picking and fishing; sports seasons such as snow skiing, baseball, and football; indoor activity seasons such as orchestra and other performing arts; and natural seasons such as bird migration, foliage changes and fish spawning. But arching above this level, a broader pattern drives all others.

As we who live along the temperate zones of earth know, four distinct weather seasons—spring, summer, fall and winter—divide our year. These seasons, marked by a series of equinoctial and solstice points throughout the year, come about due to the earth's revolution around the sun and the tilt of its axis, affecting the intensity of sunlight on the earth's surface.

In early 2009, a poll published in USA Today showed 38 percent of people surveyed preferred spring over other seasons, with summer at 27, fall at 28, and winter at 6.

No winter lasts forever;  
no spring skips its turn.  
--Hal Borland

Another survey placed summer in the top spot, slightly above spring. And although one can find surveys from a variety of sources, the warmer seasons usually top the chart, even though fall also draws many votes.

So, what's your favorite season?

Those who choose spring may do so for a variety of reasons. Spring represents the season of renewal, when those many things that lie dormant awaken to begin again.

For farmers and gardeners, spring is seed time, the start of a growing season that brings hope for abundance of crops and blooms of beauty.

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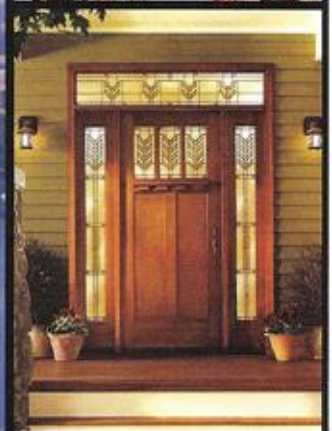
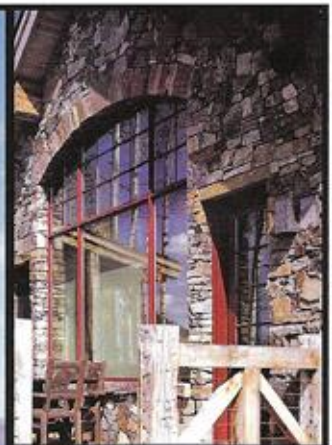
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As a child who grew up on a farm, to me spring meant the thaw of our pond where we fished for sun perch with cane poles and slid across the water in the green wooden row boat my father had built; it meant newborn calves that toddled and hopped around the pasture, the white markings on their faces and bodies bright as a light in the sun; it meant discovering baby rabbits in the woodpile and riding my bicycle.

Everything holds its breath except spring. She bursts through as strong as ever.  
--B. M. Bower

Now, as an adult, spring satisfies my innate desire for change, that transition from the long haul of winter into the light of longer, milder days—a transition represented by the return of migrating birds and the return of green landscapes as claws of new grass pierce the old matt of brown.

Spring fever stems from anticipation and hope.

But despite the fact that snow levels vary from winter to winter, the heat index changes from summer to summer, rainfall accumulation differs from spring to spring, and the speed at which the leaves turn to gold and red varies from fall to fall, the consistency of the four seasons never fails in its constant cyclic motion.

So no matter which season you prefer, your favorite will always return.

*Nancy Owens Barnes (www.nancyowensbarnes.com) is the author of South to Alaska and Moose for Breakfast. She resides in Priest River, Idaho.*

