

Spring Bling

by Jennaye Derge

Spring is full of conflicting emotions – sunny and warm one minute, 100-mph winds and rain the next. One day we're biking, the next we're hunting for our ski passes. It's a time when leaving the house requires an extra half hour to put on 15 "just in case" layers, including a swim suit and ski pants, and the hardest choice you'll make all day is picking "weather appropriate shoes." Spring means that every time we walk in from outside, we look like we just attended our pup, Fido's funeral – rubbing tears from our bloodshot eyes and blowing our noses. It means having to answer "allergies" to dozens of passersby who "ask are you OK?!" (which is code for "no, I'm not OK.") But after we realize that we are, in fact, fine, and we pull ourselves together and look around, we see all the things we love about spring. So let's all take this moment to remember what we're suffering for.



Squirrel!



A tulip makes us all wish we'd gotten those bulbs in last fall.



Delicate, multi-colored hyacinths spot for careful observers.



Graminea, also known as a crested iris, give color to a barren patch of ground.



Purple-striped crocus are popping up all over.