

## Leaves Dancing in the Gentle Wind

*By Joan Mish*

Fall has always been my favorite season but I think I wrote about that before. So while taking a walk in the woods this morning I realize that Spring is also one of my favorites.

Blooming flowers – even dandelions – are fun to see. And how many different colors: purple, blue, rose, red, orange, pink. The columbines are flowers that are new to me. I love them! And I learned that they are the official flower for Colorado.

Years ago when I had dandelions in my yard I found you can make a good salad out of them. I did and the whole family enjoyed it. But once I had my yard sprayed for weeds we quite eating this delicious salad.

Do bird chase each other to mate? While I was sitting in the woods on a bench last week I heard three magpies yelling at each other and chasing each other around. I understand that nest building typically begins in early March for black-billed magpies and earlier for yellow-billed magpies. Black-billed magpies build large nests, sometimes 48 inches (125 cm) high by 40 inches (100 cm) wide, made of sticks in low bushes or in trees usually within 25 feet (7.5 m) from the ground. I guess the reason I had never seen them before coming out to Colorado is they inhabit most Western United State and up to Canada and Alaska.

The worst part of the spring in the woods and on the sidewalks is all the ants and the holes they make in the dirt and sidewalks. I understand occasionally they end up inside those apartments on the bottom floor.

But my favorite part is seeing the leaves dancing in gentle wind. As I walk in the woods the sun shines on these leaves and they are so shining beautiful. They must shine like that when they are new or they are special leaves in that wooded area. The leaves outside my lanai I have never noticed shining.