



# Community Newsletter

Historic Glyndon, Inc., Spring 2025 • <https://historicglyndon.org>

## Dear Glyndon Neighbors,

**W**andering through my back yard this morning was such a joy! The trees have started to blossom, many of the bulbs have begun to peek up toward the sun, and Glyndon residents have started to emerge from winter hibernation. This transition back outdoors is one of my favorite moments of the year.

Spring is one of my favorite seasons to serve HGI as well. The second annual Glyndon Mingle provided us with an opportunity to gather and reconnect with our neighbors—and especially to welcome our newest Glyndon residents who recently joined our community. As we celebrate the transition into spring, your HGI Board is busy behind the scenes planning an exciting May Preservation event on May 15. We also have some much-needed work underway to rejuvenate

our website and digitize the HGI paper archives—HGI's version of spring cleaning.

We have one very important transition to celebrate. As many of you know, our beloved Postmistress, Stacey Duvall, retired from the Glyndon Post Office at the end of April. For all of us, a quick chat with Stacey is a part of our daily routine that we will miss dearly. Please join me in wishing Stacey a very happy retirement, and rest assured knowing that 21071 will be in good hands nonetheless.

I look forward to seeing you all walking around Glyndon, tending to your gardens, and celebrating spring with us at the May Preservation event. Keep reading for more details on that.

Sending spring vibes your way!

*Ted McCadden*  
HGI President

## HGI 2024 Holiday Open House and Tree Lighting



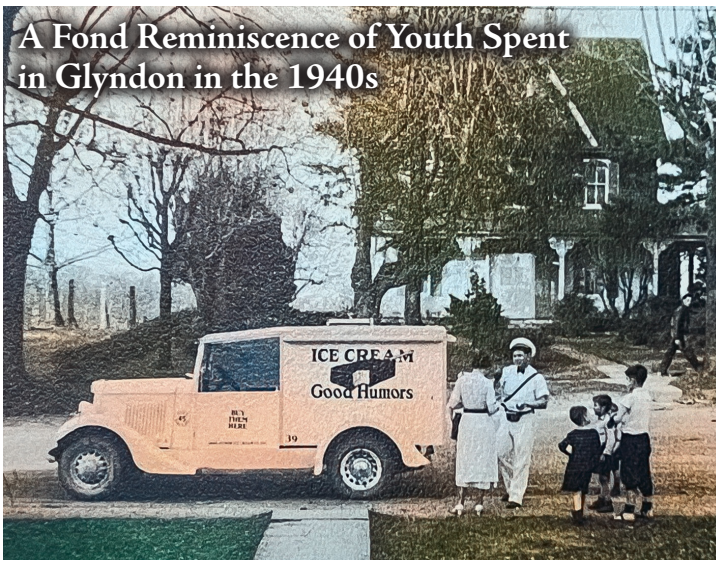
**O**n Sunday, December 8, HGI hosted the 40th annual holiday open house at the home of Josh and Jen Meltzer. Their beautifully restored historic home at 4610 Prospect Avenue was a perfect representation of traditional holiday spirit, so appreciated in Glyndon. Josh and Jen began extensive renovations on the home in September 2020, and completed them around Easter 2021. They reside at the home with their two children, Penelope and L.J. Jen's dad, Bob Gehman, lives next door at 4612 Prospect.

According to historic references, the houses at 4610 and 4612 were both built for William George and Kate W. Atkinson. Mr. Atkinson, one of the founders of the Baltimore steamship agency A. Schumacher & Company, and his wife not only summered in Glyndon for a number of years in their elegant house at 4798 Butler Road, but they also invested in property throughout the town. At one time they owned a number of lots on Dover (now Butler) Road, on Waugh and Prospect avenues, and on Central Avenue.

The two vernacular structures on Prospect were probably built around 1888 and appear to have been tenant houses, constructed as investment properties. The homes enjoy a beautiful setting, with large open spaces in the rear and many beautiful trees, shrubs, and flowers, plus a delightful fish pond.

The December 2024 open house was decorated throughout, and attendance was high. As is tradition, a group of neighbors dressed in period attire led two sets of Christmas carols, gingerbread houses made by Glyndon

## A Fond Reminiscence of Youth Spent in Glyndon in the 1940s



**D**ottie Carpenter, long-time resident of Glyndon with her husband, Ragan Carpenter (aka Reg), recently donated a letter to our HGI archives. It was sent to her by Pete Bellows in 1998 upon Ragan's passing. In the 1940s, Ragan's family lived at 5 Central Avenue, and Pete's family lived at 4708 Butler Road. Pete's words nicely reflect a certain time in our town from a young person's perspective. The original letter has been edited for this newsletter.

Dear Dotty,

I keep thinking of little vignettes of my childhood from 1940-1947. I was 10 to 17. That's when I knew your husband the best. In retrospect, what an interesting period and location to which he and I were born. A small town of 350 people. A world war that would isolate youngsters such as ourselves from just about everything that was happening. Sure, we could listen to Gabriel Heatter<sup>1</sup>, but we'd rather listen to *The Shadow*<sup>2</sup>. So, let me share some of that period with you.

I was two-and-a-half years older than Reg, so he had to be a pretty aggressive soul to get in on our football games. Of course, it helped that he had the perfect yard for such a game. And I guess that's where we really first hit it off. Although younger, he was willing to dive into the middle of the fray to tackle whoever was carrying the ball.

We all loved basketball the best. We started out playing in the Moore's garage<sup>3</sup>, which was later sold without our permission, to P. C.<sup>4</sup> Wroe. In fact, we frequently watched the older boys engage in boxing in that same garage. Our generation had more sense than to mess with the boxing stuff. We just watched and were thankful that none of our peers felt like challenging one another. But P. C. Wroe, practical man from the time of Adam, decided that a garage should be used as a garage, and so we lost our court. Scouting around we found a barn owned by the Gambrills<sup>5</sup> that was not in

use. They allowed us to put in two baskets, so long as we did not disturb the pigeons that lived in the lofts. There is where the State Basketball Championships got their practice. Bud "Reds" Johnston<sup>6</sup>, who lived across from me on Butler Road and Reg were daily participants in the games played there. After several games, the basketballs were white from pigeon poop that covered the floor. That didn't bother us a bit. When we had to go to the bathroom, we'd use the Johnstons' outhouse, as they didn't have an indoor bathroom at that time.

Reg and Nancy<sup>7</sup> had Horse Chestnut trees in their yard. In the fall, we always collected the fallen pods, thinking they might be worth serious money, or to be collector items someday. Rather, the chestnuts were great weapons of child warfare which occurred from time to time to emulate what the rest of the world was experiencing.

Across from the Carpenter home was the LaPorte home<sup>8</sup>. They were very, very old, probably in their early 50s. They had a wax cherry tree that had the most heavenly tasting cherries. The only way we could taste those cherries was to sneak onto the property when we thought no one was home and climb up into that tree to chomp and chomp to our heart's desire. Unfortunately, we normally got caught, chastised, and the parents got a call to keep us at bay. One day, a black wreath hung on the LaPorte's door, signifying a death. Ten to one, it had to be Mr. LaPorte and indeed it was. We weren't sad a bit. More cherries for us!

During the war years, all of us had BB guns. On rare occasion, we would play war with our guns. Running about behind trees or hiding in bushes, we'd try to get the drop on one another. And if we shot that person in the butt, it wouldn't hurt all that much. On just such a sortie, I happened to spot a red splotch of hair sitting in the bush, so I fired off a shot. A yell indicated a hit, which meant that that particular game was over. We met at home base, and Reg showed that he had been hit in the forehead, directly between the eyes. That was the last time we played that innocent game!

When the Wroes bought the Dr. Moore home<sup>4</sup> and tennis court, it stimulated our interest in tennis. In my case, P. C. Wroe convinced me that I should roll and stripe the court for him in exchange for the occasional tennis lesson he would give me. Needless to say, I was thrilled by the offer. In retrospect, I'm sure he made that offer to every boy in the neighborhood. Son George<sup>9</sup> was nowhere to be found. George, by the way, is the living image of his father.

To make some spending money, we sold lemonade at the corner of Butler and Central where the bus stopped. We did a fair business selling to people com-



ing from the Glyndon pool to catch the bus to Baltimore. Most were Jewish. We realized later that the Nazis were not alone in their discrimination. Jews were not allowed to swim in the municipal pools of Baltimore. More business for our lemonade stand!

When the war ended, the Wroes' Model T Ford truck was decorated and put to the road with most of us hooting and hollering and shouting with glee, letting all of Glyndon know that their youth were happy. Little did I realize at the time that my whole life was going to

go through a complete change, that my future was to be elsewhere.

Now, some 50 years later, I can truthfully say that my Glyndon heritage, the friendships, and the family have proven to be a very positive influence in who I am and what I believe. At the top of the list is Reg. His memory will go with me to my grave. You were indeed blessed to have shared your life with him as he was with you.

Love, Pete  
3/26/1998

1 Gabriel Heatter was an American radio commentator whose World War II-era sign-on, "There's good news tonight," became both his catchphrase and his caricature.

2 *The Shadow* was a fictional character created by American magazine publishers. He was adapted into a radio drama that included episodes voiced by Orson Welles. The introductory line from the radio show – "Who knows what evil lurks in the hearts of men? *The Shadow* knows!" – has become an American idiom.

3 4802 Butler Road. Thomas E. and Mildred P. Moore lived here. Mildred was the daughter of Dr. T. Rowe Price, Sr., and the brother of T. Rowe Price, Jr., founder of

the international investment firm that bears his name.

4 P. C. (Philip Chancellor) and Helen Wroe bought 4802 Butler in 1943.

5 The Gambrill family owned 4701 Butler Road from 1931 until the time of this writing. Their barn was totally restored in 2017.

6 The Johnston family lived at 4707 Butler Road.

7 Reg's older sister

8 4801 Butler Road

9 George was the youngest of P. C. Wroe's four sons.

*Ann B. O'Neill*

## HGI's Second Annual March Mingle

We thank the Glyndon Grill, a favorite community asset and gathering spot, for working with us to host our second Glyndon Mingle. On March 25th, the restaurant was filled with Glyndon neighbors and HGI supporters who came together to share refreshments and conversation. It was especially nice to mingle with newer members of the community. Thanks to all for keeping our traditions alive!



## HGI May Preservation Meeting



Thursday, May 15  
from 7:00 to 8:30 PM  
at the Emory Grove  
Hotel

Do you own an unknown treasure or museum piece?

Let Todd Peenstra, expert antiques appraiser, help you find out!

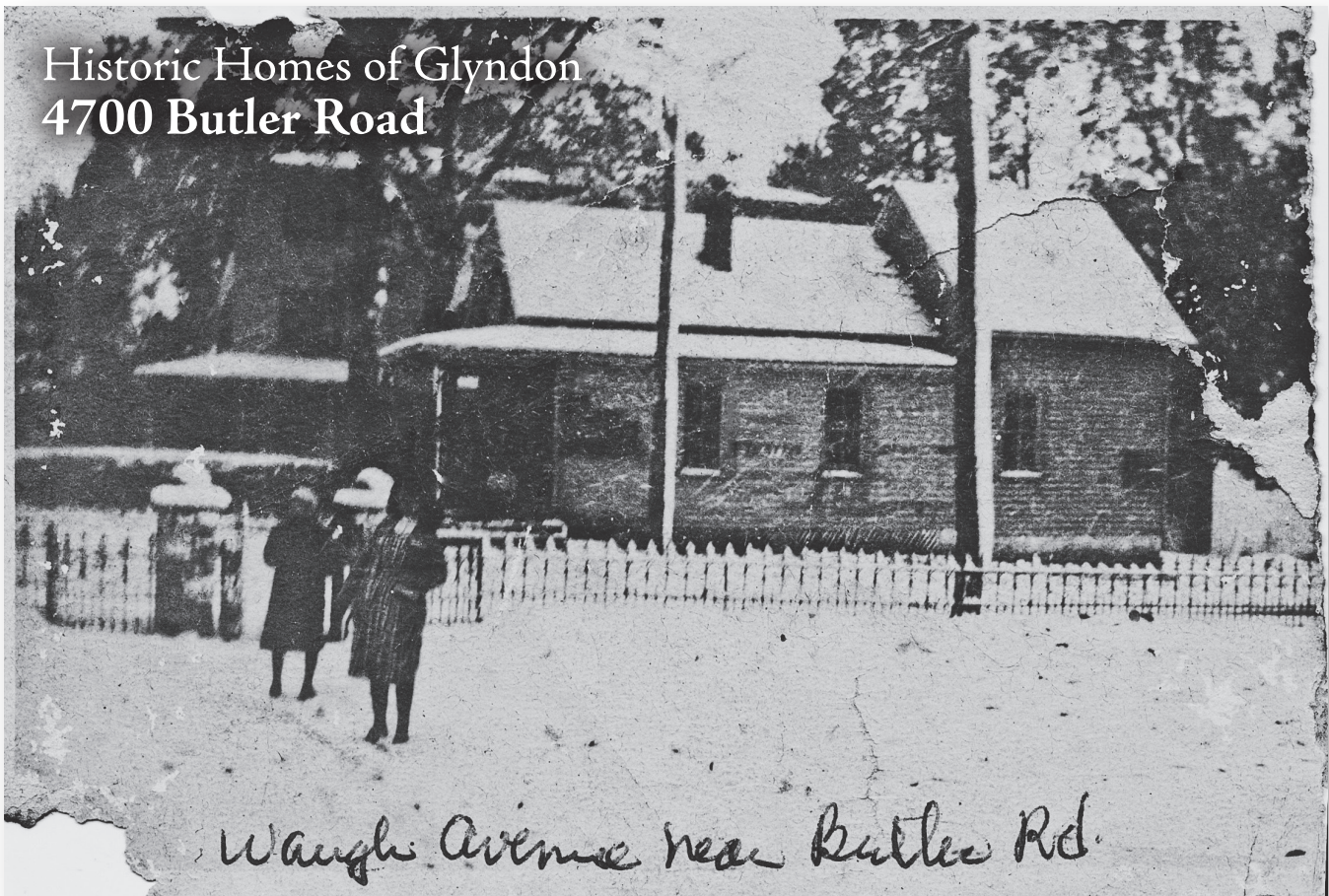
Todd Peenstra is a nationally known antiques and art appraiser ([www.peenstraappraisal.com](http://www.peenstraappraisal.com)) specializing in handling personal property appraisals as well as giving advice on selling or donating. He will be on hand to offer free appraisals, consultations, and advice on one or two items (maximum) you might bring including furniture, glass, porcelain, paintings, silver, bronze, coins, toys, documents, etc. Todd will examine and comment on the most interesting pieces, as well as give information on maximizing value, repair or restoration, and insurance and tax questions. He may not be able to examine all items brought since there is limited time scheduled. Admission is free to HGI members and \$15 for non-members. (For an additional \$5 you can join HGI!)

*Information provided by Karen Cervino*

**The next General Membership Meeting of Historic Glyndon Inc. will be on the evening of October 7, 2025. Please watch for more info later.**



## Historic Homes of Glyndon 4700 Butler Road



This house was originally built as a general store for John W. Benson, circa 1900. It was part of the property that John and his wife, Elizabeth Gorsuch Benson, bought in 1897, which included the large boarding house next door at 4702 Butler. Mrs. Benson ran the boarding business, called Glyndon Heights. Prior to moving to Glyndon in 1897, the Bensons lived in nearby Woodensburg, where they farmed and later operated a store and warehouse. Benson also served as the Woodensburg postmaster. The Bensons lived next door at the boarding house with their adult daughter Elizabeth G. "Bet-tie" King, who had been widowed not too long after her marriage.

At age 62 in 1909, due to his age, ill health and anticipation of retiring, John Benson advertised his desire to dispose of his stock of merchandise and to rent or lease the store and dwelling. A similar advertisement appeared seven months later, this time with the wording, "rent store cheap." It is not known whether he was successful in this endeavor during that time period.

**FOR RENT AT GLYNDON — 7-room Furnished COTTAGE. with conveniences: very reasonable. J. W. BENSON. Glyndon, Md. My28-14t**

*The Baltimore Sun, Mar 4, 1909*

At some point, the building was enlarged into a residence and a separate building was constructed behind

it to serve as the store. A 1917 advertisement lists the original building as a seven-room, furnished cottage available for rent.

### **BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES.**

ON ACCOUNT OF AGE AND HEALTH, the owner wishes to dispose of his STOCK OF MERCHANDISE AND RENT OR LEASE STORE AND DWELLING; first-class stand; been successfully conducted for years.  
m4-3t J. W. BENSON, Glyndon, Md.

*The Baltimore Sun, June 1, 1917*

John Benson died in 1920. The fate of the store is not known, but the land on which the dwelling and store stood was divided off from the boarding house lot. It was sold in 1937 by the estate of Mrs. Benson, who died in 1929. The new owner was Arthur A. Bosley, a Reisterstown man and a bartender who owned his own pool room and bar. Bosley and his wife, Evelyn, along with their children, don't seem to have lived in Glyndon, but always in Reisterstown. This means that this corner property was most likely bought as an investment and rented out. Shortly after Arthur's death in 1944, there was a legal dispute within the family regarding the property, and it was sold in 1945 for \$15,575, to Gerard A. Gloss and the Hernwood Corporation. Gloss was president of Hernwood, a real estate development company. Since Gloss resided elsewhere, it can be assumed that he bought this property as an investment. In fact, the next several



owners appear to have done the same and leased the house. It wasn't until Carole J. and Thomas J. Carroll bought the property in 1988 that it became an owner-occupied home.

Photo taken from the front of the residence at 2 Waugh Avenue, looking west, circa 1910. The struc-

ture beyond the fence is 4700 Butler Road, which was John W. Benson's general store. Beyond the store is Mrs. Benson's boarding house at 4702 Butler.

May 23, 2023

Last updated: September 21, 2024

Researched & written by Ann B. O'Neill

## Join us for Porch Readings 2025

Many years ago, HGI initiated Porch Readings as a nod to the original Glyndon Porch Class. The Porch Class, started in 1898, when a group of women summering in Glyndon decided to meet on their various porches over the summer to read and discuss literature, not so different from the book clubs many of us enjoy today. As The Porch Class grew, they turned to more civic endeavors and became The Woman's Club of Glyndon. In 1932, they purchased the former Glyndon School building on Butler Road, which they still use today to support civic activities throughout Maryland. In recognition of those interesting women in the original Porch Class, HGI has, for many years, sponsored "Porch Readings."

We are excited to announce that this year HGI will sponsor three porch readings. Our popular children's porch reading will feature the book *And Then Comes Summer*, and will be held at the home of Mark and Marti Clements on Tuesday, June 24th at 4:00 p.m. The book, which captures the magical delights of summer, will be a perfect start to the season, and our event will include backyard fun and popsicles!

Back by popular demand is a summer porch reading for adults. Our "Almost Summer Solstice" reading will be held on Thursday, June 19th at the home of

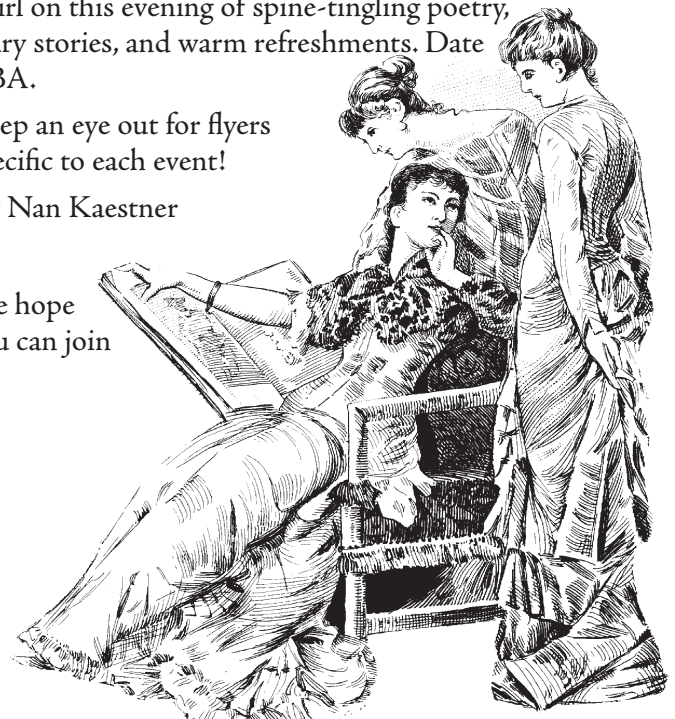
Richard Stanley and will feature poems, stories, music and more to celebrate the season. Bring your favorite summer poem to share, or just come and enjoy the favorites of others. Summer refreshments will complete our Solstice fun.

Last but not least, is our "Dark and Stormy Night" adult porch reading in the fall. Join us as the leaves swirl on this evening of spine-tingling poetry, scary stories, and warm refreshments. Date TBA.

Keep an eye out for flyers specific to each event!

By Nan Kaestner

We hope you can join us!



Open House continued from page 1

kids were on display, and food and punch were lavishly served. Thanks so much to the Meltzer family for hosting, and to all those that contributed and attended. The open house was followed by a gathering in the community park on Railroad Avenue for the annual tree lighting ceremony organized by the Glyndon Community Association. Santa arrived in style, greeted the guests who were enjoying hot chocolate and other treats, and a round of singing ensued. The tree was then officially illuminated for all to enjoy. The residents of Glyndon really knows how to kick off the holiday season.

Summary provided by Teresa Moore with assistance from Jen Meltzer and Ann O'Neill



## HGI Mission Statement

The mission of HGI is to preserve and protect Glyndon's cultural, social, economic, and architectural history, as well as to conduct educational and beautification projects, which enrich Glyndon's historical heritage.

## HGI Board 2024

President ..... Ted McCadden  
1st VP ..... Jayme Provencher  
2nd VP ..... Richard Stanley  
Treasurer ..... Christy Garman  
Secretary ..... Pamela Becker  
Immediate  
Past President Diane Flayhart

## Board Members -

### Terms Ending January 2026

Nicole Crumpler  
Nan Kaestner  
Kate Plaut  
Patty Szparaga

## Board Members -

### Terms Ending January 2027

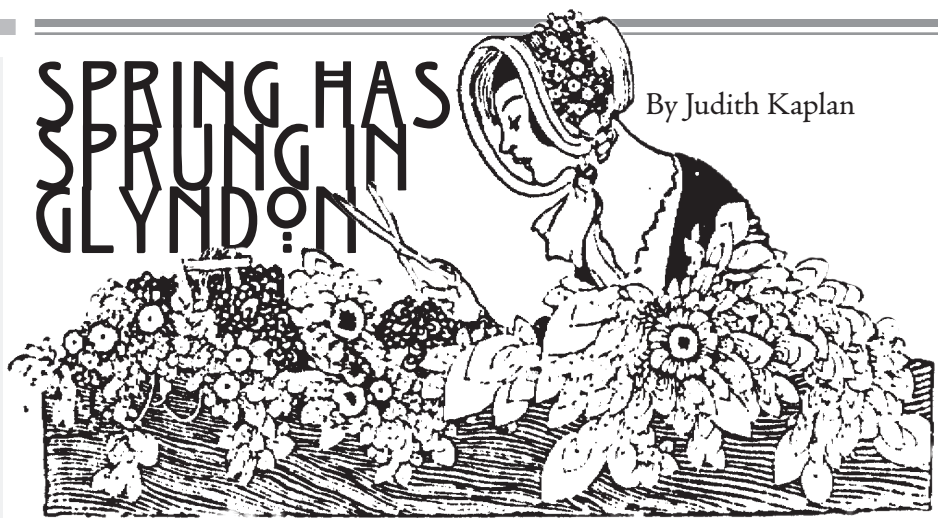
Karen Cervino  
Michelle Kriebel  
Teresa Moore  
Mary Ellen Porter  
Karen Wrzesien

## Glyndon Pool Opening for 2025

The wonderful Glyndon Swim Club, established in 1931, opens May 24th for the 2025 season. Memberships typically sell out, so if you haven't purchased yours yet, time's a wastin'! The pool opens at 11 a.m. daily and closes at 8 p.m. in the evening, except on Fridays and Saturdays when the pool is open until 9 p.m. The pool is located at 4 Central Avenue and features a snack bar, showers/restrooms, sand beach area, picnic tables, and recreation areas in addition to the fabulous pool itself. For more info, visit the swim club's website: [glyndonpool.com](http://glyndonpool.com).

# SPRING HAS SPRUNG IN GLYNDON

By Judith Kaplan



*"Nothing is so beautiful as Spring"* wrote the Victorian poet Gerard Manley Hopkins. This year, after a long period of winter hibernation, a time I've come to love for the rest and freedom it provides, I met the first teasing days of warmth with eagerness I had not expected, and worried for the Magnolia as its buds fattened and the cold threatened return. Those warm few days reset my internal thermostat, after being hardened to the cold, and I shed my jacket, switched out my hats and gloves, and went outside to assess the state of things after five months of neglect. This year, we just about made it, the tree and I. The buds grew and the rosy petals pushed out. We had almost a week of glorious bloom before the freeze hit and, like the magnolia whose bright petals grayed and fell to the ground, I lost my desire to put on a coat and retreated to the warmth of the house.

But spring finally has returned, announced with cherry blossoms and dogwoods. Hyacinths, tulips, and daffodils charm us as if we'd never seen them before. Babies are out in their strollers, many feeling the sun and warm breeze for the first time in their lives. The signs and sounds of spring are everywhere, some welcome and some not: birdsong competes with leaf-blowers, and as dandelions cheerfully pop up – an important first food for pollinators – so do the little yellow lawn tags warning "POISON – keep children and pets off" as they promise to kill weeds and pests.

## Why this imperative?

The naturalist Margaret Renkl advises, "to nurture nature, neglect your lawn," a concept discomfiting to many of us as we have become acculturated to the standard of a chemically-treated carpet of thick grass. Over time we've been convinced that the grubs and insects, which birds and other small creatures depend on for protein, are pests and that the flowers and seeds which support both are weeds. In truth, these insects and their larvae, these plants and their seeds are vital to the health and survival of all of us. It is not news that the pollinators we depend on are declining, nor that the chemicals we put on our lawns poison not only the creatures who live among us, but poison us as well.

So, what can we do? What do we want to do? Spring, a time of rebirth, offers new opportunities. Though many prefer the lush homogeneity of a treated lawn, our preferences and appreciation can adapt. Over time, we can achieve a beautiful and beneficial alternative by reducing the grassy areas around our homes, expanding borders of native plants, and replacing resource-intensive grass with a mosaic of low-growing blends of clovers, fescues, thymes, and flowers. As Margaret Renkl asks, "Why poison the earth when you can have wildflowers at your feet and songbirds in your trees without even trying?"