

# over the picket fence



**Spring....2020**  
**March, April, May**  
**The Mason County Garden Club**  
**Quarterly Newsletter**  
(Since 1926-our 93rd year)

[www.masoncountygardenclub.org](http://www.masoncountygardenclub.org)

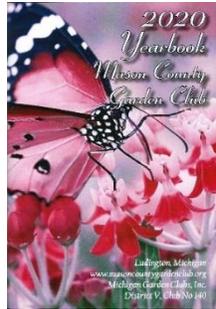
Member: Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc  
Central Region and National Garden Clubs, Inc  
Club No. 140 – District V



Happy Spring



Finally, Spring is right around the corner and our Garden Club activities are about to begin. We don't know about you but, for those of us who braved the Winter in our little corner of Michigan, we are soooo ready for Spring. There aren't too many signs of the change in season but, if you listen closely, you can hear birds singing in the morning and the squirrels are beginning to play (and eat all the bird food out of your feeders). It can't be too much longer before the aconites, snow drops, crocus and daffodils pop up between the melting mounds of snow and the first robin of the season is seen. As you turn the calendar to March, a new year of Garden Club activities is about to begin. Be sure and check out the MCGC 2020 Yearbook (if you haven't received yours from Sue Ann as yet, I'm sure she will have it at the March meeting). The Year Book committee, as always, did an outstanding job in providing us with all we need to know (and more) about the programs and events for the coming year. Also, if you forgot which Committee you signed up to be on for the coming year, check that out also.



### **Thoughts from your new President:**

Hello to Mason County Garden Club Members!

In case you hadn't heard, there's a new President in town! And boy, do I have big shoes to fill! Dawn will be a hard act to follow. She really grew into the presidency and made it look so easy. Thanks Dawn, for all you've done for the club these past 3 years. I can't wait to see what you do next! OH! I know – you're co-chairing the MGC Gardening School!

I'd like to share my thoughts regarding our Club. While we are definitely a social club, with many friendships started and sustained within our ranks, we are also a service-minded organization. Our members provide assistance to many local endeavors, and to be honest, they couldn't do it without us. We recently got praised by the Ludington City Council for our efforts with the new Plaza Planters. Our contributions at Blue Star Memorials, Leveaux Park, White Pine Village and the Petunia Parade, show our commitment to long-term projects. Our Cups of Cheer project has been recognized state-wide and we couldn't be prouder. And that's just a few of our many committee efforts.

Sometimes I wonder if we're stretched too thin. Then I remember that we are 72 members strong and almost everyone is involved in more than one committee. And that doesn't include the new Gardening School that we are co-sponsoring with the Pentwater Garden Club. And all of this is managed and overseen by the club's Executive Board. They are the pillars of our organization and I am so excited to be a part of this year's Board.

In the end, we are a volunteer organization with the side effects of creating friendships and good works within our community. Without you and your individual skills and hard work, we would be less than we are. Thanks for being a part of our club.

*Sue Ann*



**Meet Your New President**

Incoming President Sue Ann Hanson is our featured member for this issue. Sue Ann grew up in a small suburb of Minneapolis, Minnesota in a household with two sisters and one brother. After high school, she attended MIT in Massachusetts for her Bachelors Degree and onto UC Berkley for her Masters. Following graduation, she took an engineering position in Washington, DC. It was there she met her husband Charlie Bristol and, along with Charlie, came three children and now 6 3/4 grandchildren.

From Washington, they moved to the Detroit area and Sue Ann took a job as Civil Engineer in the Department of Environment for Wayne County. As time came to "retire", Sue Ann remembered the many summers of fun visiting her uncle in Ludington, which influenced their move to Mason County at the end of her professional career. Her home now provides her and Charlie with the perfect spot to pursue their major gardening efforts, primarily focused on vegetables.....have you tasted her delicious home grown and canned pickles!

The love of gardening came from her Mother. Her mother had a huge vegetable garden every summer and each child had assigned chores in the garden, creating many fun memories for Sue Ann. She has always focused on community giving and involvement. Very note worthy is the fact that she has donated 10 gallons of blood through the years, providing a life saving need to the community and beyond. She joined the Garden Club in 2011 and, after involvement with various committees, including Garden Walk Chairman and Treasurer for many years, she now takes on the office of President for our club.

We welcome Sue Ann as the 45<sup>th</sup> President of Mason County Garden Club and pledge to her our ongoing support during the coming year. **(Written by Gwen Jackson)**



**March**

- 3 Judy Olson
- 7 Violet Buss
- 10 Julie Tews
- 20 Kristy Okker
- 25 Mary Quillan
- 30 Jackie Lane

**April**

- 3 Melanie Bettinger
- 3 Carole Christofferson
- 3 Dianne Miller
- 3 Betty Orton-Cochran
- 4 Sherry Barnard
- 8 Mary Ann Ferguson
- 10 Gail Burkhart
- 19 Maureen Myers
- 22 Kim Masunas
- 29 Gloria Merchant
- 30 Peaches Throckmorton

**May**

- 2 Esther Genter
- 9 Deb Gundersen
- 10 Gail Martin
- 24 Joanne Krone



**Welcome New Members:**

Susana Griffin (brought in by Marilyn Raymond)

7399 Golfwood Dr.

Ludington, MI

H: 231-425-4097

C: 231-233-9264

DOB: April 5

[ILOVEBCN@Yahoo.com](mailto:ILOVEBCN@Yahoo.com)

She's interested in Fall Plant Sale, Leveaux Park, Spring Plant Exchange, Cups of Cheer.

Sharon Fritton (brought in by Sharon Mormon?)

5839 W. Decker

Ludington, MI

231-670-2778

[frishm46@hotmail.com](mailto:frishm46@hotmail.com)

She's interested in White Pine Village.

Amanda Claus (daughter of Cathy Claus)

5455 W. Hesselund Rd

Ludington, MI

231-907-1258

[magicmudceramics@gmail.com](mailto:magicmudceramics@gmail.com)

She is interested in Fall Plant Sale.





**In February members and guests gathered at Scotty's Restaurant for lunch.**



**Also in February, Members and guests met at the Ludington Senior Center to make "Cups of Cheer" to distribute to residents of Ludington Woods, Oakview and MediLodge facilities.**





## Garden Club Meetings (Held the fourth Thursday of each month):

**March 26...1:00 p.m....United Methodist Church:** Installation of Officers and Potluck, Business Meeting. Program: AFFEW Presentation by Julia Chambers, President, AFFEW.

**April 23...1:00 p.m....United Methodist Church:** Business meeting. Program: Maple Syrup Processing, Cathy Bates, Bates Sugar Bush Farm.

**May 28...1:00 p.m....United Methodist Church:** Business meeting. Program: Black Swallow Tail Butterfly Legislative Acton, Lorraine Schwender, Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc.



## Upcoming Events

- **April 18:** AFFEW's Earth Day Celebration, 12:00 p.m to 5:00 p.m, United Methodist Church, Ludington. Workshops on healthy living, organic pest care, native plantings and DIY green cleaning products. Speakers on how birds are being effected by climate change and conservation efforts of MUVV Meditation. 20+ booths, hikes, raffle including a composter and weekend stay at Barothy Lodge. Live animal show and exhibit from John Ball Zoo in Grand Rapids.
- **May 2:** Historic White Pine Village Opening Day, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- **May 8:** SS Badger first day of sailing season.
- **May 12, 14, 19, 21, 26 and 28:** History in Action Days at White Pine Village 10:00 a.m to 2:00 p.m.
- **May 14:** AFFEW's movie night "Hometown Habitat", location TBD, 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
- **May 16:** Ludington Petunia Parade planting day, 9:00 a.m. MCGC Committee and members will meet at the Cartier Mansion, 409 E. Ludington Ave to plant the 400 block, as has been tradition for many years.
- **May 16:** Planting Our Garden at the Sandcastles Children's Museum, 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Kathy Radke will be seeking young helpers to plant vegetables, herbs and flowers on the deck on the third floor.
- **May 22:** Ludington Farmers Market opens from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. every Friday through September 18<sup>th</sup>.
- **May 23:** Pentwater Garden Club Plant Sale 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in Bell Park in downtown Pentwater.
- **May 30:** MCGC Spring Plant Exchange and White Elephant Sale, 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in Leveaux Park, Ludington.
- **June 1:** Pentwater Farmers Market 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the Pentwater Village Green ever Monday and Thursday until September 7<sup>th</sup>.
- **June 10:** MCGC Crystal Gardens Field Trip 9:30am

## Michigan Garden Club Schools and Events:

**April 14-15:** Flower Show School Course I, Petoskey. Contact Sharon Schappacher at 231-838-7677 for additional information.

**April 20-21:** Landscape Design School Course III, Grand Haven. Contact Andrea Anderson at 616-837-3584 for additional information.

**April 28-29:** Environmental School Course III, Midland. Contact Judy Page at 989-689-3420 for additional information.

**May 11-16:** National Garden Club Convention, Milwaukee

**June 3-4:** Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc. Annual Conference, Lansing. Watch for more information from our president Sue Ann Hanson

**MGC Schools do not need to be taken in course order. Also, there is tuition reimbursement for club members attending these schools.**

### Scottville Beekeepers of Mason County present INTRODUCTION to BEEKEEPING 101



WHEN: Saturday, March 14 · 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

WHERE: Scottville Senior Center · 140 S. Main St.  
ALL AGES WELCOME

COST: This class is free. We ask only that you bring a canned or dried food to be donated to a local food pantry

NOTE: We will break for lunch on Saturday. Please bring your own or visit a local restaurant

On Saturday, Ed Malkowski, Mason County's own *Patron Saint of Bees*, will share from his 60+ years of experience. The session will include the detailed information needed to get started as a beekeeper in Michigan. Ed, Lenny, Bill and Aldon, established beekeepers, will cover all aspects of today's best practices in beekeeping including bee biology, safe handling and what to expect to see in the hive. *Mason County Bee Supplies* will have all the equipment needed for productive beekeeping on display and for sale.



PURE, RAW HONEY  
From local beekeepers  
will be available for sale!

Our goal is to provide a foundation for success  
as you explore the fascinating world of beekeeping.  
An RSVP to Lenny is appreciated: [ifneedbee@earthlink.net](mailto:ifneedbee@earthlink.net) or 773-320-8828  
Visit our website for on-going information:  
[www.scottvillebeekeepers.org](http://www.scottvillebeekeepers.org)

**NOTE: Saturday, March 28 at 6 p.m., join Scottville Beekeepers at the Ludington Area Center for the Arts for a showing of the award winning documentary film, "Honeyland". Lenny Feldberg, club founder, will introduce the film along with Ed Malkowski (*Mason County's Patron Saint of Bees*). At the conclusion of the film, they will answer questions from the audience.**



### **Garden To Do List In March**

We'll soon know if March is going to come in like a lamb and go out like a lion or the reverse. Time will tell. What I do know is that even though the weather can still be wintry, it's time to start working in the garden.

- In mild weather regions plant cool season annuals for early spring color such as pansies, violas, snapdragons, nemesia, sweet peas and alyssum.
- It is important that your greenhouse is properly ventilated during early spring when fluctuating temperatures are common. Open the windows on mild days and close them before nightfall. My Riga greenhouse has automatic ventilators. This saves me from making 2 trips to the greenhouse every day.
- Plant potatoes as soon as the grass begins to green up.
- As temperatures begin to warm and plants emerge from dormancy, slowly remove protective mulches. Beware of removing mulches too soon since hard freezes are still possible.
- Transplant roses, shrubs and ornamental trees before the leaf buds open.
- Walking on wet soil will cause it to compact. So after the spring thaw wait until the ground dries to start working in your flower and vegetable beds. To test the moisture level squeeze a clump of dirt in your hand, if it breaks apart when you open your hand, it is dry enough to work.
- Apply slow release fertilizer to shrubs and perennials.
- Plant parsley in your herb garden.
- Get your lawn mower ready for the growing season. Replace the spark plugs, clean the air filter, remove grass and debris clogging the fins of the engine cover, and take it in to a small engine repair shop to have the blade sharpened and balanced.
- Feed peonies with a low nitrogen fertilizer when they are about 2 – 3 inches tall.
- Most perennials bloom for a 2 to 4 week period. When adding new perennials to your garden go for those that have great foliage as well as blooms or extend the flowering time by choosing a mix of early, mid and late blooming varieties.
- To repair bare spots in lawns combine 5 shovels of sand, 1 shovel of sterilized topsoil, 1 shovel of grass seed and 1 cup of slow release fertilizer. Cover bare spots with this mixture, tamp down and water.
- Harvest horseradish while still dormant, but when the plant begins to show green around the crown. Wear gloves because the roots can cause skin irritation. After digging the roots you can replant any unused portions such as side shoots or the crown for more horseradish later!
- Transplant and divide snowdrops (galanthus) and snowflakes (leucojum) after the flowers fade, but the foliage is still green.
- Clean water features and fountains. Make sure pumps and lights are working properly. Remove leaf guards.
- Hot house azaleas are popular gifts this time of year. To grow as a houseplant give your azalea consistent moisture and place it in indirect light away from sources of heat such as a fireplace or air vent. Sheet moss placed on top of the soil adds a finishing touch to the container and helps retain moisture. Feed with a liquid fertilizer, diluted to half strength every time you water. If you feel the need to prune your azalea, do this immediately after the flowers fade and before it sets buds for next year.
- Check your compost pile. Turn it every two weeks and keep it moist, but not wet.
- Order bulbs such as crocosmia, eucomis, gloriosa, kniphofia and lycoris for interesting summer blooms. Read more about summer bulbs.
- Set up an outdoor thermometer and a rain gauge. Keep a journal of the weather and when plants start to bloom.



## Growing Daffodils

### How to Plant, Grow, and Care for Daffodils

By [Catherine Boeckmann](#)

The bright yellow blooms of **daffodils** are a wonderful sign of spring—but do you know how and when to plant them properly? Here are tips on planting daffodil bulbs, caring for daffodils, and what to do after they flower.

Daffodils are a hardy and easy perennial that grows in most regions of North America, except in the hottest, wettest areas, such as South Florida. Daffodils are a [fall-planted bulb](#), so plant them in autumn and they will bloom in late winter or early spring.

The traditional daffodil flower may be a showy yellow or white, with six petals and a trumpet-shape central corona, but many cultivated varieties (“cultivars”) exist today. Leafless stems bear between 1 and 20 flowers; sometimes the flowers need to be staked so that they don’t weigh down the stems.

Daffodils are suitable for planting between shrubs or in a border, or for forcing blooms indoors. They look wonderful in a woodland garden and in large groves. You’ll find that many gardeners plant the bulbs not just by the dozens but by the hundreds! Daffodil flowers also make for great springtime [cut flowers](#).

### Planting

#### When to Plant Daffodils

- Plant daffodil bulbs in the fall—about 2 to 4 weeks before the ground freezes.
- Choosing and Preparing a Planting Site
- Select a site that offers full sun or partial sun, at the least. Daffodils will bloom best when given adequate exposure to early spring sunshine!
- Most daffodils tolerate a range of soils but grow best in moderately fertile, well-drained soil that is kept moist during the growing season. They are susceptible to rot when kept too wet, so make sure that you plant them in a well-draining spot.
- Many of the popular species prefer neutral to acidic soils, but some prefer slightly alkaline soils, so consult the supplier of your bulbs to see which is best for your daffodil variety.
- Over time, daffodils will produce new, “daughter” bulbs that are attached to the main bulb which you planted originally. This results in nice little clumps of daffodils that stay relatively contained to where you planted them.

#### How to Plant Daffodils

- Select high-quality daffodil bulbs that have not been dried out. The larger the bulb, the better.
- Plant bulbs 1-½ to 5 times their own depth. Where winters are severe, make sure there are at least 3 inches of soil covering the bulb.
- Daffodils will tolerate some crowding, but they prefer to be spaced about 3 to 6 inches apart.

- It may help to sprinkle a little bulb fertilizer in the hole during planting.
- Resist the temptation to uncover spring-flowering plants such as daffodils and [tulips](#). You can loosen [mulch](#), but the shoots will still benefit from protection against cold, drying winds in early spring.
- Daffodils contain something called oxalic acid—a substance that makes them unpalatable to most rodent pests. However, if yours are being bothered, consider adding sharp pieces of shells or a pelleted rodent deterrent into and around each planting hole.

### Harvest/Storage

### Using Daffodils as Cut Flowers

- When cut, daffodils should be kept alone in a vase, as their stems secrete a fluid that promotes the wilting of other flowers. If you must combine them, soak them by themselves for as long as possible, then rinse them and add them to the arrangement last.
- Note that contact with the sap of daffodils may irritate skin or aggravate skin allergies.

### Recommended Varieties

- ‘**Golden Ducat**’ is a double daffodil with pure yellow petals. It blooms in mid to late season and grows 12 to 16 inches tall.
- ‘**Petit Four**’ is a good choice for a partially shady site. The flower has white petals with a double cup of apricot pink and grows 16 inches tall.
- ‘**Rip van Winkle**’ is a miniature double daffodil that grows 6 to 8 inches tall and looks great in a grove with many others of its kind.



### Woolly Adelgid in Hemlock Trees

There’s a new invasive species that’s made its way into Mason County, and it affects hemlock trees. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources announced on March 6, 2020 the presence of the hemlock woolly adelgid in hemlock trees near Bass Lake in Summit Township. The confirmation near Bass Lake is now the new northern limit in the state of the species.

The hemlock woolly adelgids are small insects that use long, siphoning mouthparts to extract sap from hemlock trees, according to a release from the DNR. Their feeding weakens needles, shoots and branches. Over time, tree growth slows and trees take on a grayish-green appearance. This eventually kills the tree within 4-10 years. Questions can be made by email to [mda-info@michigan.gov](mailto:mda-info@michigan.gov) or by phone to the department of agriculture’s customer service center at 800-292-3939. **(Article appeared in the Ludington paper). Submitted by Gwen Jackson**





## **Subject: What I am doing for the upcoming COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic**

Here is what I have done and the precautions that I take and will take. These are the same precautions I currently use during our influenza seasons, except for the mask and gloves.:

- 1) NO HANDSHAKING! Use a fist bump, slight bow, elbow bump, etc.
- 2) Use ONLY your knuckle to touch light switches, elevator buttons, etc.. Lift the gasoline dispenser with a paper towel or use a disposable glove.
- 3) Open doors with your closed fist or hip - do not grasp the handle with your hand, unless there is no other way to open the door. Especially important on bathroom and post office/commercial doors.
- 4) Use disinfectant wipes at the stores when they are available, including wiping the handle and child seat in grocery carts.
- 5) Wash your hands with soap for 10-20 seconds and/or use a greater than 60% alcohol-based hand sanitizer whenever you return home from ANY activity that involves locations where other people have been.
- 6) Keep a bottle of sanitizer available at each of your home's entrances. AND in your car for use after getting gas or touching other contaminated objects when you can't immediately wash your hands.
- 7) If possible, cough or sneeze into a disposable tissue and discard. Use your elbow only if you have to. The clothing on your elbow will contain infectious virus that can be passed on for up to a week or more!

What I have stocked in preparation for the pandemic spread to the US:

- 1) Latex or nitrile latex disposable gloves for use when going shopping, using the gasoline pump, and all other outside activity when you come in contact with contaminated areas.

**Note:** This virus is spread in large droplets by coughing and sneezing. This means that the air will not infect you! BUT all the surfaces where these droplets land are infectious for about a week on average - everything that is associated with infected people will be contaminated and potentially infectious. The virus is on surfaces and you will not be infected unless your unprotected face is directly coughed or sneezed upon. This virus only has cell receptors for lung cells (it only infects your lungs) The only way for the virus to infect you is through your nose or mouth via your hands or an infected cough or sneeze onto or into your nose or mouth.

- 2) Stock up now with disposable surgical masks and use them to prevent you from touching your nose and/or mouth (We touch our nose/mouth 90X/day without knowing it!). This is the only way this virus can infect you - it is lung-specific. The mask will not prevent the virus in a direct sneeze from getting into your nose or mouth - it is only to keep you from touching your nose or mouth.
- 3) Stock up now with hand sanitizers and latex/nitrile gloves (get the appropriate sizes for your family). The hand sanitizers must be alcohol-based and greater than 60% alcohol to be effective.
- 4) Stock up now with zinc lozenges. These lozenges have been proven to be effective in blocking coronavirus (and most other viruses) from multiplying in your throat and nasopharynx. Use as directed several times each day when you begin to feel ANY "cold-like" symptoms beginning. It is best to lie down and let the lozenge dissolve in the back of your throat and nasopharynx. Cold-Eeze lozenges is one brand available, but there are other brands available.

**The author is James Robb, MD UC San Diego**

**Shared by Sunny Emerson:**



## Here are a few recipes you might like that were posted on FaceBook

### CARAMELIZED ONION HAM BROCCOLI QUICHE

#### INGREDIENTS:

- 1 deep dish frozen pie crust
- 3 tablespoons butter
- 3 small vidalia onions sliced in half and cut in thin half moons
- 1/4 lb thin sliced deli honey ham diced
- 1 1/2 cups broccoli florets coarsely chopped
- 2 cloves of garlic minced
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon fresh ground black pepper
- 1/4 teaspoon onion powder
- 1/4 teaspoon dried oregano
- 2/3 cup Gouda shredded
- 2/3 cup Swiss shredded
- 1/4 cup fresh Parmesan cheese shredded
- 6 eggs
- 1/4 cup whipping cream

#### INSTRUCTIONS

In large skillet over medium low heat melt butter. Add onions slices and cook for about 30-40 minutes or until they reach a rich brown color; stirring every few minutes. Add ham and broccoli to the skillet the last 3-4 of minutes of cooking. Add garlic, salt, pepper, onion powder and oregano and cook for additional 1 minute.

1. Place the pie shell on a baking sheet. Place half of the skillet mixture in the frozen pie shell. Top with approximately half of each cheese. Top with remaining skillet mixture and then with remaining cheese.
2. Whisk eggs and whipping cream together and slowly pour over the ingredients in the pie shell.
3. Bake at 350 degrees for approximately 40-45 minutes or until it has puffed and is lightly browned. Let cool for 10-15 minutes before slicing. **Submitted by Sue Smith**

### Pistachio Fluff Dessert

Serves 10-12; 15 minutes active; 2 hours inactive

#### INGREDIENTS

- 2 packages instant pistachio pudding mix
- 16 ounces frozen whipped topping, thawed
- 20 ounces canned crushed pineapple, with juices
- 1 cup mini marshmallows
- 1/2 cup walnuts, chopped

#### PREPARATION:

1. Optional: Heat oven to 350 F. Toast the walnuts for about 5-10 minutes for extra flavor.
2. Combine pudding mix and pineapple in a large bowl.
3. Add marshmallows and walnuts and mix until combined.
4. Fold in whipped topping until everything is completely coated.
5. Cover and refrigerate for 1-2 hours before serving. **Submitted by Diane Davis**

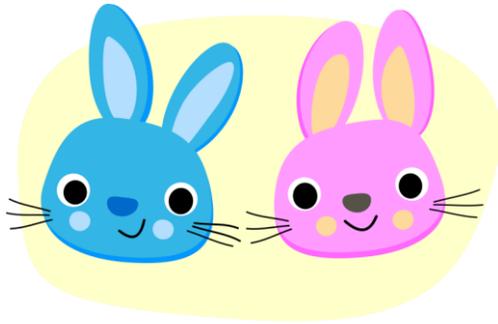
## Cherry Pineapple Dump Cake

### INGREDIENTS:

1 (21 oz.) can cherry pie filling  
1 (20 oz.) can crushed pineapple  
1 (15.25 oz.) package yellow cake mix  
1/2 cup walnuts, roughly chopped  
1/2 cup (1 stick) unsalted butter, sliced thinly into pats  
Vanilla ice cream  
Whipped cream

### PREPARATION:

- Preheat oven to 350° F and lightly grease a 9×13-inch baking dish with butter or non-stick spray.
- Spread cherry pie filling in an even layer across baking dish.
- Spread crushed pineapple carefully on top, then sprinkle all of the cake mix on top of pineapple layer.
- Top cake mix with an even layer of butter pats, trying to cover as much cake mix as possible, then top with walnuts.
- Place baking dish in oven and bake for 35-40 minutes, or until cake is golden brown and springs back when touched lightly.
- Remove from oven and let cool 15 minutes before serving. **Submitted by Diane Davis**



**We hope you have enjoyed this edition of “over the picket fence.” Ideas and suggestions are always welcome for the newsletter. Don’t hesitate to contact Diane or Gwen with your thoughts.**

*See you at the next meeting...Diane Davis and Gwen Jackson*

### Club Collect

Keep us, O God, ever mindful of nature's generous bounty.  
May we always bear in mind it ours to trust, to protect,  
To nurture, and to enjoy.

*Mrs. C.C. Caswell*