

## ASSOCIATION NEWS

February 2018

### January Board Meeting Highlights

1. The Activities Committee name was changed to Clubhouse/Activities Committee. This locates responsibility for clubhouse maintenance and improvements in a specific committee.
2. The Board expressed appreciation for the service of Susan Probst on the Preparedness Committee and approved the membership of Trista Rinker.
3. The treasurer reported that the SVOA closed the year 2017 in the black.
4. Attending members reported concerns about the landscaping.

### Committees and Their Chairs

Our SVOA currently has nine committees. Functioning committees are the lifeblood of an organization. Often their work is unnoticed and unappreciated. The full membership of the committees is listed on the SVOA website (<http://www.svoa-covallis.org>). If you would like a “hard copy” of the membership list of the committees let the secretary know (Gerald van Belle, 206-909-2922). Here is the list of chairs. If you see or know any of them give them a thank you. List is alphabetical.

1. Architectural Review. Sheila Coxon
2. Clubhouse/Activities. Diane Marthaler, Kathleen Petrucela (co-chairs)
3. Community Gardens. RobinJeanne Parks
4. Landscape. Doreene Carpenter
5. Pond. Sheila Coxon
6. Pool. Richard Miller
7. Preparedness. Steve Napack
8. Tree. Logan Norris
9. Welcome. Susan Hayes

### Behind the Scenes

In this issue of the Association News and other issues this year I would like to highlight the activities of a committee. Each committee chair, or delegate, will be asked to write a short description of ongoing work or planned projects. We start this year with a report by Sheila Coxon who chairs the Pond Committee. Its major activity involves draining the pond, to make sure that it does not become a swamp—which is more difficult to drain.

### Behind the Scenes:

The Pond Committee (Submitted by Sheila Coxon).

Working to sustain a healthy, balanced, and attractive pond environment, your Pond Committee with its partner, GAIA Landscapes, will undertake three projects in 2018 in addition to the maintenance of our ponds and surrounding landscaping. The three project involve the

pond. Next year the north pond will be renovated. Specific work for the south pond includes:

1. Drain the south pond to remove hydrilla and nymphaeaceae (overgrown lilies), excavate and remove sludge, and plant dwarf lilies to replace the overgrown lilies. Timing will be late March, early April before the rains stop so that at completion, rains will fill up the south pond. Management will let everyone know the specific dates so that everyone can avoid walking near the south pond area. Next year we will dredge the north pond.
2. Remove the diseased and dying Taxus x media Densiflora (Yews) on the north pond island that surround the Evergreen Magnolia, install replacement soil, and plant species similar to those currently growing around beds of the pond. These Yews were planted when the ponds were developed and have been unhappy ever since, developing fungus because they require excellent drainage and will not tolerate water-logged soil.
3. Phase II of our north pond improvements will be completed, adding more plantings, bark mulch or compost, and gravel.

### **An Earthquake Plan For Your House** (submitted by the Preparedness Committee)

First, sit in each room of your house and pretend the earthquake started while you were there. Then begin to ask yourself questions:

1. Is there a place where I could duck and cover, under a heavy piece of furniture perhaps?  
Or along its side?
2. Are there any items up high that could fall on me?
  - pictures?
  - heavy pieces of furniture that could overturn?
  - a cabinet with doors that could open up with the contents spilling out?
  - a TV or music system?

Fortunately, there are now solutions to all of these potentially dangerous events. There are special fasteners for heavy pictures to keep them from falling. There is earthquake wax and putty for smaller, lighter objects on the wall or those standing on a shelf. There are straps that attach to your furniture without using nails or screws and specific ones for televisions. There are special cabinet door fasteners that only activate through shaking. Most of these can be purchased through Amazon under the name Quake Hold and SeismoLatch (for those shake-activated latches). There are also childproof latches for other types of cabinet doors. There are straps to hold in books. We recommend you look up EARTHQUAKE SUPPLIES on Amazon or elsewhere, where you will also find radios, flashlights, food kits, to-go kits and almost anything you might need for survival of an earthquake or other disaster. A handy person can take care of most of these needs in a couple of hours.