

POND REPORT FEBRUARY 2020 REV re grate fixes

Walk around with Tony Livermore, Supervisor, GAIA Landscapes, Inc.

Tuesday, February 4, 2020, Tony and I walked our ponds and surrounding landscaping for which they are responsible under contract. We reviewed all aspects of the contract and observed the following:

- SVOA Ponds.
 - Ketch-Um Wildlife Control set up its trap and captured a medium to large-size nutria (\$300). Tony mentioned to Sam of Ketch-Um that GAIA cleared out a nutria “nest” out of the cattail area at the end of the north pond. GAIA then hard-pruned the cattails as part of their rejuvenation program. Sam wondered if the nutria had entered the north pond through the grate opening near the cattails. GAIA will be redesigning this grate opening in the hopes of preventing any nutria or other species of similar size from entering the pond.
 - An immediate fix -GAIA will use welded wire (heavy duty galvanized fencing) attached to the outside of the existing grate and cover the holes on the bottom and sides – good temporary fix to do right now.
 - Also, GAIA will have a metal fabricator quote on constructing sections of additional grating for the bottom and sides. These sections would be permanently attached to the existing grate. If the temporary fix does not keep the nutria out, we will have these sections installed.
 - Nutria in trap.



- Cattails north pond hard pruned



- Grate west end of north pond to be redesigned to prevent nutria from entering



- GAIA will be installing approximately 3 yards of 6" cobbles to cover the cement dam area between the north end and south ponds (near the waterfall) (\$375).
- SVOA Landscaping around ponds. Performed bi-weekly.
 - Lawn Service – edging and weeding. GAIA continues to apply crabgrass pre-emergent, moss control, and pre-emergent weed control that grow in the north pond during the summer.
 - Shrubs & Beds Service – weeds are under control; shrubs pruned.
 - GAIA completed thatching and aerating and reseeding where necessary.
 - GAIA pruned the pines near the pump house so they do not crowd out the plantings and disturb the crew in mowing.
 - And the daffodils are beginning to appear. GAIA planted them in stages so we will enjoy several bloomings throughout the spring.



- Replacement for removed Scouler's Willow behind our SVOA entrance sign. GAIA will plant a Little Gem Magnolia (the dwarf of the existing Magnolia on our north pond mound). ARC request submitted.



Willow removed last fall because of the fungus (powdery mildew) it contracted, and GAIA's spraying did not remove.

In its place to be planted – GAIA plans on planting a Little Gem Magnolia



Without its feet growing into water, as has occurred with the non-dwarf Magnolia of the same species on the mound, the Little Gem should thrive and be a beautiful addition.

- GAIA will replace the magnolia on our north pond mound



with the “Magnolia Virginiana Moonglow.” which was planted in our sound pond area this past fall. The Moonglow was selected because of its outstanding characteristics such as: easily grown in acidic, medium to wet soils in full sun to part shade. Prefers moist, rich, organic soils, but, unlike most other magnolias, tolerates wet, boggy soils. Also does quite well in the heavy clay soils. The Moonglow is a patented cultivar that is distinguished from the species by (1) a more vigorous upright growth, (2) better cold hardiness with semi-evergreen foliage in the northern part of its range, and (3) slightly larger flowers. This is a medium-sized tree with an oval to vase-shaped form. It typically grows over time to 35’ tall with a spread of 18’. Cup-shaped, sweetly fragrant (lemony), 9-12 petaled, creamy white, waxy flowers (2-3” diameter) appears in mid-spring (May-June) for about one month and sometimes continue sporadically in the summer. Semi-evergreen elliptic to lanceolate leaves are glossy dark green above and silvery green below. Cone-like fruits with bright red seeds mature in fall and can be showy. While it is semi-deciduous and its older leaves may drop, it will never be completely bare. No serious insect or disease problems.



SVOA funds for the mound tree replacement will come out of the same account as was used for the Yews on the mound replaced several years ago. ARC request submitted.

- South Pond End – GAIA will be working on its rendering for improvements to this area