

## POND REPORT JANUARY 2020

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

Tuesday, January 7, 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.
  - Certain south pond improvements, completed last fall, have been pruned for the



winter, thereby looking a bit bare.



But not to worry, as spring unfolds, so will

the perennials that were pruned.

- GAIA will be containing the rush/sedge type plants growing in the north end of the south pond just before the south pond becomes shallow and rocky.



This picture was taken last fall. Now the rush is mostly underwater. While walking this area, Tony noticed the cobbles at the end of the rush near the waterfall had gaping areas. A part of our improvements this year will be to add more 6 "cobbles to this area.

- 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.
- Two plantings in the north pond area have deteriorated.
  - At our SVOA entrance - Spirea 'Tor' had some sun scorch, heat damage. Tony hard-pruned hoping it would come back in the spring; if not, it will be replaced.



hard-pruned

- Behind our SVOA entrance sign the *Salix scouleriana* (Scouler's Willow) was removed because it had a fungus (powdery mildew) which GAIA's spraying did not remove. GAIA is seeking a replacement that will attract birds similar to those that enjoy the nearby cattails. And speaking of cattails, GAIA will be cutting them back in preparation for their spring growth.



- GAIA is researching a replacement for the magnolia on our north pond mound which is dying. The species must be able to survive in a wet, non-draining clay with its wet feet 3 feet down. Two possibilities being considered are "Little Gem Dwarf Magnolia" and "Magnolia Virginiana Moonglow."

- Little Gem Magnolia (dwarf of existing species on the mound)



- - Magnolia Virginiana Moonglow (planted in south pond area this past fall)



GAIA is researching which is the best choice and how to condition the soil for whichever species is finally selected to ensure it can survive in this environment. As soon as GAIA completes its research, I will submit an ARC request. Plan is to remove the existing tree and plant the new one early this spring.

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.

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