

## POND REPORT JULY 2018

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

Tuesday July 3, 2018, 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:

- Board Action Requested: The Pond Committee requests the Board appoint Paula Jolliff to the Committee. Paula lives overlooking the ponds, living at 4753 SW Hollyhock Circle.
- SVOA Ponds.
  - GAIA has been hand-watering to supplement NLS's increase in irrigation for the north pond new plantings. Tony believes the new plantings will recover from the distress due to being new plantings and the lack of water. GAIA will install an additional irrigation nozzle for these plants.
  - Tony evaluated the 3 dwarf lilies in the south pond and 2 in the north pond and replanted them in new soil and fertilizer.
  - As occurred last year, the north pond fountain has become plugged due to the increase in muck and weeds plus the low water level. The fountain has been removed to GAIA's facility to be cleaned to see it will run again. Tony recommends the Board consider a new model fountain/pump that does not sit so low in the water. Kurt has requested a quote for this replacement.
  - As done last year, to help control the bullfrog population GAIA installed the two bullfrog traps in the south pond near the grasses where the bullfrogs gather. While in the traps awaiting GAIA's removal, the bullfrogs are in water and have food supply. In accordance with Fish and Wildlife guidelines for bullfrogs, GAIA removes the bullfrogs from the traps and kills them. Being an invasive species Fish and Wildlife prohibits relocation of live bullfrogs.
  - The dredging of the south pond to the bottom this year has produced the results anticipated – nearly no surface accumulation of algae. The north pond, however, is accumulating “muck” and weeds. GAIA is netting biweekly; however, as the weather warms, the accumulation will grow. We look forward to next year's dredging which we anticipate will produce similar results the south pond is exhibiting.



- north pond muck and non-working fountain



- - SVOA Landscaping around ponds. Performed bi-weekly.
    1. Lawn Service – edging and weeding
    2. Shrubs & Beds Service – weeds are under control; shrubs pruned. No European Pine Sawfly observed on pond pines around pump house.
    3. GAIA will be applying bridge granular fertilizer (organic and synthetic) in the spring and fall.
    4. GAIA’s staff removed the limbs that were hanging over the roof of 4785 H (Mathews) Lot 15 – north end of the pond within their contract requirements, eliminating the need to subcontract the work.
    5. Given the European Pine Sawfly life cycle has moved beyond infestation and GAIA has seen no evidence of harm to the pond pines, we feel this issue is closed for this year.

II. We discussed various improvements along the center area of the ponds including the berm. GAIA will be developing a plan for improvements for 2018 which the Committee looks forward to reviewing.

III. Signage on pond. The Pond Committee reviewed the need, type and size as did the ARC of the signage for the pond. We decided to have the signs similar to the “please do not feed the ducks” and “danger - do not climb on the rocks” signs “same color, height, lettering for consistency.” The earlier version wording for the mound – please do not enter this island – was considered not clear enough and changed to “no trespassing”. That is what the Pond and ARC Committees recommended to the Board and Kurt.

The reason the “Danger - do not climb on the rocks” sign was placed was to try to deter climbing on the rocks, falling, injuring oneself, and suing the Association. One insurance carrier will not insure SVOA because our ponds are not fenced. They cite the liability of anyone walking into SVOA and seeing nothing inhibiting them from accessing the ponds and incurring an injury and suing the Association. We note that Grand Oaks has fenced their ponds. To help distinguish Stoneybrook ponds and landscape which are available for use for Stoneybrook (residents, employees, visitors to Stoneybrook, contractors working at Stoneybrook) from a public park which is open to anyone, we also recommended a sign at the entrance – Private Property. Comments regarding the new signs include = new signs do not mirror the existing signs in size, color, height, or lettering; too many signs on ponds; not friendly enough. Perhaps one of the “please do not feed the ducks” signs could be used as the basis for the “No Trespassing” on the island and the Private Property language could be affixed to the SVOA marquee instead of a separate sign?

Pictures of new signs:

