

## POND REPORT JUNE 2020

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

Tuesday, June 2, 2020, Tony and I walked (masks and 6 feet apart) to review our ponds and surrounding landscaping for which they are responsible under contract. Interesting times. We reviewed all aspects of the contract and observed the following:

- SVOA Ponds.
  - GAIA plans on cutting back, pulling and removing Carex (sedges) at the north end of the south pond and what has taken root at the beginning of the north pond in June. This task is now part of GAIA's maintenance contract.



End of south pond



Beginning of north pond

- GAIA continues to investigate the health of the lilies in the south and north ponds. As the warmer weather awakens our plantings, some of the lilies are beginning to bloom and thrive. However, several have not. One disappeared from its pot in the north pond. GAIA will be replacing the few that are gone.



Blooming lily south pond

- Pond plant growth has become more evident as the water table decreases this spring. This growth is called Mille foil (weed/grass) that has been in our ponds forever. Our dredging did remove it as do the ducks, but it grows back. With the relatively warm winter and wet spring, the grass has become more prevalent.



- Irrigation issues. As we walked our ponds, we noticed a variety of our new plantings and turf seemed distressed. Tony checked the irrigation back flow and discovered the south pond water was not processing through the pipes. After talking with Kurt, Tony worked with the south pond back flow to enable water to flow. Apparently, when Home Grown checked the back flow, they did not turn it back on. Fortunately, weather has been mild and rainy which kept most of our new plantings alive. Tony will be conducting a full audit of the irrigation system on our ponds and replacing what is required. I note that GAIA has replaced or added very few irrigation parts since taking over in 2012. Many of these fixtures are therefore aged.
- SVOA Landscaping around ponds. Performed bi-weekly.
  - Lawn Service – edging and weeding. GAIA has applied pre-emergents (crabgrass, moss and weed control) in January and the spring applied crabgrass pre-emergents.

You might note an occasional sprinkling of clover and weeds on the turf. With GAIA converting to organic applications, this condition is normal and GAIA's team on its biweekly maintenance addresses these issues.

- Shrubs & Beds Service – weeds are under control; shrubs pruned.
- GAIA completed thatching and aerating and reseeding where necessary.
- In our south pond planting area, three new plantings did not survive. GAIA recently replaced these three and added three new plants to add more planting and variety to the area. Note, GAIA warrants its plantings for a year; accordingly, GAIA only charged labor for the replacements.



As they mature, you will see four new Echinacea



And three new Bergenia



- With the social distancing, etc., restrictions, GAIA will postpone developing an improvement plan for the end of the south pond this year and focus on adding selected plantings, etc. throughout the ponds.