



# POA Ponds Committee

## *'Pond Views'*

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*February 18, 2019*

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## Fish Habitat and Structure

In natural lakes and rivers, you will find a variety of structures in the underwater habitat. These include rock piles, downed trees, logs, overhanging banks, bridges, docks, and so on. Because our ponds in St. James are all man-made, they do not come with structure.

Fish need a place to hide, feed, breed, and hunt for food. Smaller fish need a place to hide from the bigger predators like bass. Structure provides not only a place to hide, but the structure itself produces food for the smaller fish to thrive. Algae, eggs, larvae, zooplankton, plants, and small critters all live in and on structure. Minnows, bluegill, and sunfish will feed on these in the protection that the structure provides. It will also provide a safe place to reproduce thus adding to the bait fish populations that will support bass.

If you enjoy watching waterfowl and shore birds, then having fish in your pond will attract them. Many people who don't fish still stock their ponds to feed the fish and attract other species. We always

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stocked it or have non-native material. Structure helps create a habitat that can successfully sustain a healthy population of fish.



So where can you get this structure? Because most of our ponds are not moving water, the best solution is artificial structure, as shown above. These can be made in your garage and placed in the pond, usually in about 4 feet of water. To learn how to make your own, search "fishhabitatdiy" where you will find several videos on how to make them yourself. You can make one for less than \$15. Another option is to go to a site that sells the kits such as [Pondking.com](https://www.pondking.com/). All of these are made from safe material for the environment and do not degrade. Create some structure to enjoy your pond even more.

## The Ponds Committee

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### **Our mailing address is:**

St. James Ponds Committee  
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## Have Some Questions or Concerns?

Do you have questions about ponds or need some additional information about the POA guidelines and ponds? Email the Ponds Committee for help at: [StJamesPondViews@gmail.com](mailto:StJamesPondViews@gmail.com)

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