



POA Ponds Committee *'Pond Views'*

July 21, 2019

Managing the Green Slime

The hot weather of summer brings algae blooms to some of our ponds. There are many varieties of algae, but what we see most ranges from a slight discoloration of the water to heavier mats, foam or scum. Many of our ponds are stagnant and susceptible to the formation of algae. The main cause of algae is nutrient pollution. Nitrogen and phosphorous in fertilizers and animal waste are common causes. These one-celled or multi-celled plant-like organisms have no roots, stems, or leaves. They go into hyper-growth mode in the summers enhanced by these nutrients along with direct sunlight. How do we fix it?



No one wants to see this in their backyard.

Since the main cause is nutrient pollution, try not to fertilize within 20 feet of your pond (Source: NC Sea Grant – Stormwater Ponds Guide.) Also, add plants as a buffer (3 to 6 feet) on your pond edge to absorb harmful nutrients as runoff. There are many ponds in St. James with mowed lawns all the way to the edge. Start by adding some native plants near the edge, then working your way up the pond bank over time. This will not only help the nutrient and algae problems but will help stabilize your pond bank from the forces of erosion.

As we (residents) work to improve the water quality of our ponds, we are fortunate to have a good pond maintenance contractor, Dragonfly Pond Works, to help us reduce algae blooms. They visit all POA-maintained ponds and treat them when necessary with algaecides. In these summer months, they try to visit each of our 140-plus ponds two times per month. This helps to keep algae blooms down. However, this is not the cure. The cure will be our own commitment to preserving a healthy shoreline and keeping harmful nutrients out of our ponds.

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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

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