



POA Ponds Committee *'Pond Views'*

July 8, 2020

Another Successful Plant Sale

June 20th was another hot and humid day as Lumber River Native Plants delivered 1891 plants to the Community Center parking lot. Ponds Committee members and other volunteers unloaded, sorted and staged 88 orders for pickup by residents. The truckload of plants and some staged in the parking lot for pickup are pictured below. All our volunteers wore masks and social distancing was accomplished as many residents were able to stay in their vehicles as volunteers loaded their plants. Last year we had 53 orders. The number of plants ordered this year was a 68% increase over last year. There is another big difference between last year and this year – pond water levels.

Last year we were in the middle of a drought when plants were picked up. This year pond levels are high. Last year many of us planted in the area we call the “mud zone.” This year, depending on the pond, that same area could be 6 inches to a foot under water. Last year, when our drought ended, pond levels came way up and some our plants that had been doing well in the mud disappeared. This year, we are planting a little higher up or in shallow water.

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Last year our planting efforts were a learning experience and we found out some interesting things:

- Some plants tolerate changing water levels better than others (i.e. Blue Flag Iris and Pickerelweed.)
- Do not underestimate the resilience of native plants. Last year, 6 blooming Scarlet Rose Mallow plants disappeared with the rising water. This year, those same plants rose again through 8 inches of water. Nice surprise!
- We saw some Pickerelweed and Arrow Arum become a meal for turtles. A small wire or plastic fence can keep turtles at bay.
- Pickerelweed, once established, will multiply. Last year's 10 plants are now 20.

If you ordered plants, a survey will be sent out late summer to get feedback on your experiences with the plants you purchased. Thanks to the residents who ordered plants and best of luck on your plantings.

The Ponds Committee

(Photos by Dan Davis)

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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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