



## **POA Ponds Committee** *'Pond Views'*

February 22, 2021

### **Pond Bank Cleanup Before Spring**

We are not covered in snow or seeing sub-zero temperatures like our friends in the north, but the constant rain and cold here is no picnic. Nice days to get out in the yard are almost nonexistent. Still, spring weather is not that far away. It starts to warm up in March and that means the plants in your yard and near your pond come to life. Before that happens, preparation for warmer months ahead starts with trimming back old growth and removing leaves, branches and other organic debris around the pond.

Organic matter is your pond's worst enemy. As it decomposes, it depletes life-giving oxygen and becomes a fuel for algae growth. Over time, decaying organic material accumulates as muck affecting the pond's water quality. Solitude Lake Management, a nationwide lake and pond management company, says this:

"A vegetative buffer is key to preventing nutrient-rich runoff from negatively affecting the waterbody, but as buffer plants die in the cold, they are also at risk of contributing to the nutrient load. Each winter be sure to trim your buffer and properly dispose of trimmings. We recommend trimming your buffer plants to 18 inches in height and allowing them to extend 3-5 feet or more from the shoreline."



“Recently, the Woodlands Circle Showcase Pond was trimmed and tidied up – now ready for spring!”

Soon, spring will be giving the heave-ho to winter. Let's make sure to protect our ponds by trimming and collecting our organic material from the pond's edge. We can start the warm season with room to grow and add new plants when the time comes.

The Ponds Committee

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**Our mailing address is:**

St. James Ponds Committee  
4140 Southport Supply Rd SE Ste B  
Southport, NC 28461-8880

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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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