



POA Ponds Committee *'Pond Views'*

June 12, 2019

Plant Sale Pickup Day – Saturday, June 15th

Our May 7th Ponds Education Meeting was well-attended by residents. NC State Extension Specialized Agent, Dr. Diana Rashash, talked about the varying uses of ponds from fishing to water retention to aesthetics. She discussed pond bank slopes and causes of erosion. She discussed the important role of native plants in preventing erosion and capturing harmful nutrients from entering your pond. Toward the end of our meeting, Jep Whitlock of Lumber River Native Plants kicked off our first-ever pond buffer zone plant sale.

He brought many samples of each plant to show and there was a lot of interest from residents. The sale ended on May 21st with 1116 plants sold. If you were one of the 52 who purchased plants, your time to pick them up is this coming Saturday, June 15, at the St. James Community Center parking lot **between 10:00 AM and noon**. If you cannot pick them up at that time, you will need to ask a friend or neighbor to pick them up on your behalf. Ponds Committee members will be there to assist you, if necessary.



This pond planted by a St. James resident is filled with many different types of native plants.

Most all of us interested in the long-term health of our ponds will be on this journey together. We have to learn what works and what doesn't. Most of all, we must be patient. In the words of a Master Gardener regarding pond plants, "the first year they sleep, the second year they creep, and the third year they leap." There is bound to be some

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meeting. They love **Waterweed, Duck Potamo, and Arrow Arum** – some of the plants in our sale. Fencing of some kind (chicken wire or mesh) may be needed to protect them from becoming a meal for turtles.

What we are striving for is depicted in the picture above – a gorgeous pond bank with a variety of plants. This resident says, “I no longer see algae in this pond. All harmful nutrients are absorbed by these plants.” We will get there in time. For our ponds to stay healthy and maintain their capacity long-term, this is what we need to do.

The Ponds Committee

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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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