



POA Ponds Committee *'Pond Views'*



Happy Thanksgiving!

November 27, 2019

Winterize Your Pond

Since mid-November the measured water temperatures in our ponds are in the low 60s. We have had some near freezing evenings and

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temperatures are not ideal for algae or weed growth. It was a challenging summer with high heat and drought conditions. So, what can we do now to improve the health of our ponds going into next spring? Solitude Lake Management, a national lake and pond management company, gives us some recommendations in its latest newsletter.

- If your waterbody suffers from algae and invasive weeds during the warmer months, winter weather may provide a sigh of relief. Unfortunately, if proper management techniques are not utilized as algae and weeds die off from the cold, they could return with a vengeance the following spring. This is because as plant matter decomposes, it releases nutrients into the water that can fuel new growth when temperatures warm up. This is a good time to remove branches, leaves and other organic debris.
- While nutrients often come from decomposing plant matter, excess nutrients can also be swept into your pond during rainstorms. 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. Remove any woody vegetation or non-native plants. They can lead to costly erosion problems, damage to pond structures and loss of vistas and shoreline habitat.
- If you have a lawncare company mowing and taking care of your property, make sure they know not to dump or blow leaves and clippings into your pond. Any of the efforts made, no matter how small, are important. Organic material in your pond has a negative cumulative effect in the long run. Enjoy your Thanksgiving and thank you for being a Pond Views subscriber.

The 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

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