

Community Information

Pond Scum was the subject of some debate this past summer for residents living near or driving past the pond on Margesson Crossing (across from Oakley Park).

Knowing a little about our ponds helps to understand the causes and challenges related to the Margesson Crossing pond. All of the Benjamin Crossing ponds are connected and are fed by run off water from the surrounding area AND are fed by the ponds south of 450S. The Margesson Crossing pond is the most shallow of the three ponds in Benjamin Crossing and is the first pond to get run off from the pond south of 450 S. Pond scum, which forms in the 450 S ponds, is washed into the Margesson Crossing pond. And, because it is shallow, light, warmth and nutrients readily promote the growth of Algae. Little rain fell during the hot summer months, thus the pond was not "flushed" out by Mother Nature.

Possible solutions:

Circulation/Aeration - Good circulation from a water pump or aerator helps keep water flowing and evens the temperature throughout the pond. Aeration from fountains and waterfalls help oxygenate the water and drive out excess carbon dioxide. *~The Margesson Crossing pond is too shallow to accommodate a fountain and the county will not allow us to deepen it. A pump or aerator would be quite expensive and may not solve the problem.*

Mechanical Filtration - a filter (the larger the better) can help remove fish waste and other debris that serves as a nutrient source for algae. *~This option is impractical and would also be quite expensive.*

Algae Eaters - tadpoles readily eat most hair algae, and are no threat to other plants. *~ Tadpoles produce Frogs. This is probably not a viable solution considering the proximity to homes.*

Water Cleaning Equipment - skimmer nets and vacuum/water change devices help remove debris and waste before it becomes "Algae Chow"

~ An expensive option, if even possible.

Water Treatments

-True algaeicides-, but can be harmful to plants, wildlife and possibly pets and children. *-Bacteria/enzyme products*

breakdown of waste. *-Flocculants* help clear cloudy water by causing tiny particles to clump together, making them easier to filter or just settle out. *-Shading agents* tint the water blue or black, reducing the light. *~ A Water Treatment was used on the pond and helped a little, but this is an expensive solution because rainfall washes the treatment out and it must be re-treated each time.*

Because our ponds do not merely collect run off water, they are not always "standing" water therefore many of the solutions listed will not work, or only till the next rainfall.

Research shows that pond **plants** are by far the best means of controlling algae, as they reduce three of the four algae stimulants by shading and cooling the pond, and compete for nutrients. Plants would be a one time investment, and would probably work (not guaranteed) in the Margesson Crossing pond. However, the matter of pond scum from the 450 S ponds must be addressed. Perhaps the efforts that are currently being made by the Board to get cooperation from that community will be helpful in controlling the problem. Certainly there is a solution to the pond scum problem, but at what cost?

Christmas Festivals And Traditions

December 6 St. Nicholas Day
 December 8..... Bodhi Day in the Buddhists' faith
 December 10.....Hannukah begins (date varies)
 December 13.....Santa Lucia's Day (Italy, Sweden)
 December 15 - 16Posados or Novena begins
 December 17 Hannukah ends (date varies)
 December 19.....St. Nicholas Day (Julian Calendar)
 December 20 St. Ignatius' Day in Romania
 December 20/21.....Winter Solstice
 December 21..... St. Thomas' Day
 December 23.....Little Christmas in Denmark
 December 24..... Christmas Eve
December 25..... Christmas Day
 December 26..... St. Stephen's Day
 December 26.....Boxing Day in England
 December 26.....Kwanzaa Begins
 December 27.....St. John's Day, Mother Night
 December 28 Holy Innocents Day
 December 30 Bringing in the Boar
 December 31New Year's Eve, St. Sylvester's Eve,
 December 31Hogmanay in Scotland
 January 1.....New Year's Day, St. Basil's Day
 January 2 Snow Day, Holde's Day
 January 3.....Evergreen Day
 January 4 St. Distaff's Day
 January 5 Epiphany Eve
 January 6Epiphany, Three Kings Day, Twelfth Nte



The Tradition of Poinsettias

Poinsettias are believed to have originated in central and south America and were revered by the ancient Aztec peoples. This plant eventually became a symbol of Christmas to the Mexican culture and it became a tradition to use poinsettia plants to decorate during Christmas time. In 1824 the American Ambassador to Mexico, Joel Poinsett attended church service on Christmas Eve and was impressed with the bright red flowers used to decorate the church altar. Poinsett took seeds with him when he went back to America and shared the plants with local churches during Christmas celebrations over the next several years. Because Joel Poinsett was so closely associated with the plant in the United States, people who bought them started calling them Poinsett's plants or Poinsettias. Today, millions of Poinsettia plants decorate homes throughout the world



The origin of Santa Claus begins in the 4th century with Saint Nicholas, Bishop of Myra, an area in present day Turkey. By all accounts St. Nicholas was a generous man, particularly devoted to children. After his death around 340 A.D. he was buried in Myra, but in 1087 Italian sailors purportedly stole his remains and removed them to Bari, Italy, greatly increasing St. Nicholas' popularity throughout Europe. His kindness and reputation for generosity gave rise to claims that he could perform miracles and devotion to him increased. St. Nicholas became the patron saint of Russia, where he was known by his red cape, flowing white beard, and bishop's mitre.