



# Turtle Rock Ponds Report

## Aquatic Plants Grace Ponds

Going forward, Turtle Rock homeowners will see bursts of beauty and color along the littoral shelves (defined shallow areas close to shore) of many of our retention ponds. Turtle Rock, with the support of its Retention Pond Committee, now plants and maintains select aquatic plants. Ponds 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 26, and 31 are first in line, and more will follow.

Pickerelweed, arrowhead, and spike rush (top three photos) will help protect pond shorelines from erosion and enhance the overall health and appearance of ponds. In the Butterfly Pond, which is Pond 7, yellow canna and fragrant water lily (bottom two photos) will further the mission of attracting butterflies. Aquatic plantings work in concert with the low maintenance zones (LMZs) that pondside homeowners have been creating along their shores.

The Pond Committee has worked with aquatic plant professionals and county officials to select plants that are native, will thrive but not take over the ponds and – last but not least – are visually appealing. This is a measured approach to pond management that will also involve monitoring and removing invasive plants as needed.

Thanks to Turtle Rock homeowners for your active involvement and support. The ponds project will continue with repair of the areas of most serious shoreline erosion, ongoing work on low-maintenance zones (LMZs) and aquatic plantings in additional ponds. We'll continue to communicate as projects progress.

*Photo credits: Pickerelweed, Harry Cliffe; Broadleaf arrowhead, Carolyn Fannon; Sand spikerush, Joseph A. Marcus; American White water-lily, Ray Mathews; Water canna, Joseph A. Marcus, all from wildflower.org for unrestricted use.*

**Logo Created by Barry Domenick, Turtle Rock Resident**  
**Article by Michelle van Schouwen, Secretary,**  
**Ponds Committee, April 26, 2021**

