

Huntington Trails HOA

Date: Monday, July 29, 2013

Dear Huntington Trails Pond Front Home Owners:

To ensure our ponds stay clean and healthy and to keep expenses down, it is of vital importance that you and your lawn maintenance company follow a few simple steps:

- 1) Grass Clippings: Each time you or your lawn maintenance company mows the lawn, ensure the grass clippings go back into the yard where they can be decomposed and used as fertilizer for your lawn. Any of the grass clippings that get blown or washed into the pond will feed the system and create more algae.
- 2) Fertilizer: Avoid putting any phosphorous fertilizer on your lawn (should not do at all during rainy season). When you do fertilize, avoid putting it on the pond slope where it will wash into the pond and feed the algae instead of your grass.
- 3) Debris: Please watch for and remove litter and yard/tree debris from your yard. Do not let tree limbs or palm fronds go into the pond. These can block the drains and cause big problems.

The Huntington Trails Homeowners Association has employed a new company to maintain the ponds in our neighborhood. Below is a statement on possible increase in maintenance cost if the above steps are not followed by you and your lawn maintenance company. (Note: our previous pond company did start charging us extra due to these issues).

“Yesterday while one of my technicians was treating the algae in pond #1 he observed a lawn maintenance worker mowing the adjacent property with the grass clippings being blown directly into the pond. This activity is what generates the majority of the algae in the ponds; grass clippings are high in nitrogen and phosphorus, which are the two main fertilizer components that stimulate algal growth. Besides being counterproductive to our lake management efforts, costing us additional labor and herbicide costs, it is against the law; Pinellas County requires all Lawn Maintenance personnel to take a "Landscape Maintenance Best Management Plan" class, which includes this specific problem. All of my employees, including myself, have taken and passed this course. This activity of blowing grass clippings into the pond must be stopped immediately or we will need to increase our price to manage these ponds. If there is a way to contact all the homeowners and inform them of this problem or if you have one management company that controls the lawn maintenance, we could go a long way towards cleaning up these ponds. Let me know how you want to proceed. Thanks.”

Please follow the above steps and if you employ a lawn maintenance provider discuss with them. Thank You!

Sincerely,
Pierre Thieman
AmeriTech Companies, Inc