

August 10, 2019 Board Meeting  
Park Committee Report

Rachael Bauer from the Bastrop County Agriculture & Natural Resources Dept sent us a report on the grasses that are growing in our ponds after taking samples for us last month. Here is her summary:

The pond weed samples that we took were Water Hyssop, Southern Naiad and Water Primrose. There is NO hydrilla in either of the ponds. If your homeowner's association chooses to implement a chemical control method, I would recommend only treating  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the pond at a time. As the summer temperatures get hotter, you will risk an oxygen depletion in the ponds, which will cause a fish kill. Most herbicide applications are effective if completed between May 1 to July 1. Please see the following website for information on the pond weeds, which you can view under the "Identify a Plant" link: <https://aquaplant.tamu.edu/>. Let me know if you have questions or need more information. I enjoyed visiting with you!

Rachel A. Williams Bauer  
Bastrop County Extension Agent  
Agriculture & Natural Resources

Jeannie followed up by researching these three grasses and only the Southern Naiad could be controlled by the triploid grass carp or by chemicals. According to the Texas Parks and Wildlife - Inland Fisheries division quote:

"To enhance effectiveness of triploid grass carp, overabundant vegetation should first be reduced by winter die-off, herbicide treatment or water-level drawdown to promote grazing on re-growth. Early spring is a good time to stock."

To quote another source:

"Grass carp will seldom control aquatic vegetation the first year they are stocked. They will consume southern naiad. Grass carp stocking rates to control southern naiad are usually in the range of 7 to 15 per surface acre."

Our ponds together are 23 acres so averaging 10 carp per acre, we would need 230 carp. The application to get the carp through the TPWD would cost \$475 and then after approval the carp would need to be bought from an approved list of dealers costing between \$16-25 per fish plus stocking. In addition, we would need to reinforce our spillways between the two lakes as well as into Lake Bastrop to ensure the carp cannot get out and contaminate other waters.

All of this is an expensive project which we cannot jump into without continued research. So at this time, we will follow the recommendation of the TPWD and see what happens over the winter season. This will be an on-going issue for the Park Committee.

The other two grasses are non-invasive flowering grasses which add to the environment for butterflies and other insects.

Due to the recent story about Lady Bird lake having blue-green algae which has killed several dogs, I called TWPD to see if they would come out and check our ponds. I was told they do not offer that service and to call a Pond & Lake Management company. I called Southwest Aquatic Services and for about \$400-500, they will do an onsite visit and test the water. They told me that having the extra grasses growing in our pond will make it harder for blue-green algae to form. We will discuss this further at our next Park Committee meeting.

The Texas A&M Fisheries report was finally received yesterday. It will be posted on the web page by Monday. The report states which fish were encountered during the electrofishing survey done back on April 5-6. The predominant fish found in both Upper George Ross Lake and Lower George Ross Lake was the Bluegill, followed by the Largemouth Bass, Redear Sunfish, Green sunfish and very few Blacknose Crappie. More details about comparisons between the lakes are included in the complete report. The bottom line is no stocking is necessary. The Park Committee will discuss the results more fully at its next meeting.

A new Porta-potty was installed in the playground area to replace the old one. It should be getting serviced monthly. Please contact me if you think it needs servicing and we will call and get them out here.

We are looking for members who have an interest in the park area to join our committee. If you are interested in working with the committee, please fill out an application today and get it to me at the end of this meeting. Questions for the Committee can be sent to my email - [park@circledbastroptx.org](mailto:park@circledbastroptx.org).

The next Committee meeting will be this Tuesday evening, August 13.