

**Shearwater Landscaping Committee Report**  
**June 2015**

❖ **Grounds maintenance**

Thanks to the steady attention landscaping contractor Highlands and some opportune rains, our lawn areas remain green and lush. As the season advances, you will observe them trimming back shrubbery, weeding and performing other maintenance activities to keep our grounds in top condition. For example, recent activities include:

- ◆ Trimming shrubs, such as those in front of the main entrance signs
- ◆ Pruning branches and trimming deadwood from trees (up to 12' from ground)
- ◆ Keeping the oyster paths clear of weeds
- ◆ Edging and weeding planting beds
- ◆ Planting new variety of flowers - madagascar periwinkles - around the base of the Japanese maple near the center of the great, an improvement noted by many residents

❖ **Landscaping Improvement projects,**

The new ornamental trees and shrubs and flowers we've planted this year are thriving. These include a dogwood, four new schip laurels alongside the entrance drive and five transplanted Virginia sweetspire next to the entrance to the racquetball court. In addition, we enlivened the pool area with pots of geraniums and tropical plants, and worked with our landscape team to clean up and enhance the planting bed along the land side of the pool.

Projects to replace/restore/refresh plantings damaged or destroyed by weather events, construction activities and/or the ravages will continue through the fall. Due to some rainy spells and a busy spring season for our landscapers, some planned projects are still pending. We ask that residents be patient as we work to respond to your various requests.

❖ **Trees**

The canopy trees we planted in early May are doing well, thanks to some opportune rains and the help of volunteers. Many thanks to Larry Birch, Frank and Linda Bolling, and David Densmore for helping with the watering!

❖ **Irrigation**

The Irrigation system appears to be functioning well although there are spots throughout the community that are not currently served by the system. We'll be analyzing those gaps with an eye to expanding the system in future when funding is available.

❖ **Shoreline Stabilization**

In the second week of June, we acquired 250 Spartina grass plugs through the efforts of David Densmore. On the hot, humid morning of June 13, a team of 9 volunteers met at the shoreline behind Buildings 7 and 8 to plant the grasses during low tide. Many thanks to David Densmore, Larry Birch, Kate Christenson, Pat Duvall, Charlotte Featherstone, Kay Hunter and Marj Sparer who planted all 250 grass plugs in less than two hours under the expert guidance of the West and Rhodes

Riverkeeper who came out to join us. The grasses will help stabilize the shoreline, prevent erosion and improve the health of Hawkins Cove.

Thanks as well to the many people who expressed interest in helping out but for various reasons could not make it. We'll be planning more fun opportunities to enhance our community.

#### ❖ **Landscaping Committee Procedures**

- ◆ All changes to general common elements of the landscape (lawn areas, trees and shrubbery) must be submitted to the Landscaping Committee for review and approval. Changes must be consistent with the overall theme and plan for Shearwater's grounds.
- ◆ Requests for landscaping work in general common areas shall be submitted via work order. Work orders may be submitted via the Shearwater website at [www.shearwatercondos.com](http://www.shearwatercondos.com) or by other means as determined by Metropolitan Management Group.
- ◆ Metropolitan Management Group will review all work orders on a regular basis and will promptly forward all work orders that directly involve or may have an impact on Shearwater's landscape general common elements to the Shearwater Landscaping Committee for review and coordination.
- ◆ The Landscaping Committee will promptly review all work orders forwarded by MMG and will coordinate with MMG on appropriate action, within the overall context of Shearwater's landscaping theme, planned landscaping activities and available budget.

#### ❖ **Landscaping Committee Members**

The Shearwater Landscaping Committee is composed of the following volunteers: Deborah Birch (Chair), MaryAnn Cummins, Pat Duval, Ron Faulkner and Charlotte Featherstone.

If others are interested in joining the committee or contributing ideas, please contact us. As always, we encourage all members of the community to come forward with their ideas and concerns. *This is your community.* If you have suggestions, please contact:

Deborah Birch, Chair, Shearwater Landscaping Committee

Email: [dbirch@seagreenintl.com](mailto:dbirch@seagreenintl.com)

Mobile/Text: 202-629-6035