



**Survey Results** - We asked you to complete a survey with some very key questions. The results are in and your neighbors who volunteered to work as a subcommittee of the Lakes Committee have been busy in the background. The Survey results indicated that nearly 130 residents are interested in the idea of planting native species on their property. Of the lakefront properties over 50 neighbors were in the respondents.

In this and future monthly newsletter we will give you answers and will point you to more detailed information on the EGPOA website under the Lakes, or provide links with appropriate information. Now in March is the time for you to start your plan by interviewing gardeners and laying out your plots.

If you are not familiar with how to log into the website: [emeraldgreenpoa.com](http://emeraldgreenpoa.com) - Sign in and go to the Members Portal search for "Your Lakes and You." Details of interest will be found there when ready.

**Groundwater** - The water as a result of rain and snow travels over every surface in our community. It runs from high points over the surfaces and ultimately goes into the lakes. Our goal is to beautify your property while significantly reducing Groundwater from carrying the pollutants along the way from entering the lake. The common pollutants are fertilizers and pesticides, but petroleum by products, salts from the roads, air particles, and other debris collect and are washed into the lakes. This is magnified by the culverts that drain under our lots and a mass injection in a rain downpour. It's a fact that 5 years after a successful native series of plantings the filtering will have significantly improved lake

water quality. We will be monitoring this and hope that you will assist not only by planting but by becoming a part of the EGPOA member of the CSLAP monitoring team.



**Solutions** - Thankfully you are the solution by identifying the locations on your property that can be planted to filter the groundwater before it enters one of our lakes.

Typical turf grass has shallow roots (only 2- 3 inches). It acts like a slide, allowing fertilizers, pesticides, and "leachate" from groundwater to flow directly into the lake. Think of it as too much butter sliding off warm toast onto the plate. A freshly fertilized lawn and will wash into a lake with two rainfalls.

**Filters** - Your Planting Native plants act as a Biological Filter: Many natives have Deep Root Systems that extend 5-15 feet underground. They "drink" the excess nutrients and contaminants before they hit the water table. Those nutrients are what makes your Native Plants grown without added fertilizers.

**Soil Stabilization:** The plant roots prevent the shoreline from eroding into the lake (sedimentation).



Bio-retention: They slow down rainwater, allowing it to soak into the ground naturally rather than rushing off the lawn.

**Our Planting Process** - Many of you expressed a desire to know more about the plants and the process of planting. As of this newsletter we are awaiting response from the Landscapers and Nurseries to our inquiry. We asked if they will offer help and discounts to our large group of respondents. Those letters were mailed out by EGPOA on the committee's request. [Manza Farm & Garden Center, Inc](#) has offered to discount plants. Details of pricing are pending. At this moment Flying Trillium Gardens and Preserve, Inc. has acknowledged they are interested in helping.

In the meantime, we have had our board approve 15 Native Plants as a preapproved group of plants. All those plants are considered animal and pet friendly. (See the link in the next column). They are in a variety of sizes, heights and colors to allow you to have the view you desire. In our research we found that healthy lakes can add 3% to 13% to your property value. In our communities case it can save us thousands of dollars by having a healthy water reservoir.

Permits in EGPOA - Whenever you work on your property, permits are required. The EGPOA has guidelines posted on the webpage. NYS DEC or Town of Thompson Permits may be required. Our office permits have been simplified for this project and should not cause you a delay.

The following is the least expensive way to start native plants at home: Seed-to-Pot Guide (Rock Hill Edition)

Since Sullivan County is USDA Zone 5b/6a, our growing season is shorter, and our "winter" is a necessary part of the plant's life cycle.

Do It Yourself: For your ordering seeds we are providing a Seed Source promoted by The Homegrown National Park website: NativeFloraSeeds.org New York Native Plant Seeds - Wildflowers & Prairie Grasses NativeFloraSeeds.org <https://share.google/MoSdVfNsmlIAN34T2>

**Fast Track** - Recommended Native Species approved for EGPOA Lots and Lakes

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ENxkcYzylYrCgwKZZzQG8JVZ8zpPxA8VdBilNS6yzzg/edit?usp=sharing>

Prepare your plot plan: On your permit you will locate your planting points. Those beds need to have invasive plants, existing grass, gravel or obstructions removed. Check the soil for stones which will obstruct the layouts.

Here is a design discount link to Homegrown National Park for help: <https://homegrownnationalpark.us2.listmanager.com/track/click?u=ce919e78833f25cf86f5047ac&id=d60d551c88&e=9d2e3fc48c>