

## Grounds Committee Report

-Mulch: Living in Blairstone Forest means that we have beautiful trees everywhere. But, in the Fall that means that we have a TON of leaves. What many people don't know, though, is that leaves = mulch! Mulch is invaluable for suppressing weeds, providing nutrients for landscape and native plants, saving money by not having to buy mulch and making your life easier by not having to rake so much! So Leave the Leaves!

-Adopt A Tree: The City of Tallahassee (the City) has a program that provides trees for yards within the city limits. They have agreed to provide either a Black Gum, Sycamore or Winged Elm to anyone in the neighborhood. What we would like is for at least 10 people that have property on the pond to request trees that will be planted around the pond. A waiver will have to be signed once the trees are allocated to each individual because, normally, the City plants the trees within 100 ft. of the front property line. Since we need the trees for the pond (they help prevent erosion of the soil and provide shade and habitat for the local animals) we'll ask residents to volunteer to help plant the trees when they arrive.

-Plantings: If you're going to plant shrubs or trees on your property, you can plant anything you want. But, if you plant in the common areas outside your property markers, please plant only native species. If you have any questions about what is native you can direct them to me at [elvoorhies@gmail.com](mailto:elvoorhies@gmail.com) or text me at 850-443-7786. Also, Native Nurseries on Centerville Rd. is an excellent resource for native plants.