

1. Removal of Nutria. Kurt contacted Ketch-em (a wildlife removal expert) to remove the nutria. Nutria are not native and cause widespread destruction of vegetation and carry intestinal parasites.



Quoting from Oregon Department Fish and Wildlife:

'Legal Status: In Oregon, nutria are classified as unprotected Nongame Wildlife (OAR 635-044-0132). As unprotected wildlife nutria may be trapped (cannot be relocated) or shot. No license is needed for a landowner to control nutria on his/her own property. Most cities have restrictions on leg-hold trapping or the discharge of firearms within their city limits--live trapping is usually the main population control measure inside the city limits.'

"Repellents and Trapping"

"No chemical repellents for nutria are currently registered.

Nutria are easily captured in live traps. Bait live traps with sweet potatoes or carrots and place them along active trails or wherever nutria or their sign are seen. A small amount of bait leading to the entrance of the live trap will increase capture success. When cornered or captured, nutria are aggressive and can inflict serious injury to pets and humans. *Extreme care should be taken when handling captured nutria.*"

2. Tree along south pond. Gaia removed the dead Cherry and replaced with a 16-foot Persian Parrotta Ironwood along the south pond. Planting this species is part of the donations approved for 2015 (donor paid Gaia directly). The Cherry died because it does not do well in clay soil and is susceptible to a wide variety of fungus and disease. Ironwood handles clay soil well and usually does not fall prey to diseases or pests. The tree was planted in good soil with fertilizer and mulch and is near irrigation. Below is what the Ironwood will look like in the fall as it matures.



3. Gaia is proposing to mulch the bed areas surrounding the pond to deter weeds. Tony states their 2016 price would not change. Tony stated "last year we spent extra time just playing catch up and this bark mulching would simply help us stay ahead of the curve." This is a good maintenance addition to our pond.

Gaia's proposal, submitted to Kurt, January 7, 2016, states:

"** Last year (2015) was Gaia's first of maintaining the bed areas surrounding the ponds. We spent much of our allotted time playing 'catch-up' by pulling and spraying weeds in these beds. The weeds and weed seeds are particularly prevalent in the groundcover where spraying herbicide was not as effective. To assist with weed control this year, I'd like to propose application of 2.5" layer of Hemlock Bark Mulch. Not only would the mulch block weed seed germination, it would have the added benefit of aesthetics for the entire pond area. I have estimated this below.

I am aware of the past report by 'The Pond Doctor' stating bark mulch should not be applied near the pond as it decreases pH which creates a variety of additional water quality problems. Therefore, the mulch would be applied 5' short of the ponds high water mark.

Thank you for considering this proposal. Tony Livermore

PURCHASE AND BLOWN APPLICATION OF BARK MULCH . Qt.18 \$972.00
(Approximately 18 yards @ \$54/yard for the purchase, transport and blow-on application of 2.5' layer of Hemlock Bark Mulch to the ornamental bed areas around the ponds.)

Note: If desired, "Color-Rich" Red Fir Mulch could be applied @ \$62/yr = \$1,116*****