

# let's hear it

YOUR OPINIONS, COMMENTS, & QUOTES

## Some fountain motors cooled by oil

I am writing to address some misinformation that was offered in the article "Care for aerators & fountains in winter" in the November 1999 issue of *Landscape Management*. In the article, Willis Dane of Aqua Control states that pond aerator owners should "fill motors with an antifreeze solution" and that the antifreeze "can gradually be replaced with pond water leakage from seals." This recommendation is offered to all of your readers even though many of them own or maintain equipment that would be severely damaged by this maintenance technique.

Several manufacturers of pond aeration equipment produce motors that are cooled by an oil bath rather than an antifreeze bath. Such units are sealed and designed to retain their oil for several years without water entering the motor housing. They would not operate properly and could even be dangerous if the oil were replaced with antifreeze.

*Anthony P. Vogel*  
Kasco Marine, Inc.  
Sales/Staff Biologist

## Antifreeze is not the solution for aerators

I am in receipt of an article printed in the November 1999 issue of *Landscape Management* in which the writer states

that one should "fill motors with antifreeze solution." Therefore, as a manufacturer of ice melting, aeration and fountain equipment since 1967, I would like to go on record and strongly disagree with such a statement for three main reasons:

1) An oil-filled motor should never be filled with anything but the appropriate lubricating/cooling oil as recommended by the manufacturer, and then only if one is authorized or trained to do so. Also, oil-filled motors should never be filled with anything that has a poor dielectric strength.

2) Suggesting "antifreeze" in general is a total misnomer since there are many types available. Some are quite harmful and many poisonous, i.e. ethylene glycol which is commonly used in automobile cooling and heating systems.

3) Our ice melters, aerators and fountains use the same submersible, water-cooled and lubricated motor that the writer's company does. At no time do we or the manufacturer of the motor suggest that anyone other than an authorized agent recommend or suggest to disassemble this type of motor, much less add "antifreeze." The motor is provided with deionized water and propylene glycol, a non-toxic "antifreeze." This solution will prevent damage from freezing for temperatures down to -40° F. The manufacturer of this motor also states

that the "loss of a few drops of liquid will not damage the motor as an excess amount is provided. If there is reason to believe that there has been a considerable amount of leakage, one should contact the manufacturer for procedures."

It is also suggested that the writer educate himself further about the motors he uses and that a responsible publication such as *Landscape Management* print a correction in the very next issue."

*Douglas D. Cramer*  
Air-O-Later Corporation  
President

## He's one swell employee

As a young company, only seven years in the landscape business, we already know how hard it is to find a reliable,

hard-working employee. In 1998, we found one. His name is Rob Easley. He's 26, and he's been landscaping for six years. Our working relationship has grown into a good friendship.

It's been just the three of us for now, and when we get to jobs, I explain what we're doing, and off he goes, putting in his best effort.

That means a lot to us knowing that he cares about the job and about pleasing our customers.

After work, he helps us back at the shop or even helps with our remodeling at home. He is a treasure and we hope he will stay. We will do whatever it takes to keep him with us.

*Jeff & Karen Christy*  
Christy's Something Different  
Landscaping Co., Chicora, PA  
Owners



"I realize you're my husband, Reginald but I don't give my landscaping contractor's name to anyone."