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"Things are bigger here in Possum Kingdom, Texas. For instance, our 180,000 square feet of PennLinks greens that perform flawlessly in our extremes of heat, humidity and cold.

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Randy Thompson, CGCS

Director of Golf and Course Management
The Cliffs, Possum Kingdom, TX

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Developed by Sheffield Management Co.

Fallon, Randy and Lisa Thompson



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Randy Thompson

In the exclusive
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Circle No. 162 on Reader Inquiry Card

LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT



On the cover: Landscape Management again offers you the industry's most complete guide to the manufacturers and suppliers of turf equipment.

1989 BUYERS' GUIDE

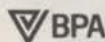
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LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT (ISSN 0894-1254) is published monthly by Edgell Communications, Inc. Corporate and Editorial offices: 7500 Old Oak Boulevard, Cleveland, Ohio 44130. Advertising Offices: 7500 Old Oak Boulevard, Cleveland, Ohio 44130, 111 East Wacker Drive, Chicago, Illinois 60601 and 3475 Lenox Road, N.E., Suite 665, Atlanta, Georgia 30326. Accounting, Advertising Production and Circulation offices: 1 East First Street, Duluth, Minnesota 55802. Subscription rates: \$25 per year in the United States; \$50 per year in Canada. All other countries: \$100 per year. Single copies (pre-paid only): \$2.50 in the U.S.; \$5.00 in Canada; elsewhere \$10.00; add \$3.50 per order for shipping and handling. Back issues, if available, \$10; add \$3.50 per order for shipping and handling (pre-paid orders only). Office of publication: Edgell Communications, Inc., 1 East First Street, Duluth, Minnesota 55802. Second class postage paid at Duluth, Minnesota 55806 and additional mailing offices. Copyright© 1989 by Edgell Communications, Inc. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical including photocopy, recording, or any information storage and retrieval system, without permission in writing from the publisher.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT, P.O. Box 6198, Duluth, Minnesota 55806.




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Circle No. 142 on Reader Inquiry Card

From the other side of Earth: Can we talk?



If you take for granted your ability to communicate with those around you, then attending the 6th Annual International Turfgrass Research Conference (ITRC) in Tokyo last month would have been eye-opening. Not only would you have enjoyed papers delivered by the world's preeminent turfgrass researchers, you'd have seen the awesome power of communication working (or, in some cases, not working).

For the first time, the ITRC's host was a nation on the mysterious, often misconceived continent of Asia. Though relative newcomers to turf research, the Asians appeared to pursue turf knowledge as diligently as they have other scientific fields once thought to be the private domain of Western civilization.

Still, the cultural barriers between lands were evident, most notably language. Though translators performed admirably within classroom walls, the informal "corridor conversations" so important in a gathering of this type had a distinct East/West feel—as in East on one side of the corridor and West on the other.

It is apparent that our nations have a long way to go toward fully understanding each other. The blending of our cultures will continue to progress in step with today's global economy. Perhaps the most important element in maintaining positive relations during that progression will be a continued effort to improve communication, to overcome the momentary frustrations many of us may experience.

Perhaps one day landscapers in Okayama and Oklahoma will be equally interested in our Buyers' Guide, presented to you this month. Each will benefit from an easy-to-use, comprehensive listing of the companies that provide the instruments necessary to do a job properly. Until then, we're glad we can bring you the 1989 "North American" Buyers' Guide. Think of it as a way to get your hands on the tools and information you need to beautify wherever it is you call home.

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It Stopped Just To Have Its P

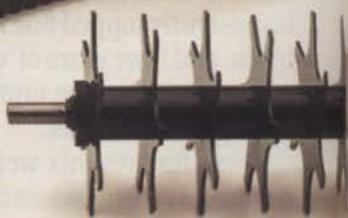
You're witnessing a rare sight. Toro's Reelmaster® 450-D actually standing still. A rare sight because the Reelmaster 450-D is so dependable that it goes and goes and goes. Giving you the high capacity mowing and precise even cutting you've been looking for.



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The 450-D is designed with its weight evenly distributed around a center-mount 50 hp engine for better balance. This means more up-hill climbing ability than other machines and better traction.



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For faster, easier mowing with more beautiful results, call your local Toro distributor for a demonstration of the Reelmaster 450-D or contact Toro at the address below. A machine built from the ground up with proven Toro design experience. And that translates into the kind of productivity no one can argue with.

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LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT

TREES

Popular 'Treaty Oak' faces uphill struggle for survival

AUSTIN, Texas — The probable destruction of a 500-year-old oak tree has caused an outpouring of sympathy from 48 states and 18 countries.

"Cards and letters from all over the world cross my desk," says Austin city forester John Giedraitis. "They all have the same theme: get well soon."

Those affections, however, apparently have not been enough to save the venerable "Treaty Oak."

The tree rests in Caldwell Treaty Oak Park. Paul Cullen, an alleged occultist, is awaiting trial for its poisoning. He faces a possible sentence of up to 10 years in jail and a fine of up to \$10,000 for criminal mischief, a felony.

"All over the world, people are watching this," says Giedraitis, who—more than anyone—has been flooded with phone calls from newspapers, magazines and the electronic media. "Right now, this is the most famous tree in the world."

The tree's plight has been followed by the *New York Times*, *USA Today* and the Associated Press. Giedraitis himself has appeared on ABC-TV's "Good Morning America."

Unfortunately, the tree is dying a slow death.

Soil samples indicate a massive poisoning from an overdose of DuPont's Velpar herbicide, which penetrated as far as three feet under the soil surface.

Giedraitis has worked on advice from scientists at DuPont and tree experts from all over the country (including Dr. Jack Siebenthaler of the American Society of Consulting Arborists) to save the tree. Most recently, 18 irrigation heads that pump spring-water around the crown were installed to sterilize the soil.

"Tissue samples indicate the level of poison going down," Giedraitis says, "but it's not going down fast enough. It's kind of like a race we're losing."

"The tree is dangerously close to the end, even though we really won't know until next spring."

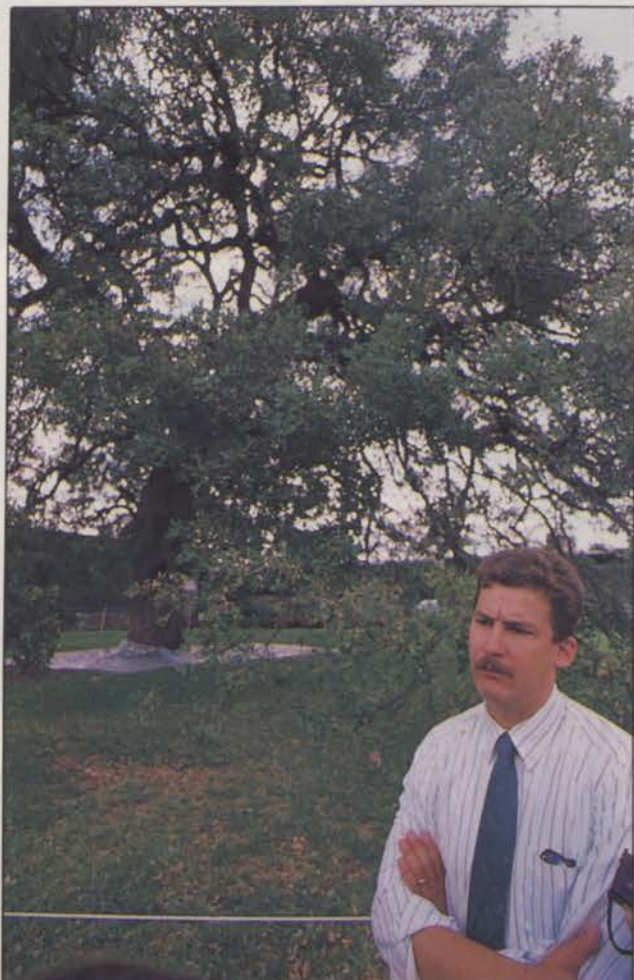
He notes that tests indicate good starch reserves in the root system. "We're hopeful the carbohydrates will move up the stem into the remaining buds," he says.

More than \$63,000—most of it donated by billionaire industrialist H. Ross Perot—has been spent to save the massive tree. The total bill is expected to reach \$75,000, Giedraitis says.

The City of Austin bought the Treaty Oak from Earl Caldwell Sr. in 1937 with donations from the city's schoolchildren.

Since that time, Caldwell's Landscape Service Company has pruned it free of charge. The company is now under second-generation ownership.

The original Caldwell's



John Giedraitis has done everything possible to save the "Treaty Oak," an endangered Austin historical landmark. (Photo by Mike Boroff of the Austin Statesman-American)

son, Earl Jr., says he's kept his company out of the media spotlight because of its love for the tree.

"It's a very sad thing," notes Earl Jr. "It was a magnificent tree. Now it's dead, (the victim of) a demonic

act by a mentally deranged person."

Adds Giedraitis: "That shadowy figure sealed the fate of the tree. But the real story is the outpouring of love and affection by people all over the world." □