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Inside: Grosse Ile
Restaurant
Review
p11

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Doug Henry / Foliage Concepts owner turns
your landscaping dreams into reality

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DOUG HENRY

TURNING YOUR LANDSCAPING DREAMS INTO REALITY

THIRD-GENERATION LANDSCAPE ARTIST, musician, singer, songwriter, world traveler, volunteer fireman and emergency medical technician for 22 years...

That's Doug Henry, 51, owner of Foliage Concepts, a Grosse Ile landscaping company that evolved from the Garden Shop of Lincoln Park, founded by his late grandfather, Edwin Henry, in the 1920s.

Doug said that his grandfather built homes on Grosse Ile and got into landscaping as a sideline because homeowners frequently asked him if he knew a landscaper.

"Grandpa told them, 'I can do the landscaping,' and before long, he had 40 men putting in trees and shrubs all over metro Detroit," Doug said.

The second-generation landscaper was Doug Henry's father, the late Dewey Henry, a former Grosse Ile Township supervisor who spearheaded the organization of the Downriver Community Conference and served as economic development coordinator for Wayne County.

"My father was enrolled in a five-year landscape architecture program at Michigan State when Grandpa said to him, 'You don't need a

degree, come to work with me.'"

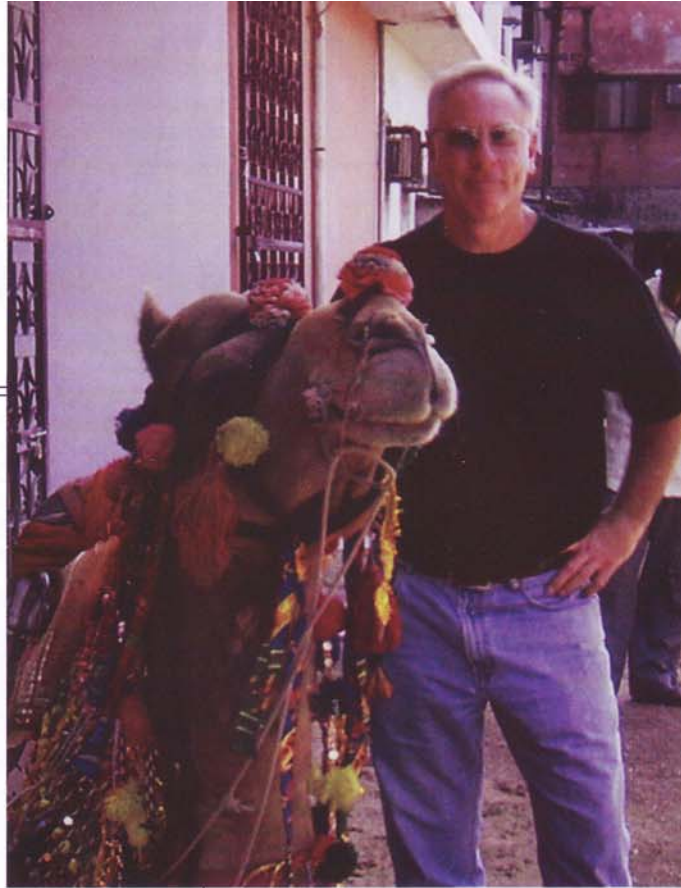
So Dewey dropped out of school, yet 40 years later returned to finish his degree, just before his death in 2003.

Doug, who is well known for his Asian designs, said he spends three to four months a year traveling. He has visited more than a dozen countries in the Far East, including Japan, China, India and Thailand, studying landscape and architectural design.

The yard at his own home is a virtual Shangrila of Asian design that includes a Zen garden, Japanese granite lanterns and a pond with a fountain and Oriental bridge.

Doug, who speaks Japanese and is studying the Thai language, said he enjoys visiting the tribes in the hills of northern Thailand and delivering care packages to the villagers.

"What turns me on are elephant safaris," he said, adding that on one of his trips to



Indonesia, he befriended and held a coiling 120-pound python and entered the cage of a Bengal tiger to be photographed with the animal. (See photo on front cover.)

At Foliage Concepts, Doug and his 15 employees design and install gardens, driveways, walkways, decks, patios and pools and organize yards for commercial, residential and institutional properties.

A current project in which he is participating with two other landscape firms is the construction of a baseball field for a Melvindale team.

Doug said he received a call from the Fox 2 problem solver asking him to help the team, which had lost its playing field because a school was being built on the property. The ball players were offered a grassy field that needed a tremendous amount of work, he said.

"I played baseball myself from Little League through high school and was honored to help," Doug said.

The project is massive, he said, and will require about 200 tons of gravel, 500 cubic yards of top soil, the hauling away of debris and the construction of the baseball diamond, with all costs donated by the three firms. The TV station is following the progress of the project.



For more information on the products and services of Foliage Concepts, call 734-671-1551.