



THE BUGGETTE

APPLICATION #2, 2011 ■ VOL. 31, NO. 186



Bare in Mind by Dick Bare

“Mommy, Can We Get a Pet Crow?”

Hi Everyone!

Hope all is well with you and yours.

The other day something reminded me of all the animals my Dad brought home from the nursery or the store. I think many of them were dropped off by people who didn't know what to do with them. We had a pet groundhog, a skunk, an alligator, various cats and dogs, snakes, butterflies, squirrels, chameleons, and a few rabbits.

Our groundhog, Ipana, was great. Outdoor gatherings with the family were always more interesting when Ipana would get into one of my uncle's beers. He would walk around in a drunken stupor and, since PETA wasn't around then, we would all roar with laughter. However, since we didn't want anything to interfere with Groundhog Day, we banned beer from any events Ipana attended. He went on to get his 6-month chip (award) and was a sponsor for other imbibing groundhogs.

The skunk, who was store-bought, belonged to my brother. Since my brother didn't handle him enough, he got mean and bit a few people; I forgot what we did with him. The scientific name for a skunk is *mephitis mephitis*, which means noxious gas, noxious gas. I guess they needed to make sure you understand that noxious part! And those musk glands, they can shoot ACCURATELY up to 10 feet, so run really fast if you see one.

The alligator (also store-bought) eventually got too big for my mother's water saver tub. (For those of you who were born after the Depression and never heard of that, it was a tub that hooked to a washing machine and saved the wash water to use multiple times.) My mother gave the alligator to my dad to let go out in the river that ran through our nursery grounds. I asked my dad, "Won't he freeze in the winter?" My dad said no, but I never saw the alligator again. Looking back, I think that was a little white lie; I don't think there are too many gators in Ohio. (But maybe he ended up on the farm where everyone else's parents sent rambunctious family dogs to "run free.")

The wild squirrels were good - very smart, hard to tame, but great companions I think the tree crew found them as babies in nests in trees they cut down. I ended up buying one from a breeder in Salem, Ohio; Holly was a fox squirrel who I kept clear up into college. My roommates at Ohio State University loved her, and she went everywhere with me on a leash. She sat on my shoulder like a monkey.

Global Warming – Not in Georgia!

In spite of Al Gore's warnings, for the first time in 30 years, we had snow on the ground for an extended period. This may pose some challenges for your lawn this spring. Cold weather and snow can be hard on grass. Most lawns will recover from this winter; however, if we experience some late cold weather, Bermuda lawns can be severely affected and may even die from it. Many people experienced this last year, so be on the lookout.

Shrubs can lose a lot of moisture when it's windy and cold and may not recover as quickly from winter damage. They can be slow to bud and green up. It is recommended to snip off the damage – pruning will help them recover more quickly.



Refer one of your neighbors and get \$50!

If any of your neighbors have commented on how good your lawn looks, give them our contact information. If they sign up for our service (by calling us at 770-447-6037 or visiting our website, www.arbor-nomics.com), you'll receive \$50 towards your account.

You can feel confident recommending us. In addition to being Best Pick in Atlanta for 13 years by Home Reports, we have no complaints at the Better Business Bureau and great reviews on kudzu.com and Angie's List. We also just won Angie's List Super Service Award. The fact is the majority of our new customers comes from referrals and that is the greatest compliment you can give us. Thank you!

On a Lighter Note

A 1st grade school teacher presented each child in her class with the first half of a well-known proverb and asked them to come up with the second half. It's hard to believe that these were actually done by 1st graders. Their insight may surprise you. While reading, keep in mind that these are 6 year olds!

1. Don't change horses until they stop running.
2. It's always darkest before Daylight Saving Time.
3. Never underestimate the power of termites.
4. Don't bite the hand that looks dirty.
5. A miss is as good as a Mr.
6. If you lie down with dogs, you'll stink in the morning.
7. A penny saved is not much.
8. Two's company, three's the Musketeers.
9. There are none so blind as Stevie Wonder.
10. Better late than pregnant.



In Other Employee News

Two techs have been promoted to operation managers: Teddy Linares (Norcross Branch) and Bryan Powers (Cumming Branch).

Teddy Linares was also **Employee of the Year**. It was a very hard choice because we have so many hard-working technicians here at Arbor-Nomics. However, Teddy earned this title due to sustained performance throughout the year in customer service, sales and production. He is very flexible, adaptable, and has a positive attitude that makes him a pleasure to be around.

In his "acceptance speech," Teddy acknowledged the rest of the team:

"When I received this award, I was really grateful that hard work paid off in being recognized. Working with everyone here is great – we all work together to get things done. Asking each other questions is the best training possible. I would like to thank David Sweeting for all his help and of course, Doug Cash and Dick Bare, along with everyone else here at Arbor-Nomics."

Congratulations Teddy!



What's your pick? Silver, Gold or Platinum?

You may not have known that we have three service programs at Arbor-Nomics Turf™. The Silver program includes lawn service; the Gold program includes lawn, tree and shrub services; and the Platinum program includes everything.

Top 5 Reasons to Upgrade from Silver to Gold:

1. 4 FREE Perimeter Pest Control treatments.
2. The tree and shrub care program protects from insect damage & disease.
3. The program also makes trees and shrubs more resistant to drought.
4. Your trees and shrubs will have a better look and a stronger color.
5. Gold is more valuable than silver!



Top 5 Reasons to Upgrade from Gold to Platinum:

1. Monthly visits year-round.
2. Free service calls between treatments.
3. Perimeter Pest Control treatment.
4. Platinum is more valuable than gold!



And the Top Reason for Upgrading from Gold to Platinum . . .

5. Lawn care, tree and shrub care, aeration, overseeding, fungicide treatment, fire ant control, grassy weed treatment are all included.



Please call us (770-447-6037) or visit our website (www.arbor-nomics.com) for more information on our three programs.



Application #2

What we did today

To your lawn:

- 1) We applied a pre-emergent and a broadleaf weed control, which we also applied with the first application of the year. The pre-emergent will block the development of the grassy weed root and prevent them from growing. The broadleaf weed control will kill those weeds within two weeks of the treatment.
- 2) We also applied a potassium fertilizer to enhance the root structure so your grass grows stronger and thicker.
- 3) Your lawn received an application of nitrogen for growth and color.

To your trees and shrubs:

(if you are a tree and shrub customer)

- 1) A fungicide was applied to control diseases like powdery mildew and leaf spot.
- 2) An insecticide was applied to help control aphids, lace bugs and leaf hoppers.
- 3) And finally, a foliar fertilizer was applied for spring color. This fertilizer is great for acid loving plants.

This will help your trees and shrubs begin a healthy new life in the spring to keep them strong throughout the summer.

What you need to do until our next visit

- 1) If you are going to mow your lawn during March and April, do not remove more than 1/3 of the grass blades at each cutting. You don't need to collect clippings as they "recycle" back into the soil providing some extra nutrients. It is safe to mow the same day we've applied our products.
- 2) Warm season grasses such as Bermuda, Zoysia and Centipede should be aerated in the spring to reduce soil compaction and increase the benefits of our applications. Call us for an estimate.

If you have any questions concerning your lawn, trees, shrubs or our service, please call our Customer Service Department Monday – Friday, 8:00am-5:00pm at 770-447-6037.

If you call after hours, please leave a message and your call will be returned the next business day.

Helpful Phone Numbers

www.arbor-nomics.com

Main#: 770-447-6037

Owner/President

Dick Bare: 678-638-4550
richard@arbor-nomics.com,
cell:..... 770-815-3879

Vice President

Doug Cash: 678-638-4548
doug@arbor-nomics.com

Branch Mangers

David Sweeting, Branch Manager,
Norcross..... extension 1131
Greg Johnson, Branch Manager,
Marietta extension 1119
Ward Frost, Branch Manager,
Cumming 678-638-4556
ward@arbor-nomics.com

Operations Managers

Teddy Linares, Operations Manager,
Norcross..... extension 1126
Bryan Powers, Operations Manager,
Cumming extension 1143

Customer Service

Tiffany Powell extension 1129
tiffany@arbor-nomics.com
Megan Perry extension 1145
megan@arbor-nomics.com
Jessica Raczka extension 1150
jessica@arbor-nomics.com
Deborah Norton extension 1151
deborah@arbor-nomics.com
Betty Spurlock extension 1152
betty@arbor-nomics.com
Winnie Harmel extension 1158
winnie@arbor-nomics.com

Turfgrass Sales

Brandon Stegall, Sales Manager,
Atlanta..... 678-638-4552
brandon@arbor-nomics.com
Bob Donnelly, Sales Representative
..... 678-638-4554
bob@arbor-nomics.com

Customer comments:

"Big thank you to Tony for his courteous service and happy demeanor!!"

- **L. Healy, Kennesaw, GA**

"Thanks David S. - you're the greatest!"

- **R. Cone, Alpharetta, GA**

"Thank you very much, you did a great job."

- **V. Delpech, Norcross, GA**



Bare in Mind...

<<< continued from page 1

The school newspaper, the Ohio State Lantern, ran a full-page story on her, featuring her spread out on the window sill in my room with sunglasses on, sunning herself and reading a textbook (I put peanut butter on the open page). She was simultaneously writing a thank-you note (there was also peanut butter on the end of the pencil) to the photographer for featuring her in the paper. That squirrel was a great multi-tasker. Soon everyone knew her and she was responsible for my 15 minutes of fame, back in college.

Holly got spoiled by me not making her eat nuts, but that meant I had to cut her front two teeth off with wire cutters every so often so they wouldn't grow into her brain. No, I am not making this up. Squirrels teeth can grow 6 inches in a year if they don't eat hard things like nuts. When I got married in my senior year, Holly had to go, and I found her a good home. She was paper trained, which meant you had to read the newspaper quickly before she got to it, but other than that, she was a great pet: intelligent and street smart. She slept on the end of my bunk bed like a dog.

I have to say I had a very "rich" childhood; we didn't have any money, but we had lots of experiences. My dad saw to that. He'd say he had an incredibly rich childhood too. My dad also had pets growing up. He too had a pet groundhog, plus a couple of raccoons and most interestingly, a crow or two. He loved to regale us kids with stories of the

crows, but he warned us that raccoons could not be tamed, and they became vicious during mating season. They are called "masked bandits" for a good reason: These little varmints can get into anything. They can open doors, pull out drawers and more. Because of their nimble little hands and claws, their

determination and their love for anything edible, they can make an absolute mess when searching for something to eat.

Of course some animals are smart. And we know some are smarter than others. New research shows, surprisingly enough, that crows are the most intelligent of all birds even though they do not have the largest brains (parrots have that honor). They do have large brains though in relation to their overall size; their brain-to-body size ratio is similar to that of the great apes.

Crows rival elephants and chimpanzees in intelligence, as they can not only use tools but also can make them, which only a few animals can do. They can recognize human faces, especially if they had a bad experience with that human. They can pick out individuals that they had an experience with two years earlier. They communicate well too, recognizing more than 250 distinct calls. When one or two are killed flying over a farmer's field, the rest of the flock will avoid that field for over two years. Scientists have also proven that crows can pass information down to their offspring. They are very social animals and mate for life, spending up to five years to raise their young.

They love human beings and follow us every day as we make our rounds, using our discarded junk to build their nests. Some crows even memorize garbage

truck routes and follow them. Other feats include dropping hard nuts on roads and waiting for cars to run over them so they can eat them. They actually wait for a red light so they don't get hit by a car.

Scientists tested small children, dogs, and crows for intelligence, and the crows performed almost as well as the children (unfortunately, they did not include squirrels in these tests – I think they could've been contenders). The crows far outperformed the dogs, who had to repeat some tests 60-70 times before they got it.

Crows live 7 to 8 years in the wild, and they can live 20 to 30 years in captivity. They do not make good pets though; they want to be with family and friends and freely fly. There is a young woman on the Internet, however, who has had one for 5 years. Just search "crows" on Google, and you can see her video; there's also "The Murder of Crows" from NPR, which was very interesting.

Flocks can number into the thousands (this safety in numbers gives them protection from natural predators such as horned owls and red tailed hawks). So next time you see a crow flying overhead, remember to be nice to it. You don't want it taking a dislike to you because it might just call all of its friends and instruct them to drop "something" on you or your car... daily.

