

# THE BUGGETTE



## Bare in Mind by Josh Bare

Spring might be on our minds now, but if you recall we had some pretty wintry weather at the start of the year. The storm that hit the first weekend of January wasn't as major as predicted, but it wasn't minor either, especially when you're venturing out with four young kids in tow (one of them our new baby girl, Eva).

That was the weekend of the World's Greatest Hobby on Tour, a model train show that goes on tour only once every 5 to 10 years. My wife and I found out about it a couple of weeks before and it sounded like it would be great fun for the kids. There were going to be mini-train rides, train sets for kids to play with, and a giant LEGO train layout. They'd love it.

There's definitely something captivating about trains. I remember when I was a kid, whenever I saw a train going by I'd count the cars and then proudly announce the tally to my folks. My dad also showed us how to make a "coin sandwich".



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## "April Showers Bring May Flowers" – The Science Behind the Rhyme

"April showers bring May flowers" isn't just a rhyme. It's an example of the spring cycle of renewal that many parts of the earth go through, and it can be scientifically analyzed. There are several factors that contribute to the appearance of flowers in May. April showers increase levels of moisture in the soil, helping plants to grow faster and healthier. As the days grow warmer, the soil thaws and plants find it easier to grow. Springtime sees the return of many animals, birds and insects. The insects pollinate the plants, which allows them to reproduce.

Source: <http://feelingsandflowers.com/136/april-showers-bring-may-flowers-%E2%80%93-discussing-the-rhyme/>

## Daylight Saving Time

Daylight Saving Time (DLS) was created so we can enjoy longer summer days. We will set clocks ahead one hour at 2:00 a.m., March 12th, moving an hour of daylight from the morning to the afternoon.

- The idea of DLS was conceived by Benjamin Franklin in 1784.
- From 1974 to 1975, Congress extended DLS to save energy during the energy crisis.
- President George W. Bush signed the Energy Policy Act of 2005.
- Many countries near the equator do not adjust their clocks for daylight saving.
- Hawaii, Arizona and the United States territories of the Virgin Islands, Samoa, Puerto Rico and Guam do not observe DLS.
- Daylight Saving Time starts and ends on different dates around the world.
- Some countries refer to "Daylight Saving Time" as "Summer Time."

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2013/08/22/world/daylight-saving-time-fast-facts/>



## Have You Created Your Arbor-Nomics Online Account?

Starting an account through the customer portal on our website is the quickest, easiest way to manage your account, make payments, set up appointments, request a service call or just about anything else you can think of.

**Sign-up is easy.** Just go to [www.arbor-nomics.com](http://www.arbor-nomics.com) and click on "My Account" in the upper left corner of the homepage. If you need help signing up, just call us at **770-447-6037**.



## A Thicker, Healthier Lawn... Who Wouldn't ♥ That?



### Aeration = A Thicker, Healthier Lawn

Like every living thing, your lawn needs to breathe. But after many hard winter frosts, compounded by dense Georgia clay, your lawn is not getting the breathing space it needs to survive and thrive. Air, water and nutrients need a porous environment to reach the root structure of your lawn. This makes Arbor-Nomics aeration service an essential component of your spring lawn care schedule.

#### What aeration does for your lawn:

- Removes plugs of soil to allow air to penetrate into the soil and reach the root structure of the lawn
- Reduces soil compaction, improving both water and fertilizer intake by the soil
- Improves the root structure of turf grasses
- Improves resistance to stress caused by heat or drought
- Improves grass's resiliency, making for a thicker, richer lawn

Aeration helps the root structure of a lawn to grow deeper, enabling the lawn to maximize its growth potential. All warm season grasses can thrive as a result of this service. Let your lawn breathe easy this spring with aeration service from Arbor-Nomics! Call us to schedule your aeration today. Spring aerations take place until June 1st.

## What's Your Pick?

You can choose from three service programs at Arbor-Nomics Turf:

- **Silver:** lawn service
- **Gold:** lawn, ornamental tree and shrub services
- **Platinum:** the works



#### Top 5 reasons to upgrade to Gold – all the benefits of Silver plus:

- 1 Four FREE Outdoor Pest Control treatments that encircle your house
- 2 The ornamental tree and shrub care program protects from insect damage and disease
- 3 The program also makes trees and shrubs more resistant to drought
- 4 Your ornamental trees and shrubs will have a better look and a stronger color
- 5 Gold is more valuable than Silver!

#### Top 5 Reasons to Upgrade Platinum– all the benefits of Gold plus:

- 1 Monthly visits year-round
- 2 Aeration for warm season grasses and aeration and overseeding for cool season grasses
- 3 Fungicide treatments
- 4 Grassy weed treatments
- 5 AND EVEN MORE! Go to [www.arbor-nomics.com](http://www.arbor-nomics.com) to see the full list of services included in the Platinum program.



## 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 some grassy weed roots such as Crabgrass. Pre-emergents will not prevent all grassy weeds. The broadleaf weed control will start to yellow out the weeds within two weeks of treatment.
2. All lawns received a balanced nutritional treatment with a new proprietary, more organic product, called Arbor-Organics. This enhances the root structure, helping roots to grow stronger and thicker. It also minimizes surge growth and helps control the spread of fungus in the spring and summer.
3. **Gold** customers also received a **FREE** Outdoor Pest Control application.
4. For **Platinum** customers, who receive a treatment every month, this is application #3 and #4. We applied a standard lawn, ornamental tree and shrub treatment, an Outdoor Pest Control application, and a fungicide to prevent diseases. Within the next few months, aeration will be done for warm season grasses. We also did a walk-around of your property to determine any additional needs.

### To your trees & shrubs:

(ONLY for Gold & Platinum Customers)

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 and 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 and provide some extra nutrients. It is safe to mow the same day we've applied our products.
2. Warm season grasses such as **Bermuda** and **Zoysia** 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, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. 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

**ARBOR-NOMICS TURF, INC.**

**770.447.6037**

651 Langford Drive

Norcross, GA 30071

**www.arbor-nomics.com**

**CEO & PRESIDENT**

**Dick Bare**

richard@arbor-nomics.com

**VICE PRESIDENT**

**Doug Cash**

Cell: 770.596.8388

doug@arbor-nomics.com

**CUSTOMER RELATIONS**

**Josh Bare**

Cell: 678.313.4568

josh@arbor-nomics.com

## What's your word worth?

**How about \$50?** The next time someone admires your lawn, send them to us at **www.arbor-nomics.com** or **770-447-6037**. If they sign up for service and mention your name, we'll thank you by applying \$50 toward your account.

**If you spread the word about us, you won't be alone.** Most of our new business comes from referrals by happy customers like you. And you can back up your word by what others think about us too. We're endorsed by Trustdale.com and have just received our seventh Angie's List Super Service Award!

**We know the key to our satisfied customers is our Certified Landscape Specialists.**

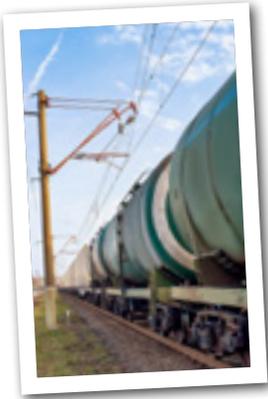
We truly believe our techs are the best in the business. We start with great people and give them great training. Then we assign them to specific properties, where they get to know their customers and the landscapes they care for. We're honored by all these recommendations – especially yours.

Thank you!

## THE BEST OF GWINNETT!

We are honored to be the recipient of a 2016 Best of Gwinnett award, chosen by the readers and editors of Gwinnett Magazine. Thanks to our loyal customers for your votes!





We'd put a dime between two nickels and tape them to the railroad tracks. Then we'd wait with excitement for a freight train to come through and mash the coins together. However, when an Amtrak train came through, we seldom ever found our sandwiches!

Norcross, the town we live in, was developed as a resort town for residents of Atlanta back in the late 1800s. They'd take the train out here to get away from the city and relax. I don't know how many Atlantans do that today, but the town still sees plenty of

train traffic. Between the Norfolk Southern Railroad and Amtrak, about 20 trains a day pass through, and my kids have a similar reaction. They sometimes play at Thrasher Park near the old depot, and every time a train is coming, they run to the side of the park closest to the tracks to wave to the engineer and watch in awe.

Maybe it's in our blood. Two of my great grandfathers drove streetcars for a living, back in Lima, Ohio. And my grandfather had a life-long fascination with trains, especially steam engines. He passed away in 2000, before my kids were born, but I think he'd be proud to know we've carried on his interest in trains.

Anyway, I'm getting off track. Back to our winter storm and the train show. In light of the questionable road conditions, rather than drive to the Georgia World Congress Center, where the show was taking place, why not – you guessed it – take the train? What better way to enhance the theme of our outing.

So, we drive to the Chamblee MARTA station, park, and hustle into the lobby to buy tickets. Of course, the first machine refuses to co-operate due to the cold. I try a different machine, which finally surrenders enough tickets for our whole crew. Then, Lincoln, our oldest, indicates he forgot to use the potty before we left the house. I'm not all that crazy about mass-transit restrooms but thankfully the one at the Chamblee station seems pretty safe and secure. In fact, it was so secure we couldn't get in. The poor kid would just have to hold it, but at least he wouldn't be exposed to some exotic restroom bacteria.

Soon our train comes, we board and arrive at the downtown station. After making it through elevators, gates, and stairs – which is not as easy as it might sound with four kids and a stroller – we have our first casualty the moment we exit the station. My wife slips on an icy patch and goes down. She was okay except for having the wind knocked out of her. But so much for successfully avoiding the hazardous travel conditions! And it's only about 100 yards from the station to the Center.



*Clarence Downhour*

Nevertheless, it is about the coldest, windiest 100 yards we've ever experienced, so it's a relief when we get into the building (and when Lincoln gets to use the restroom). Now to find the show. It turns out that the building is quite a maze. After ending up at a couple of dead ends, we finally bumble our way into the event hall.

The kids have a great time going from display to display. They're delighting in all the sights, sounds, colors, and motion of the model trains, and I'm impressed with just how accurate the scale models are.

One booth in particular really caught my eye, the Stoddart's Ltd. Company. The Stoddarts are a husband-and-wife team from Cumming, Georgia, who travel to events all over the U.S. to show their three-dimensional railroad artwork.

They use laser cutters to create profiles of locomotives out of MDF board. The cutouts are layered, so each piece has incredible dimension and depth. The finished products are very realistic, detailed representations of actual locomotives. Even the lights work for an extra 'wow' effect. I was definitely wowed and used Christmas money from my parents to buy a Norfolk Southern locomotive that will hang on a wall at home. (The Stoddarts are both artists and train historians, so you might want to check out their website at [Stoddartsltd.com](http://Stoddartsltd.com).)

After hitting all the highlights, we decide it's time to head back home. Waiting outside for about 25 minutes for a connecting train, it becomes clear that the day hadn't warmed up any. Levi, my 3-year-old, starts complaining that his hands are cold. So, I pick him up against me and somehow manage to zip up my extra thick sweatshirt around the both of us. Snug as a bug, he promptly falls asleep, but I wonder if I now look like I'm trying to smuggle something suspicious onto the train.

Once settled in on the train the kids all say they had a really great time. When I asked what they liked the best, the response is unanimous: the chocolate chip cookies I got them at lunch. I suppose we could have just as well stayed home, all safe and warm with a tray of cookies. But I bet years from now, the cookies will be long forgotten and the family outings will be what they remember.



*George Loar*

