

THE BUGGETTE



Bare in Mind by Josh Bare

I have many fond memories of visiting my grandparents in Youngstown, Ohio. A lot of them have to do with the pond my grandfather built. It was big, probably around 50,000 gallons, and it was stocked with colorful koi. I remember feeding them hunks of stale white bread that my grandfather bought just for that purpose.

Who hasn't enjoyed tossing bread and other starchy morsels to fish, ducks, and squirrels? We think we're helping the hungry critters, but we're really just giving them junk food and high blood sugar! Koi are known for long lifespans, typically reaching 30 to 40 years or more. The oldest documented koi lived an astounding 226 years. If bread was a staple food for my grandfather's koi, I'm guessing they didn't set any longevity records.



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Remembering Tarrance McClain



This past December, we lost our friend and co-worker Tarrance McClain. Tarrance was with Arbor-Nomics for nearly five years, and during that time we came to know him as a great worker, a great father, and, above all, a great person. He will be deeply missed by all of us. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family.

Thank You for a Winning Year

We're pleased to announce that we received a **2017 Angie's List Super Service Award** and a **2017 Best of Gwinnett Award**. Both Angie's List and Gwinnett Magazine have strict criteria for deciding which companies are eligible for consideration and which ones ultimately receive an award. Customer reviews and votes are an important part of that process.

Such strong support from our customers is truly an honor, and you can bet we'll keep working hard to earn it every day.

Thanks to all our loyal customers!





Something Bugging Your Trees & Shrubs?

Atlanta winters are a paradox for ornamental trees and shrubs. The season is harsh enough to bring damaging ice storms, but mild enough to let pests survive. Without prolonged cold temperatures to kill them off, harmful bugs and fungi are ready to begin breeding and feeding on trees and shrubs as soon as spring arrives.

Our Gold, Gold Plus, and Platinum programs provide year-round pest and disease treatments, along with fertilization, to keep your cherished trees and shrubs healthy and strong. **Call us to learn which program is right for you.**

Application #2

What we did to your lawn today:

1. All lawns received their second application of the year of a pre-emergent and a broadleaf weed control. The pre-emergent blocks the development of crabgrass and many other kinds of grassy weeds (but does not target all grassy weeds). The broadleaf weed control will cause broadleaf weeds to yellow out over the next two weeks.
2. **Customers on the Silver Plus, Gold Plus, and Platinum programs** received a grassy weed treatment that minimizes nutsedge and, for lawns with multiple grass types, a grassy weed treatment that minimizes clump grass.
3. All lawns received a balanced nutritional treatment with our proprietary product, Arbor Organics. Along with helping roots grow stronger and thicker, it controls surge growth and the spread of funguses in the spring and summer.
4. **Silver Plus and Gold Plus customers** received a fungicide treatment to help prevent brown patch and dollar spot.
5. **Gold and Gold Plus customers** received a FREE Outdoor Pest Control application.
6. **For Platinum customers**, who receive a treatment every month, this stage consists of applications #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, Gold Plus & 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. 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. When you mow during March and April, do not remove more than one-third of the grass blade 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

Give Mosquitoes the Boot This Summer

Playing, entertaining, or just relaxing outside in your yard is one of summer's simple pleasures. Let mosquitoes know they're not invited. Our Mosquito Treatment controls both larvae and mature mosquitoes with six once-a-month applications from May to October, and it's completely safe for kids and pets.

Mosquito Treatment is offered as an add-on service only. Call today for a free estimate.



Springtime Is Aeration Time – Schedule Yours Today!

Give your turf the breathing room it needs by aerating this spring. Winter frosts, on top of Georgia's dense clay, compact the soil, making it difficult for air, water, and the fertilizers we apply to penetrate the soil. Aeration loosens soil so all those good things can make their way down to the grass roots where they are needed. When your turf is nourished underground, you see the results above ground, with a thicker, greener lawn.

6 Reasons to Aerate:

- ▶ Aeration maximizes the effectiveness of fertilizers.
- ▶ Water and air easily reach turf roots.
- ▶ Roots grow deeper and become healthier and stronger.
- ▶ Turf becomes more resilient to drought and other stresses.
- ▶ Grass grows thicker, giving weeds less of a foothold.
- ▶ You get the healthy, green lawn you want.

Now's the time to call and request aeration for your lawn. Want aeration included in your regular service? Ask about upgrading to our Platinum program.



Helpful Phone Numbers

ARBOR-NOMICS TURF, INC.

770.447.6037

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Norcross, GA 30071

www.arbor-nomics.com

CEO & PRESIDENT

Dick Bare

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VICE PRESIDENT

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CUSTOMER RELATIONS

Josh Bare

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Ten fun things to do in Georgia in the spring.

- 1 **Celebrate at an outdoor festival** like the Annual Atlanta Dogwood Festival or the Macon Cherry Blossom Festival.
- 2 **Pick your own fruit or veggies** at a nearby pick-your-own farm.
- 3 **Hike, walk or paddle** in one of Georgia's beautiful state parks.
- 4 **SPRING BREAK!**
- 5 **Cheer for the home team** at a Braves game.
- 6 **Dine outside** - on the patio or deck of your favorite restaurant, at a picnic at Piedmont Park or even in your own backyard.
- 7 **Go to the lake:** Lanier, Oconee, or Sinclair.
- 8 **Tube** down the Chattahoochee.
- 9 **Enjoy the spectacle of colors** as azaleas, wisteria, dogwoods and other brilliant trees and flowers bloom. It can actually "snow" dogwood and azalea blossoms on a breezy day.
- 10 **Plant something** and watch it grow.



Nevertheless, their graceful movements and rainbow of colors were a source of beauty and serenity. So when my wife and I got our first house, naturally, I decided we needed some koi. Of course, I'd keep it small-scale, but as anyone who has had an aquarium or fish pond knows, the hobby tends to expand rapidly. It wasn't very long before our 30-gallon container and small-pump operation gave way to a 300-gallon lined hole in the backyard with bigger and bigger pumps.

You'd think with the extra space to flex their fins, the koi would have been perfectly content in their up-sized pond. But every once in a while one would leap out, even when the pond had a covering. I recall finding one koi lying on the ground. As I started carrying her away for a proper disposal, her lips moved. I could swear she mouthed the words "Help me." I quickly put her back in the pond and ran her around in the water until she regained her bearings. The mishap didn't seem to cause any lasting harm, but she never attempted it again. Koi are said to be intelligent, and maybe that one outing was enough for her to conclude she was definitely not cut out to be a land dweller.

Eventually, my wife and I wanted more space too. We packed everything up – koi included – and moved into a new, bigger home with a bigger yard. And since we had the space, why not a bigger, better koi pond? I hand-dug a 3,600-gallon pond and decked it out with a low plant shelf. Now there was plenty of room and lots of nice hiding places for Cricket, Zorro, Bernard, Georgia, Big Mo, and Puff the Magic Dragon to enjoy. Yes, we named our fish, and we loved feeding them. (Just not bread!) They would come up to us and eat right out of our hands. Sitting on the back porch and taking in the wonderful kaleidoscope of color was a great way to spend an evening.

Our koi were an important part of our home, so you can imagine how I felt when, one day, I noticed a heron with its gaze fixed on the pond. I ran toward him to chase him away, but he managed to swipe a hapless goldfish as he flew off. The koi must have sensed danger and took cover among the plants. I did not want this bird returning and contemplated doing him in. Since herons are protected in the U.S., I pictured myself chasing the bugger into Canada and taking him out there. He too must have sensed danger because he never came back.

In fact all was well in koi world for quite a while. Then we started a family. Without a surefire way to prevent the kids from taking unsupervised excursions into the pond, it was time to say good-bye. We sold the fish and equipment and filled in the pond. We definitely miss "the fins," so once all the kids can swim, we'll probably be digging another pond and stocking it with a new batch of amazing, colorful koi. It's a lot of fun and an absolutely spectacular addition to a beautiful landscape.

If you're among the growing number of people who are interested in enhancing their landscape with a koi pond, a visit to Wet Pets, in Dahlonga, is a must. Chuck, who runs



the place, is a great guy, and he and his staff are totally knowledgeable about everything koi. Educating people on how to select and care for koi and how to build safe, healthy ponds is their passion.

There's a lot of sketchy – and just plain wrong – information about koi care and DIY ponds online, so beware. Searching online can be a good introduction to the hobby, but for really trustworthy information and guidance, I can't recommend Wet Pets enough. It's where I got many of my koi and where I'll go when it's time for the next pond filled with healthy fish.

To further pique your curiosity in these beautiful creatures, I'll leave you with some interesting facts.*

- Hanako, the oldest koi on record, lived 226 years, from 1751 until 1977. To put that in perspective, he predated the American Revolution and lived past our nation's bicentennial.
- A koi's age can be determined by counting microscopic marks on the fish's scales, similar to the way that a tree's age can be calculated by counting growth rings.
- Koi are an ornamental variety of carp that have been selected and bred for beautiful coloration. When koi are introduced into the wild, they revert to the natural color of ordinary carp within a few generations.
- Koi can get sunburned, so their ponds need to have some protection from the sun, such as natural shade or a pond covering.
- The selling price for one very special koi topped \$2 million. The fish, a spectacular metallic gold color, was considered to be a work of art.

Don't let that last bit of information scare you off. You can get beautiful, premium quality koi for about \$35 each. If you are ever considering installing a koi pond and want to chat about it give me a call or drop me an email – I'll be glad to share more of my experiences!

*Sources: justfunfacts.com/interesting-facts-about-koi-fish/ | koistory.com/blog/all-about-koi-fish-facts