



THE BUGGETTE



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Bare in Mind by Josh Bare

The internet seems to offer a world of possibilities for get-rich schemers and dreamers. Or at least new ways of making extra money. But to put a reverse spin on a familiar saying, when one door opens, another one closes. That's basically what I discovered when I thought I was about to make a very handsome quick buck.

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There's Definitely Something Special About Winter

Winter often gets a bad rap. But for the folks at Arbor-Nomics, there's a lot to love about the season.

"Our family loves Christmas: the religious classical music, the decorations, the celebration of Christ's birth, and the bounty we share with others." – **Dick Bare, CEO/President**

"The quietness of a cold morning in the Georgia woods in a deer stand, with the smell of a distant fire. Sharing a blanket with the love of my life while sipping hot chocolate and watching old movies together." – **Doug Cash, Vice President**

"Having Thanksgiving dinner at my mom's. It's the only time of year my whole family gets together. After dinner, we all go see a movie." – **David Gay, Cumming Branch Manager**

"Winter is by far my favorite time of year. The holidays, the food, the smell of burning leaves. Clear nights when it seems you can count every star. Life slows down a bit, and we're able to have more family time." – **Chris Griffin, Winder Branch Manager**

"I love snow (when it doesn't interfere with work!). Christmas lights, the smell of a fire, spending more time with my wife and son, and visiting with family and friends on my favorite holiday, Thanksgiving. Best of all, carbohydrates are back in season!" – **Greg Johnson, Marietta Branch Manager**

"My family and I love to have a wood-burning fire and watch a Christmas movie, with a cup of hot chocolate or coffee. We do this a couple of times a week between Thanksgiving and Christmas. It's our family tradition." – **Frankie Rivers, Norcross Branch Manager**



Cold-Hardy Plants for Wonderful Winter Scenery

Foliage, fruits, bark, and even flowers can all be a part of a gorgeous winter landscape. Here are just a few of the plants that do very well in Georgia winters.

- **Fruiting Shrubs & Trees** – There's a long list of shrubs and small trees with fruits that provide a rainbow of color all winter long. They offer extra beauty by attracting birds. Some wonderful choices are aronia, beautyberry, holly, nandina, viburnums, and wax myrtle.
- **Winter Honeysuckle** – Even though it also goes by the name "sweet breath of spring," this plant's small, cream-colored flowers can start blooming as early as December.
- **Winter Jasmine** – The contrast of yellow flowers and blue-green stems is simply stunning.
- **Wintersweet** – A large shrub (or small tree) with pale yellow flowers and a delicious mix of banana, vanilla, and spice fragrances.

Source: <http://agr.georgia.gov/plant-for-winter-beauty-and-interest.aspx>

Keeping Your New Year's Resolutions



If you're like most people, you made some New Year's resolutions, and right about now they're almost out of sight in the rear view mirror. But it's not too late to reach those goals.

Get specific. Let's be honest – “lose weight” and “save money” are thoughts, not goals. Choosing a number and a timeline makes them concrete, and leads naturally to the next point....

Separate a big intimidating goal into achievable parts. If the number you settle on makes you want to give up before you start, try thinking about it as a series of goals.

Take it easy on yourself. Probably sooner rather than later, you are going to get off track. The key is to frame that moment in your mind as a stumble, not a fall.

Celebrate successes. This may be the toughest part. If you're going to get mad at yourself every time you slip up (which you won't, because you stopped right after you read the last bullet point), you owe it to yourself to invest the same amount of energy patting yourself on the back when you don't.

Source: <https://www.forbes.com/sites/francesbridges/2017/12/12/5-ways-to-make-smarter-new-years-resolutions/>



Shock-Proof Your Yard Against Winter

It's probably no surprise that a long, very cold winter can damage turf, trees, and shrubs. **But you may not realize that a seemingly mild winter where there are only a few bad cold snaps can be even more damaging.** That's because plants don't tolerate temperature fluctuations very well. Rapid cycling between mild and cold gives plants no time to acclimate and essentially shocks them.

The good news is that the healthier your lawn, trees, and shrubs are, the better they will weather whatever Mother Nature dishes out this winter and early spring.

Keeping lawns healthy and resilient

The fertilizers we apply throughout the year are designed to meet the seasonal needs of turf. But keeping a lawn healthy doesn't stop there. You can give it a helping hand by:

- Building up any depressions to prevent water from pooling and freezing in those areas.
- Letting grass grow about a half inch longer in the winter, if you mow. Longer blades mean more nutrients stored for winter.
- Leaving grass clippings to recycle back into the soil.
- Removing leaves. Heavy leaf-build up can promote disease and smother lawns.

Keeping trees and shrubs healthy and resilient

Our Gold, Gold Plus, and Platinum programs take care of fertilization (and other essentials), but just like with your lawn, there are things you can do.

- Add a 2- to 4-inch layer of mulch to insulate roots and retain moisture.
- Wrap the trunks of young trees and shrubs from ground level up to about 4 feet. (Trunk wrap is available at garden centers.)
- Cover less hardy plants, like azaleas and hollies, with burlap or plant protection bags when temperatures drop below freezing.



Super Bowl LIII Will Be Kicking Off at Atlanta's Mercedes-Benz Stadium

February 3 – Super Bowl Sunday 2019 – will mark the third time Atlanta has hosted the big game; in 1994 and 2000, it was at the Georgia Dome. Here are a few interesting tidbits to chew on ahead of game day.

- 🎧 To secure Mercedes-Benz Stadium as the venue, Atlanta's bid committee agreed to a long and expensive list of NFL requirements. The price tag? \$46 million.
- 🎧 A 10-day celebration leading up to kickoff has been in the works for months, with events planned for a wide area within walking distance of the stadium.
- 🎧 MARTA expects hundreds of thousands of fans to travel downtown during those 10 days and has taken measures to ensure safe and smooth transport for everyone.

Sources:

<https://www.ajc.com/events/atlanta-host-super-bowl-2019/BZLBxsMMLzNRo208QfGYMO/>

<https://www.myajc.com/sports/football/inside-atlanta-super-bowl-bid-nfl-sought-got-lot/R1IjsVdV4AQUQ8b65v3HpM/>

<https://www.legends.net/en/global-sales/gS> (Image)



January-February Lawn Care



Application #1 for all programs.

Please note: There are times when we may need to modify the treatments we apply due to weather.

LAWN TREATMENTS

Weed Control

All Programs. We applied a pre-emergent that prevents crabgrass and other grassy weeds from showing up in your lawn come springtime. We also applied a post-emergent for existing broadleaf weeds. You should see any green broadleaf weeds start to die off within two weeks.

Fertilization

All Programs. We applied our Arbor-Organics fertilizer to **Fescue** lawns. Along with feeding this cool-season grass, Arbor-Organics reduces the risk of fungal diseases during spring and summer by minimizing unwanted warm-season growth surges. **Bermuda** and **Zoysia** lawns received potassium to provide the nutrition these warm-season grasses need when they emerge from winter dormancy and to promote a healthy root system and thicker grass. We will apply potassium again with Application #2.

Fungus Control

Silver Plus, Gold Plus & Platinum. We treated Zoysia lawns to control zoysia patch, a common fungal disease.

ORNAMENTAL TREE & SHRUB TREATMENTS



Pest Control

Gold, Gold Plus & Platinum. Many destructive insects survive cold weather by making winter homes in trees and shrubs. The dormant oil we applied in December and again today smothers the pests before they can do harm.

WHAT YOU NEED TO DO UNTIL OUR NEXT VISIT

Keep Lawns Free of Leaves. Leaf build-up makes the treatments we apply less effective. It can also smother lawns and promote diseases.

Mow to Promote Grass Health. If you mow in January and February, increase the blade height about a half-inch for warm-season grasses. Keeping grass a little longer allows it to store up more nutrients to help it get through winter and flourish in the spring. **You can also do your lawn a favor by leaving the grass clippings.** They recycle into the soil, giving turf an extra boost of nutrition. If you want to mow shortly after our treatments, just be sure to wait until any wet applications have dried.

Questions about our service or your yard? Contact Customer Service at 770.447.6037, Monday through Friday, from 8 am to 5 pm. If you call after hours, please leave a message and we'll return your call the next business day.

Helpful Contact Information

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Schedule Spring Aeration for Warm- Season Grass

The combination of hard winter frosts and dense Georgia clay can leave Bermuda, Zoysia, and other warm-season grasses struggling to breathe. **Aeration loosens up the soil so that:**

- Air, water, and nutrients can travel down to the roots where they're needed.
- Roots grow stronger and deeper, and grass grows thicker.
- Turf becomes more resistant to heat, drought, and other stresses.

Call us at 770.447.6037 to schedule your aeration today.



A friend of mine had decided to downsize, and I was helping him clean out his house. That's when I spied the Lionel train set: two locomotives, multiple cars and buildings, and a full set of O-gauge tracks and switches. He had gotten it from his dad back around 1956.

I had some train sets as a kid and remember hearing that Lionel O-gauge tracks were the gold standard with collectors and that older sets could be very valuable. **My friend said the two locomotives were worth at least \$200 and told me he'd sell the entire set to me for that price.** I quickly paid him and began daydreaming of the big profit I'd soon make.

When I got everything home, I hopped online to see what fortune awaited me. As I researched each car, I was surprised to find that on a good day they'd fetch only about \$10 a piece. The road to riches was looking more like the road to nowhere.

I did some more digging to see what might be going on with the value of Lionel trains and collectibles in general. It seems the internet has turned the collectibles market into a buyer's market. **Websites like eBay, Craigslist, and Nextdoor have made it easy for everyone and anyone, including huge numbers of downsizing baby boomers, to sell things.** So supplies are up and prices are down.

I think interest may have taken a hit too. With the internet making it so much easier to locate what was once a hard-to-find treasure, the fun of the hunt has disappeared. I remember my grandparents collected plates – Norman Rockwell and Royal Copenhagen Christmas. Checking on eBay, these really don't seem to be in demand like they once were. Even classic American-made cars may be in jeopardy. My father-in-law has had a low-mileage 1970s Nova listed for quite a while now (but it could be that it's priced too high – and he knows it – and only has it listed to keep my mother-in-law happy).



So, if the internet hasn't been great for the collectibles market, what is it good for? Household decluttering. I've had a lot of luck selling unwanted stuff on eBay and Craigslist. With four kids, especially around the holidays, I'm always trying to broker agreements to sell gently used and abandoned toys. That usually goes pretty well, and the kids are glad to get some extra spending money. And, after it became clear that my wife was never going to accept large high-fidelity speakers as pieces of furniture, it wasn't long before I found buyers for the entire system.

When selling on eBay, there are a couple of things to do to boost your success. First, take lots of pictures from different angles so potential buyers can see exactly what they are getting. And be up-front about any flaws or wear and tear in the item description. You don't want the buyer to file a complaint against you because he or she feels like you misrepresented the item. Finally, ship the item quickly and carefully. Anyone can set up a UPS or FedEx account at home and print out shipping labels. You'll need to know the package dimensions and weight (accurate to within a pound or two). As for boxes and shipping material, I usually just scrounge around and rarely have to buy any.

Craigslist is good for big or bulky items that are hard to ship, like furniture. You don't have to include your phone number in the ad, and Craigslist keeps your actual email address "blind." When you do get an email about an item, be alert to possible scammers. For example, I always ignore any email from "buyers" who want me to ship the item to them. **My philosophy is cash and in person only!**



So back to the train set – I think at the end of the day I got about what I paid for. No windfall for the Bares today, but no big loss either. If I can persuade the kids to clear out some more of their toys in the playroom, maybe we'll set up the tracks and have some fun giving the trains a whirl before I eventually end up snapping lots of pictures and putting them up on eBay.