

THE BUGGETTE



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Bare in Mind by Dick Bare

"In April 1992 a young man from a well-to-do family hitchhiked to Alaska and walked alone into the wilderness north of Mt. McKinley. His name was Christopher J. McCandless. He had given \$25,000 in savings to charity..."

Abandoned his car and most of his possessions, burned all the cash in his wallet, and invented a new life for himself. Four months later, his decomposed body was found by a moose hunter." So begins the book **Into the Wild by Jon Krakauer**, an author well known for his writing about outdoor adventures.

One of the best side excursions we have ever taken on one of our trips was this one in Alaska – off-roading on a broad expanse of tundra that leads up to Denali National Park. It wasn't nearly as perilous as the journeys Krakauer writes about, but it did get the adrenalin pumping. Plus it brought us close to where Chris McCandless lived out his final days.

From our hotel, Sharon and I boarded a bus that took us and about 15 other hardy adventurers to a Jeep yard, where we were to begin our off-roading adventure on the Stampede Trail in seven stock Jeep Wranglers. Our guide was the spitting image of Matthew McConaughey, and he had a command of our little group like McConaughey too. His name was Rod, and he was a born leader. On the trip out to the yard, he gave us strict instructions to follow his every move with our Jeeps. If he took a turn wide, we were to do that also. If he turned his wipers on, we should do the same.

When we arrived at the Jeep yard, we all scrambled to get into the cars – Sharon and I got a nice red one. We were the first car behind Rod. I rolled down my window, and off we went.

We went up the highway for just a few minutes and then turned left onto a rocky two-lane road. When I say rocky, I mean gravel the size of softballs that caused your brain to shake like ice in a blender. Soon we came to the end of that road and turned onto a dirt road, which was more like a wide ditch with roller-coaster hills and valleys.

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Mt. McKinley, Alaska



Happy Holidays!

From all of us at Arbor-Nomics to you, our valued customer: We send our heartfelt thanks for your trust in us and for making our job something we love to do. Here's wishing you and your family a healthy, happy New Year!

Arbor-Nomics

CLS Goes Above & Beyond

"Lee-Thanks ever so much! Keep up the good work, I really appreciate you."

R. Cone, Old Hickory, TN



WRITE A REVIEW

If you are happy with our service and want to write a review, we'd really appreciate it. We'd also appreciate it if you did it on Google Places.



Just **Google Arbor-Nomics Nashville**, click on the teardrop and write your review. Thank you.



Don't Miss Out On Specials & Important Info

Want to be in the know about special offers or issues that could affect your yard — like a fungus or armyworm outbreak? Visit arbornomicsnashville.com and sign up for our informative and money-saving emails. We send them only occasionally, so you don't have to worry about getting too many. And Arbor-Nomics will never share your email address with anyone else.

What is the BEST season to start a lawn treatment service?

Believe it or not, November and December is the best time of year to start a lawn treatment service. This might not seem obvious since most lawns, except for Fescue, are dormant during this time, but here's why it makes sense:

- This is the ideal time to get control of weeds so they're not a problem come April. The pre-emergent we apply at this time provides approximately 25% of your weed control (it is the last treatment of the service year and the second of four consecutive pre-emergent treatments for back-to-back service years). This treatment helps prevent annual bluegrass — an irritating weed — from emerging in the spring.
- A slow-release fertilizer is applied to your trees and shrubs. It's designed to fertilize them over the entire growing season.
- Fertilizer applied to the lawn in late fall is used by the grass plants to build more roots and to store food for next spring. It does not cause the foliage to grow any more this season. A side benefit is that the lawn is likely to stay green longer into the winter months.



So don't wait till spring to start a treatment. And don't stop your current lawn treatment either. Everything we're doing now will pay off in a few months.



Pre-Pay Savings

Don't forget to take advantage of our pre-pay special. You should have gotten your pre-pay letter in the mail in early November. You will save 5% on your 2013 service if you pre-pay by 12/31/12.



Tips for Fall & Winter Lawn Care



Raise the Height of Your Mower

For warm season grasses, you need to gradually raise the height of the mower deck beginning in August. The increased height allows the grass to make and store more food so it can nourish itself when it comes out of dormancy in the spring.



Remove Leaves and Other Debris from Your Lawn

Leaving any kind of debris, like leaves, on your grass can smother it and promote winter or early spring diseases.

Water Fescue

Fescue lawns should receive 1" of water each week during the growing season.

Mulch Trees & Shrubs

Let fallen leaves collect around the base of trees and shrubs to form a natural mulch. This protective covering helps keep the ground at a stable temperature and reduces moisture evaporation from the soil. Additionally, the materials in the mulch enrich the soil around the plant as they break down.



Application #7



What we did to your lawn today:

1. **Fescue, Bermuda and Zoysia** lawns received weed control, as needed, to minimize weed growth during the winter. All lawns received a calcium and magnesium application to maintain the pH balance in your soil. Turf grasses grow best in a neutral soil environment (approximately 5.5-6.5 pH). Natural processes tend to make it more acidic over time. This application helps restore the neutral condition of your soil so your grass will grow better next spring.
2. Fungicides are not included in any of our applications, but it would be a good idea to put a fungicide on **Zoysia**, especially if your lawn is prone to patch disease. Call us for a free estimate.



What you need to do until our next visit

1. Even during the winter, your Fescue lawn should receive about an 1" of water each week. Rain during the winter months is usually enough, but if it doesn't rain, do some additional watering.
2. Remove leaves regularly from your lawn. They can smother your grass and create problems with winter or early spring diseases.
3. Gradually increase the height of your mower for warm season grass. The increased height will help the grass to make more food to store so it can nourish itself when it comes out of dormancy in the spring.



If you have any questions concerning your lawn, trees, shrubs or our service, please call our Customer Service Department Monday – Friday, 7:00am-4:00pm at **329.4151**. If you call after hours, please leave a message and your call will be returned the next business day.

Holiday Trivia

What is the origin of the story of Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer?

An advertising employee at the department store Montgomery Ward wrote the story in 1939 for a store promotion. The store gave away 2.4 million copies of the story to its customers that year, and it's been part of American popular culture ever since.



Where did the tradition of using a baby to signify the New Year come from?

The ancient Greeks began this tradition around 600 B.C. They would carry a baby around in a basket to honor Dionysus, the god of fertility, and symbolize his annual rebirth.

In what year was the New Year's ball first dropped in New York City's Times Square?

This Times Square tradition started in 1906.

Which president banned Christmas trees in the White House?

Theodore Roosevelt.

In the song "Grandma Got Run Over by a Reindeer," what did Grandma go to get?

Her medicine.

Where can you find the largest Christmas Stocking?

The largest Christmas stocking measures about 168 feet in length and 78 feet in width and can be found in Italy.



Helpful Phone Numbers

MAIN NUMBER

329.4151

www.arbor-nomicsnashville.com

OWNER/PRESIDENT

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doug@arbor-nomics.com

AREA MANAGER

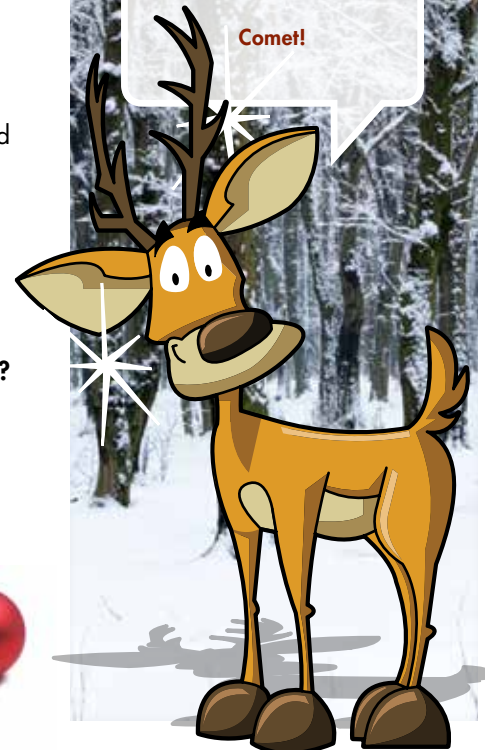
Joel Holcomb, ext 1127

cell: 615.336.2114

joel@arbor-nomics.com

Which
reindeer has
the cleanest
antlers?

Comet!





Mt. McKinley, Alaska

Rod sped up and then hit the first valley. His front tires went way down, splashing mud up into the hood and windshield, then his back tires disappeared into the abyss. His momentum carried him through the mud, and his black Jeep appeared on the other side, wet but still moving. We followed and our stomachs bounced between our breastbones and pelvises. I turned on the wipers and rolled up my window just in time to keep the mud from splashing in. As I watched in our rearview mirror, the retired airline pilot behind us went

down into the water, then up off the ground, then back down with a thud. Everyone began laughing hysterically.

All the Jeeps had an intercom system, and Rod began to tell the story of Chris McCandless. Chris was from a wealthy family. His father, Walt, was a brilliant rocket-scientist who worked for Hughes Aircraft on the Sputnik competitor, Surveyor 1, and later Seasat. Walt was married to a woman named Marcia, but their marriage grew troubled, and in 1965, Walt began dating Billie, a secretary at Hughes. They moved in together that same year, and in 1968, Chris was born.

Underweight and fussy as a baby, Chris showed advanced intelligence and hubris as a small child. At the age of two, he once slipped out of his home at two in the morning without waking his parents and hiked down to the home of a neighbor, where he was caught ransacking a drawer full of candy. By the third grade, he would hold discussions with teachers, the principal, whoever would listen, about what class he was in, etc., like he was an adult. At a PTA meeting, Chris's teacher pulled his parents aside and told them that Chris "marched to a different drummer." He was not easily deterred from some unknown trajectory. His sister, who was three years younger, commented that he was very to-himself, not anti-social (he had lots of friends), but he "could be alone without being lonely." He could go off and entertain himself for hours.

When Chris was six, his dad was offered a position at NASA, which necessitated a move to Washington, D.C. Four years later Walt McCandless quit NASA to start his own consulting firm. It was a stressful time. Walt and Billie worked night and day, and money was tight. Over time, however, they began to make some serious money. They bought a place on Chesapeake Bay, got a Cadillac and a sailboat, and Billie indulged in some expensive jewelry. "We sacrificed in our early years, invested and saved well, and we wanted to start enjoying the fruits of our labor," she said.

Chris, forever the paradox, hated the show of wealth. He was a follower of Tolstoy and he viewed wealth as corrupting, shameful, inherently evil; yet he was the quintessential entrepreneur, running many businesses while in high school and accumulating \$7,000 in his bank account before college.

Sometime during his college years at Emory University, in Atlanta, Chris McCandless made some disturbing discoveries. While visiting the California neighborhood where he had grown up, he learned that his father had been conducting a dual life.

While living with Billie, Walt had fathered another son with another woman, two years after Chris's birth; furthermore, Walt had never divorced his first wife, Marcia. As Chris learned more, he became increasingly angry, and he suffered deep wounds because of the hypocrisy of his father years ago.

Interestingly, Chris didn't hold everyone to the same moral standards. Many of the men he admired and respected were moral degenerates, including some of his literary heroes. Tolstoy was a sexual adventurer who fathered thirteen children despite railing against loose sexual morals. Jack London was a famous drunk.

Racked with hatred and hurt feelings, Chris graduated from Emory University and promised his loved ones that we would visit before heading to the Alaska wilderness. However, he never contacted his parents again, and only briefly communicated with his sister, who he supposedly cared for deeply.

One night in July 1992, while asleep beside Walt in their Chesapeake Bay home, Billie awoke abruptly, with tears running down her cheeks. She heard Chris calling to her, "Mom, help me, help me!" She did not know where her son was and was helpless to do anything.

Meanwhile, Chris McCandless was failing miserably at sustaining life in the Alaska wilderness. He had arrived at the base of Mt. McKinley and foraged back on the Stampede Trail, finally pitching camp at an abandoned mining bus. He had gotten from Atlanta to Alaska mostly by hitchhiking with real characters along the way. Krakauer details many of them in his epic book.



Abandoned Bus

Young Chris went into the Alaska wild totally unprepared. He had only a 22-caliber rifle, too small to kill significant game. He had no maps and no knowledge of how close he was to civilization (just six miles from four other cabins). He didn't realize how hard it was going to be to gather or kill enough calories to sustain himself.

The precise cause of death was never nailed down: poisonous plants, seeds with toxic fungus, or just plain starvation. What is known for sure, though, is heading into any unknown territory with excessive arrogance, hubris, over confidence, and unpreparedness will only lead to disaster.

A few final notes: Despite being a car guy, I never realized how well built and reliable Jeep Wranglers are. I owned one for a couple years but the most off-roading that it ever saw was pulling into the gravel parking lot at our shop! I asked Rod how often they replace the Jeeps, and he said they cycle them around every five years. Unbelievable!

As for Into the Wild, you've got to read the book or rent the movie, directed by Sean Penn. **It's a story you'll never forget.**

