

THE BUGGETTE



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Bare in Mind by Dick Bare

Hi, everyone! Let me introduce you to a new acquaintance of mine, Dolly the Cockatoo. We've never met, but Dolly resides in Santa Barbara, California, with her owner, Lavanya. Lavanya was looking for a companion 16 years ago and happened upon Dolly in a bird sanctuary.

Dolly was three years old and had come from a home where she was no longer wanted. Lavanya took her in, and it was love at first sight, in both directions.

However, Lavanya and Dolly's relationship has not been without problems, which is true of all relationships. Dolly can be a handful. When she is at home, Lavanya cannot talk on the phone or have guests over as Dolly will compete for attention. Dolly's voice carries so far that Lavanya sometimes has to wear gun range hearing protection headphones.

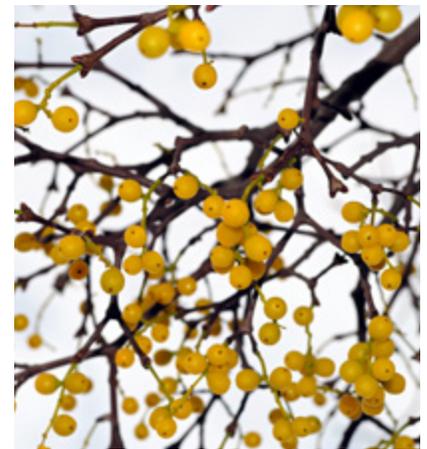
Dolly awakens in the morning at around 6:30. Lavanya removes the cover from her spacious cage and greets her companion. "Hello, Pretty Bird, how are you this morning?" Dolly begins saying "pretty bird" over and over, loudly. Her voice can awaken the neighbors. Lavanya dons her headphones and begins cleaning her home while Dolly watches her every move.

Later in the day, Lavanya loads Dolly into her SUV and drives her over to a sanctuary that not only takes in abandoned birds but babysits

others like Dolly. The proprietor of the sanctuary, Jamie, explains that she is overwhelmed with people dropping their birds off on her doorstep. If she doesn't take them, these pet owners, who didn't know what they were getting into, threaten to euthanize the birds.

Lavanya explains that cockatoos can live 80-90 years in captivity (Dolly is 74), and experts say birds like Dolly are re-homed an average of five times before they end up with a permanent owner. That's because many people buy these beautiful animals based mostly on their looks and consider them to be monkeys with feathers. These short-sighted owners enjoy walking around with the birds on their shoulders and talking to them for a while, but soon it becomes clear that cockatoos and other birds in the parrot family are much more than just decorative toys. Dolly is fortunate to have a loving owner like Lavanya, but hearing about how life can be for many of these birds is distressing.

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WINTER Plant Tip

Plants continue to need water during the winter. Following sound irrigation practices is essential to maintaining healthy, cold-hardy plants. Prior to a predicted cold snap, you should make sure your plants have enough water. Moist soil absorbs more heat, helping to maintain an elevated temperature around the plants. Mulching the base of plants helps retain moisture.

Tree Pruning: Winter or Spring?

The ideal time to prune most trees and shrubs in Nashville is late winter, just before growth begins. Pruning can be done any time of the year, but often the tree or shrub will not heal as quickly as it does during the winter. In addition, pruning before the arrival of spring will reduce sap loss, again because wound healing is faster in winter. Pruning during the winter is ideal for crepes (AKA crepe myrtles), roses, butterfly bushes, trees indigenous to Georgia (including many types of oaks and pines), and all deciduous trees (trees that shed their leaves at the end of the growing season). However, plants that bloom off of older wood, like azaleas, forsythias, and rhododendrons, should be pruned after they bloom.



My New Year's Resolution is...

The top 10 New Year's resolutions in 2013:

- 1 Eat healthy and exercise.
- 2 Drink less.
- 3 Learn something new.
- 4 Quit smoking.
- 5 Better work/life balance.
- 6 Volunteer.
- 7 Save money.
- 8 Get organized.
- 9 Read more.
- 10 Finish those around-the-house to-do lists.

How did you do in 2013?

Here at Arbor-Nomics, some of us have made our own resolutions for 2014. Let's see how we do.

Doug: Have more patience.

Lagina: I'm going to try to reduce spending, recycle more, and stay home and clean my house!

Hannah: Spend more time with friends and family.

Richard: See more of my grandchildren.

Lisa: Get healthy.

Blaine: Get healthier and exercise more.

Ward: My resolution is not to make any New Year's resolutions.

Daniel: To make more money at Arbor-Nomics.

Winter Care for Your Lawn, Tree & Shrubs

Here are a few tips for taking care of your yard this winter:

- If you're mowing your lawn in the winter, don't go too short, as scalping can kill a lawn in extreme conditions.
- Winter is a good time to prune your trees and shrubs and prepare them for new growth in the spring. The wounds from cuts will close quicker, and you won't have to worry about insect infestation.
- Apply mulch around trees and shrubs to protect the roots from the cold and to provide nutrients to the plant. Don't over-mulch the area, and don't let the mulch touch tree trunks. Leaves make a good mulch but should be composted if possible.
- It is important to keep the leaves off your lawn, so that the grass has a chance to breathe. Extreme cold weather can cause browning in some fescue lawns also. If you are raking your fescue, be careful not to rake it too hard or you will rip out some of the young grass.
- To rehabilitate your grass from the long cold winter, it's time to think about aerating in March. The soil in Georgia is so dense that it makes it difficult for air and water to percolate through your lawn. This will make it hard for the grass to grow and for the roots to spread deeper. Aerate in the spring for warm season grass and in the fall for cool season grass. Plan on giving your lawn a good watering two days before you want to aerate. This is an easy way to improve your lawn's health, and by aerating just once a year, you can ensure that your lawn's roots are strong.



Let Us Be the First to Cheer On the Winter Olympics!

We're excited about the Winter Olympics taking place in Sochi, Russia, in February, and this year marks a number of "firsts" for the Games (including the first time Russia has hosted them). Enjoy this list of fun facts about Olympic firsts, and get ready for Sochi!

- The Sochi 2014 Olympic Torch traveled to the International Space Station, making it the first time the torch has been taken into space.
- The first Winter Olympic Games were held in Chamonix, France, in 1924.
- The first Winter Games to be televised were the 1956 Games in Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy.
- The first Winter Games to be broadcast in color were in Grenoble, France, in 1968.
- The first Winter Games to use artificial snow were the 1980 Olympics in Lake Placid.
- The first Winter Olympics host city to hold the opening and closing ceremonies indoors was Vancouver, in 2010.
- The first time any competitions will be held before the Opening Ceremony will be in 2014, when an event was added to the figure skating program, requiring the competition to start earlier.
- The events of beach volleyball, mountain biking, lightweight rowing, and women's football made their first appearance at Atlanta's 1996 Olympic Games.

BONUS FUN FACT: The Ocoee River in Southeastern Tennessee is rated among the top white water recreational rivers in the nation and was the site for the Olympic white water canoe/kayak competition in the 1996 Olympics.



Application #1

What we did today to your lawn:

1. We applied a pre-emergent for grassy weeds (which includes crabgrass) and a broadleaf weed control. The pre-emergent is a preventative and will prevent grassy weeds from springing up this spring. The broadleaf weed control will take care of the broadleaf weeds that have germinated. If you see green broadleaf weeds in your dormant lawn, you should see those weeds start to die within two weeks of the treatment.
2. **Nitrogen:** Fescue lawns will receive Nitrogen for growth and color.
Potassium Fertilizer: All of the lawns in Nashville receive the pre-emergent and broadleaf weeds controls. **Bermuda, Zoysia and Centipede** lawns will also receive a potassium fertilizer to enhance the root structure so your grass grows stronger and thicker.
3. **To your trees and shrubs:** (if you are a tree and shrub customer) Believe it or not, we have such mild winters in Nashville that certain bugs live through it. And they like to live in your trees and shrubs. That's why we put "dormant oil" on them. It encapsulates the leaves and stems and smothers the insects until the next time we visit. Protecting your trees and shrubs from bugs will make them stronger and healthier so they can resist disease and drought in the future.

What you need to do until our next visit:

1. Remove your leaves as often as possible. They'll smother your lawn and damage the grass.
2. If you are going to mow your lawn during January and February, do not cut it too short or scalp it. You don't need to collect clippings as they "recycle" back into the soil providing some extra nutrients. It is safe to mow immediately after we've applied our products.

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 **329.4151**. If you call after hours, please leave a message and your call will be returned the next business day.

What can I do about deer, moles and gophers?

Deer – Determined Eaters

As foliage becomes harder for deer to find this winter, they will often eat your plants and grass. Although there are many suggestions for preventing deer from eating your landscape, most do not work or require continuous application. Here is a review of the most commonly tried tactics, along with a surefire way to protect your yard this winter.

- Contrary to popular belief, planting deer-proof plants is not really an option. Deer will eat any green plant, especially in the winter, when other food is scarce.
- A dog who stays in the yard will usually keep it free of deer. A larger dog will be a better deterrent than a smaller one – unless you have a large, friendly dog that makes friends with the deer.
- Deer repellents, which you can purchase online or at garden supply stores, have to be reapplied frequently, and they only keep the deer away from the areas where it is applied.
- The only surefire way to keep deer out of your yard is to build a fence that either is too high for them to jump over (about 7 ft) or blocks their view of your yard. Deer won't jump over a structure if they can't see where they will land.

While deer are beautiful, gentle animals, they are, in deed, very determined feeders and can eat their way through your landscape.

Moles and Gophers – Underground Excavators

Moles and gophers may be two very different animals, but they share some very similar behaviors. Both are expert excavators, tunneling underground in pursuit of grubs and earthworms. It's easy to spot the damage they cause by the telltale mounds of dirt and grass they leave on your lawn.

Some of our customers have experienced extensive mole and gopher damage this past year. Arbor-Nomics doesn't trap moles or gophers, but we can check for and eliminate grubs, one of their main food sources. We don't recommend eliminating earthworms, however, since they help keep your soil healthy. You can call us for an estimate or if you're a do-it-yourselfer, you might want to consider a product called Gopher Gasser. It contains a mixture of potassium nitrate, carbon, sulfur (all components of gunpowder) and dextrin (a polysaccharide), which when used sparingly, is not harmful to soils. The toxic gas it produces fills the tunnels and exterminates or repels the pests. Please follow directions carefully when using this.



Helpful Phone Numbers

MAIN NUMBER

329.4151

www.arbor-nomicsnashville.com

OWNER/PRESIDENT

Dick Bare, 678.638.4550

Cell: 770.815.3879

richard@arbor-nomics.com

VICE PRESIDENT

Doug Cash, 678.638.4548

Cell: 770.596.8388

doug@arbor-nomics.com

AREA MANAGER

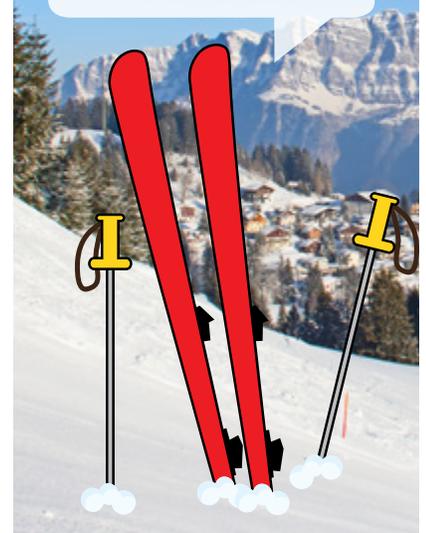
Joel Holcomb, ext 1127

Cell: 615.336.2114

joel@arbor-nomics.com

What do you
call a slow skier?

A slopepoke!





Lavanya Michel & her adopted Moluccan Cockatoo, Dolly

When the popular 1970s detective show *Baretta* was on the air, seemingly everyone wanted a cool bird like "Fred" who could talk, ride around on your shoulder, and solve crimes. This caused a surge in parrot sales among people not necessarily prepared to provide a long-term

home for these birds. Today, we are still feeling the effects of this unfortunate surge. Farm workers in parrots' native habitats know where the eggs are laid in the tree cavities, where to find the newly hatched chicks, and where to sell them to the illegal bird trade. A newly hatched bird will bring \$30 to \$40 and a slightly older bird will bring \$100 or more, but 70% of the birds captured in the wild this way die before reaching the United States. It's a terrible tragedy for these birds, who are so beautiful and majestic.

Also known as psittacines, parrots include cockatoos, macaws, New Zealand parrots, lorries, lorikeets, and 372 other species. It is believed they came from Europe originally but the evidence is scant. They range in size and weight from 3.1 inches and 0.4 oz. (buff-faced pygmy parrot) to 3.3 feet and almost 9 pounds (hyacinth macaw).

Parrots have a number of distinctive physical characteristics. Their heads are large, with eyes positioned high and laterally, making their visual field unlike that of any other birds. They have strong curved bills, and their upper mandibles are not fused to their skulls, which allows them to exert great biting pressure. They are able to use their bills to deftly and gingerly ingest food items, including seeds, nectar, pollen, buds, and sometimes arthropods like scorpions, spiders, or centipedes.

The intelligence of parrots is second to none. There are African grey parrots that can identify buttons and nails and place colored rings on the proper matching posts at a rate similar to some humans. Some species of parrot can associate words with their meanings and form simple sentences. Kea parrots can use tools and solve puzzles.

Parrots in the wild form complex societies. Within about four years of being born, they select mates, and these unions can last for six or seven decades or even longer. They communicate with each other in regional "dialects"; some know multiple dialects. A full understanding of how parrots behave in the wild is difficult, however: Unlike other birds that can be banded and followed electronically, parrots are able to use their powerful bills to remove the bands.

These birds are built to soar. They are hollow boned and every cell is engineered for flight. In the wild, they roam large (35 square mile) territories and can fly 50 miles a time. In their native habitats, they are always in flight and never without their mates or another couple.

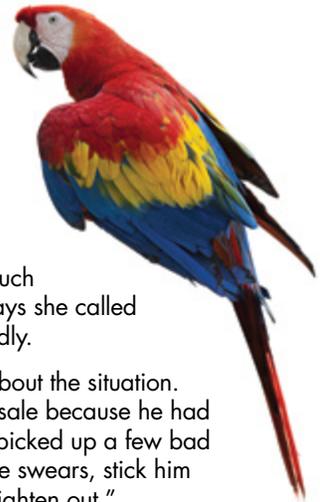
Parrots in fact are very social animals and must have the companionship of the mate they have chosen (human or otherwise), or they will resort to inappropriate behavior such as self-mutilation or biting of people perceived to be "competitors" of their

mate, such as spouses or children. And you do not want to be bitten by a parrot: They are capable of removing a thumb-sized chunk of your nostril, an ear lobe, or the entire end of your finger with relative ease.

Although their first line of defense is to fly away from danger, parrots can be tough customers if cornered. I'll never forget going into a pet store where the owner had a three-foot tall Amazon parrot on a perch by the cash register. I said to him, "If you owned that bird and a neighbor's cat were to attack him, what would happen?" He replied, "The cat would be annihilated." Most dogs would fare no better. Learning in early life is important to parrots. I read where 85% of the knowledge a human ever has is acquired in the first five years of life, and the same is true for parrots. When they are removed from their parents and culture at an early age, it affects them emotionally, something from which it is hard to recover.

A couple stories illustrate this point. One is about a parrot named Geoffrey, who was rescued from a smoke-filled home after 25 years. He had plucked out most of his own feathers and looked like a miniature vulture. Turns out Geoffrey had become addicted to nicotine. His new owner had to clean him up, wean him from the nicotine, and give him a stable, happy home where he could thrive emotionally.

Another story involves a man who was in a quandary as to what to get for his mother for her 70th birthday. He wandered around the mall for hours but nothing struck him until he happened upon a pet store. There in the window was a large parrot with a sign underneath, "On Sale, \$250." He knew the bird was worth thousands so he rushed into the store and bought it. His mother was thrilled to have such a wonderful companion, but after a few days she called her son and said that "George" cussed badly.



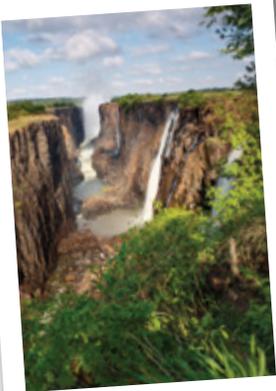
The son called the pet store and told him about the situation. The owner explained that George was on sale because he had previously belonged to a sailor and, well, picked up a few bad words. But the owner added "Whenever he swears, stick him in the refrigerator for a while and he'll straighten out."

So the mom dutifully put George in the fridge every time he cussed but his language continued to worsen. Finally, George dropped the worst bomb and the mom angrily threw him in the freezer. After the door was shut, George looked around and saw a frozen chicken. "Damn!" he exclaimed, "What did you say?"

Hopefully, this newsletter has helped to educate you about the difficult challenge of keeping parrots as pets. Steve Martin, a Hollywood bird trainer, views the impact of *Baretta's* "Fred" on society and on wild parrot populations differently. "Personally, I feel Fred did his fair share of harm to his wild counterparts," he says. "Many cockatoos were taken from their forest homes because people wanted to have a 'Fred bird.' I did not realize it then, but now I understand the impact that Fred had on wild populations of cockatoos and on all parrots in general."

He adds, "Today, I battle with the ethics of using parrots in the shows I produce. We try very hard to help people understand that parrots are challenging pets. We do not say parrots are bad pets, but we do warn people of the common problems associated with having a parrot. I wish the entertainment industry would realize their moral responsibility to the wildlife they use and portray in their shows."

For more information, go to PBS.org and watch *Parrot Confidential*. The scenery for the tropics is beautiful. The individual bird stories are heartbreaking. See you next time!



African Rainforest