

# THE BUGGETTE



## Bare in Mind by Dick Bare

**QUIZ TIME:** What city in Europe has a reputation for neutrality and cultural superiority? Basel, Switzerland, is the answer, and we were fortunate enough to go on a trip up the Rhine River before Christmas.

Our travel companions were our travel agent, Celia Gardner, her friend, Kathy, who's from Florida, and a couple from Cumming, GA.

We departed from Atlanta at 4:35 p.m. and landed in **Zurich** at 6:45 a.m. the next morning. The next leg of our journey was by train to Basel. Just so happens we ended up meeting a man from Alpharetta who was a top research executive for Johnson & Johnson, and we had a wonderful visit with him for the 90-minute ride. He was born and raised in Germany

and was returning home to see his wife and daughters. Wouldn't that be some commute?

From there we boarded the Viking Sun, a ship designed specifically for sailing the **Rhine**. At 500 feet long, it was only about 36 feet wide, so it could fit through the locks. It was built in 2005-2006 and held 198 guests, and offered hotel-style beds, French balconies, and panoramic views. On the top deck you could sit and see everything all around you. Our launch was delayed a bit because authorities found a two-ton bomb from World War II in two feet of water that had to be defused before we could sail. About two months earlier, a defusing crew was killed defusing one of these bombs. The Allies dropped something like 200 million tons of bombs on Germany during WWII.

Basel borders Germany and France and is steeped in history. There are medieval homes, as well as modern shopping districts. This city loves watches – and good ones too. I didn't see a single cheap one.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



Rhine River

## CLS Goes Above & Beyond

I meant to write to you last summer but time got away from me. I occasionally read letters from your customers praising their personal lawn care givers, and I wanted to do the same for mine. His name is Chris, and he has been a great lawn care provider for me. Two years ago, I was one of the many that got infested with army worms. I'm not from the South and was shocked by them. The morning I noticed them, I frantically called and said I needed someone to come out immediately. Chris was there that day and not only treated my lawn but gave me all kinds of info on the culprit. He saved my lawn by his quick response.

Debbie Morgan



## Share Your Secret & Get Rewarded

Refer one of your neighbors and **GET \$50!** If any of your neighbors have commented on how good your lawn looks, give them our contact information. If they sign up for our service (by calling us at 329.4151 or visiting our website) you'll receive \$50 towards your account. Just ask them to mention your name when they sign up.

You can feel confident recommending us. In addition to our many awards, we've been treating lawns in the south for over **30 YEARS**. The fact is that the majority of our new customers comes from referrals, and that is the greatest compliment you can give us. **THANK YOU!**



## Tree & Shrub Tech Tip

By Doug Cash, Vice President

**Spring is a favorite time to plant ornamental trees and shrubs for their color and beauty. Since there are more choices at garden centers in the spring than at any other time of year, it's a good time to add to your home's landscape.**

There are a few things to keep in mind. The root growth that occurs in ornamentals planted in the fall provides a tremendous advantage over ornamentals planted in the spring, especially if irrigation is not available or if there is drought or extreme heat (common for our summers). Also, a large number of plants are killed between leaving the nursery and being planted because of mishandling. Here are some tips for giving your spring-planted ornamentals a better chance of survival.

- Survey the planting site: Make sure to pick the correct plant for the site. For example – evergreen Azaleas will never thrive in full sun and Leyland Cypress will die in the shade.
- Check the soil for hazards such as rocks, construction debris, poor drainage, tree roots, etc.
- Always select fresh, high quality plants. Container grown plants should have healthy vigorous tops and white feeder roots on the outer edge of the root system. Avoid purchasing pot bound plants.
- Prepare the hole properly. **Never put a ten-dollar plant in a two-dollar hole.** A planting hole twice as large as the root ball encourages rapid root growth and plant establishment. In poorly drained soils, dig the hole 1 to 2 inches shallower than the root ball; this will raise the roots and let water drain away from them. After planting, cover the exposed part of the root ball with soil and then mulch.
- Allow trees and shrubs time to become established before applying a strong fertilizer. A starter fertilizer is fine to use when you first plant your tree or shrub.
- Water plants thoroughly before and immediately after planting to settle soil and eliminate air pockets. Proper watering is especially important during the establishment period; monitor the soil to make sure it's not too wet or too dry.
- Proper application of mulch is very important. Cover an area 3 to 4 times the size of the root-ball with 3 to 4 inches of mulch. This helps conserve moisture, maintain soil temperatures and inhibit weed growth. **Avoid** letting the mulch touch the stem or trunk of the new plant.
- Call the office to discuss systems for securing the trees or shrubs for the first year of growth. Many plants are killed in their formative years from improper guy wiring of the plant.
- Make sure you peel back the cloth burlap and remove plastic burlap completely. Also check for and remove girdling nylon twine as it will kill the plant a few years down the road if not removed.



## Food or Pests?

We reach for the insecticide and a sprayer when we see these many-legged creatures in our homes and gardens, **BUT** in many cultures these pests are also considered a meal. Insects have a high amount of protein, vitamins and minerals—but it all depends on where you are.



### THAILAND

Dishes include fried giant red ants, crickets and water beetles.



### COLOMBIA

Fried and salted ants are a popular snack.

### GHANA

Winged termites are fried or roasted, and even made into bread.

### CAMBODIA

Locals and tourists alike enjoy deep-fried tarantulas.



### MEXICO

Enjoy agave worms on tortillas, and fried or toasted grasshoppers.



### SOUTH AFRICA

Cornmeal porridge, a dietary staple, sometimes includes locusts.

### PAPUA NEW GUINEA

One local delicacy is sago grubs in banana leaves.



### SINGAPORE

Fried scorpions are served on skewers or on battered fish.



Source: Ewing Irrigation Products, Phoenix, AZ

## Winter Kill in Warm Season Turfgrass

By Joel Holcomb, Area Manager

Every spring we look forward to our dormant lawns greening up. We hope for a beautiful lush, problem-free lawn that's ready to enjoy in nice weather. How quickly our lawns green up depends more on the temperature than on the calendar. Soil temperatures need to reach 65 °F, requiring our daytime highs to reach the 80's. With fluctuating temperatures, the timing of this can be unpredictable. Another issue that we see this time of year is winter kill in warm season turfgrasses. Let's look at several factors that contribute to winter kill.

- **Traffic & Hard Soils:** Turf cannot grow strong roots in compacted soils. Aeration is recommended in the spring for warm season grasses.
- **Improper Watering:** Weather is often very dry and hot from July to October, which can weaken the turfgrass and lead to winter kill.
- **Trees & Shade:** Trees take water out of the soil and shade turfgrass, both of which cause slow green up of turf.
- **Thatch:** Lawns with more than one-half inch of thatch are prone to winter kill.
- **Wet Soils:** Too much moisture can stress lawns as well, leading to turf decline and death.

If you have any of these conditions please notify your Certified Landscape Specialist, so appropriate action can be taken.

## Halifax Story Hits Close to Home

By Bill Delahanty

I am a customer and always look forward to your newsletters, especially your stories. Your most recent edition on the Halifax fire was particularly interesting. My great, great grandfather, John Bendell, moved his family from Newfoundland to Halifax in 1891 to start work as a carpenter at the Halifax shipyard. They settled into a home just two blocks from the shipyard, which was, no doubt, very convenient for John's job. Unfortunately the explosion obliterated the home and, along with it, John and five of his ten children. It is hard to imagine an explosion that did that kind of damage. I guess one fortunate thing was that my great grandmother had emigrated to Canton, Massachusetts, several years prior to the accident. Otherwise I wouldn't be here, or I wouldn't be the same person! Keep the stories coming.



## Nashville in Bloom

The best place to experience the colors of spring in Nashville is the **Cheekwood Botanical Gardens** ([www.cheekwood.org](http://www.cheekwood.org)). After a long winter, the sight of tulips in bloom should be just the thing to get you in the mood for warmer weather. Spring is one of the best times to visit Cheekwood and experience the new season's arrivals. As the weather begins to warm in March, the colors begin to explode across the grounds and gardens, with a mix of hyacinths, daffodils, and magnolias followed by **irises, dogwoods, and viburnums**. And of course, the highlight of the gardens: the overwhelming sight of the colorful, crisp lines of over **22,000 tulips**. Celebrate spring at Cheekwood for a surefire way to get out of the winter doldrums!

## More Customer Kudos

A neighbor recommended Arbor-Nomics to me two years ago, and I am still with Arbor-Nomics today because of Joel Holcomb. When I need to contact Joel, he always answers his phone or calls me back immediately. He treats his customers with respect and is very knowledgeable about his services. Whenever he is in the neighborhood treating other yards, he always comes by and says hello if I am outside and always calls me by name. I have recommended Arbor-Nomics to four other neighbors because of the exemplary customer service of Joel. Joel is awesome!

*Karl Reker, Thompson's Station*



## 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 the grassy weed root and prevent them from growing. The broadleaf weed control will kill those weeds within two weeks of the treatment.
2. We also applied a potassium fertilizer to enhance the root structure so your grass grows stronger and thicker.
3. Your lawn received an application of nitrogen for growth and color.

### To your trees & shrubs: (if you are a tree and shrub customer)

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 to 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 providing 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, 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.



## Helpful Phone Numbers

### MAIN NUMBER

**329.4151**

[www.arbor-nomicsnashville.com](http://www.arbor-nomicsnashville.com)

### OWNER/PRESIDENT

**Dick Bare, 678.638.4550**

cell: 770.815.3879

[richard@arbor-nomics.com](mailto:richard@arbor-nomics.com)

### VICE PRESIDENT

**Doug Cash, 678.638.4548**

[doug@arbor-nomics.com](mailto:doug@arbor-nomics.com)

### AREA MANAGER

**Joel Holcomb, ext 1127**

cell: 615-336-2114

[joel@arbor-nomics.com](mailto:joel@arbor-nomics.com)

## Bare in Mind CONTINUED

The next morning we woke up in **Breisach, Germany**. We all boarded a bus headed for the Black Forest. It is so heavily wooded with tall spruce, fir and beech that the horizon appears darkened, hence the name. It was beautiful, with vineyards going straight up the hills and scenery galore. The highest mountain in there was just touching a mile.

We went to a really cool store right in the center of the Black Forest that sold cuckoo clocks, specialty knives, traditional German steins, hand-blown glass vases and the like. The cuckoo clocks were beautiful and came in all sizes, ranging from several hundred dollars on up to thousands. After a brief demonstration on how their cuckoo clocks are built, we were welcomed to go downstairs, where they sold big slices of Black Forest chocolate cake and steaming hot coffee. The cake had thick, creamy icing, and it was fabulous but very rich.

The homes in the Black Forest were really interesting. The roofs looked really thick, like they were made out of foam, and came down over the sides of the homes, just a few feet from the ground. The guide explained that this was to protect the home from the bitter cold. The roof insulated the home and kept the wind out. There is similar architecture up in the Swiss Alps, too.

Later on we travelled to **Colmar, Germany**. This is around the Alsace-Lorraine area of France, which is famous for its wine, and is where my grandfather on my mother's side was born, in 1870. Colmar is also the birthplace of Frederic Bartholdi, the sculptor who created the Statue of Liberty.

The area has an interesting and confusing history. It was originally a Roman Catholic territory; then a Swedish territory for two years; then, in 1673, it was conquered by France. In 1870-71, during the Franco-Prussian War, it was taken by the newly formed German Empire; however, in 1918 it was ceded back to the French. In 1930, it became German again, and then, in 1946, it went back to France. Talk about a severe case of whiplash.

In 1888 my grandfather, John Metzger, immigrated to the United States to avoid the draft in Germany for religious reasons. In 1899 he married my grandmother and became a tailor in Youngstown, Ohio, and a lay minister for the Apostolic Christian Church. He was a busy soul with two careers and eight kids. He died of a stroke in the pulpit preaching a sermon in 1930, when my mother was only 15. She was the youngest of the eight children; the eldest, Alma, was born in 1900. He left two sisters in Alsace-Lorraine, and some day I want to go back there and find out about them. Maybe their ancestors have a nice place for us to stay. By the way, Metzger means butcher in German.



The next morning, we found ourselves in **Strasbourg, France**. The Renaissance architecture was stunning. Some of it was German, some French. One of the finest of Europe's great gothic cathedrals is located here, named after the city. Strasbourg, a city of canals like Venice, has many covered bridges with defensive towers. Homes date back to the 16th and 17th centuries. At times, this city was the wealthiest and most glamorous of the German empire. Johannes Gutenberg developed the art of letterpress printing here.

Next, we took a bus excursion from **Manheim, Germany**, to **Heidelberg**, where we took a tour featuring the majestic Heidelberg Castle (the setting for the opera *The Student Prince*). This city has become the preeminent icon of the German Romantic period. Tourists from all over the world love it for its ivy-covered castle ruins and mountainous scenery that takes your breath away.



Heidelberg, Germany

Heidelberg has been a university town since 1386. Many of the older, well-preserved buildings are owned by the university. The most famous of these is the student jail. Students can end up there for any number of juvenile infractions, and many students consider it their rite of passage. Oftentimes, a graduating senior feels he missed out on a complete education if he never served time in the "Big House."

The city's most famous American visitor has to be Mark Twain. He wrote at great length about his visits to Germany, and no other city impressed him more than Heidelberg. One book, filled with humorous stories of trying to learn the language, is still a best-seller in Germany today.

Speaking of learning German, it was in Heidelberg that I learned a valuable term, toilette. We were visiting a large Christmas market in the downtown area, and suddenly I was overcome with the immediate need to expel the great deal of coffee I had been drinking.

I walked up to a nice-looking, white-haired gentleman and asked him where the "water closet" was. "Nein, nein," he exclaimed, meaning, "no, no," I guess. (There was a large sign that read WC over his head, but I found out that W is pronounced like V in German.) Then I said bathroom, men's room, head, potty, lavatory, restroom, powder room, washroom, can, spa, sauna, bath, and finally shower room. Each time he said "nein, nein." Things were getting worse and worse, as the kids used to say. What did he think I was asking him? How the stock market did today? Finally I did a little jig and danced around in circles on my heels, and he responded by pointing through the double doors next to him. Inside was a little mall with restaurants, coffee shops and that all-important establishment, the toilette. After paying .50 euros I was in. What bliss!



**In the next "Buggette," we're off to Cologne and Amsterdam and a few places in between.**