

THE BUGGETTE



Bare in Mind by Dick Bare

HI, EVERYONE! Hope all is well with you and yours! As promised, I'm continuing with our trip to California. Last time I shared the highlights of Alcatraz. So let's move on to the rest of San Francisco and a few other excursions.

The Golden Gate Bridge is truly an impressive sight, but it was so foggy and misty there (not to mention cold and windy — it was May and we were wearing sweaters, sweatshirts, and scarves!) that it was a couple of days before we actually saw it. Completed in 1937, the bridge, including approaches, is 1.7 miles long. The suspended part is 4,200 feet long and 90 feet wide, and at its highest point is 220 feet above the water. It weighs 887,000 tons. Until 1964, when the

Verrazano-Narrows Bridge was completed, it was the longest in the world; today it is the ninth longest. Architect Irving Morrow selected orange vermilion for the color to blend with the bridge's surroundings. Today, 38 painters continuously paint the bridge, and 17 ironworkers replace corroded steel and rivets.

One of the most interesting facts about the Golden Gate Bridge is that only eleven workers died during its construction, setting a new safety record at the time. In the 1930s, bridge builders expected one fatality per 1 million dollars in construction costs, so builders expected to lose 35 workers by the time the bridge was completed. One of the innovations used during construction was a safety net. This net saved the lives of 19 workers, who became known as members of the "Halfway to Hell Club."

There are 41 million vehicle crossings a year, and the bridge has been closed three times because of winds exceeding 70 miles per hour.

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Golden Gate Bridge, San Francisco

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Trees, Shrubs And Fall

Most people think of planting trees and shrubs in the spring, which is a time for new growth. But with cooler days and more rainfall, the fall months are a good time to plant as well. **The best time for fall planting is September and early October** — this allows plants enough time to establish roots before cold weather stops their growth. If you're looking for fabulous fall color, here are a few vibrant choices: **Sugar Maple, October Glory Maple, White Oak, Black Tupelo, Oak-Leaved Hydrangea, Spicebush & Bottlebrush Buckeye.**

FUN FACT!

No tree dies of old age. They are generally killed by insects, disease, or by people.

3 Tree Riddles:

- 1 What tree grows nearest the sea?
- 2 What tree is the neatest tree that grows?
- 3 What tree does everyone carry in his hand?

Answers: 1. Beech, 2. Spruce and 3. Palm



What You Should Know About Shrubs

Shrub pruning can be a bit more forgiving and is suitable for a homeowner to attempt. Like grass, shrubs can go brown and die for no apparent reason. If this is happening to your shrubs, then the problem could be caused by a disease like root rot, stem canker, or anthracnose or by insects such as mealybugs, mites, or borers. Too little or too much nitrogen can also cause problems with shrubs.

The best way to determine the cause of browning shrubbery is to contact a professional, like us, who can take a closer look. In some cases a soil sample may be taken to make specific recommendations on how to improve the soil conditions. Remember, when in doubt – hire out!

How to Keep Your Trees & Shrubs Healthy

Having a great looking lawn can be the first step to a beautiful landscape. To have a truly magnificent landscape, the trees and shrubs in the yard must also be well treated, pruned and fertilized. Because, let's face it, great looking grass doesn't count for much when fighting against the ugliness of a ragged tree or sloppy shrubs poking about erratically. Symmetry is, after all, beauty; and facing off a great lawn with unkempt trees and shrubbery throws that symmetry into chaos.



What You Should Know About Trees

One of the most important things that can be done to improve a tree's look and health is to prune it. Cutting away the unwanted growth and giving it that beautiful, picturesque quality we all recognize from paintings and pictures actually benefits the tree by keeping the water and nutrients flowing to its most important parts. In Nashville, pruning can be done late in the year because of the mild winters. In fact, having tree work done in the winter can save a good deal of money, as that's when things get slow for the tree services.



There are several techniques and methods used to prune different types of trees; unless you're willing to invest some time researching best pruning techniques for the type of tree you're pruning, it's best to allow an insured professional handle the delicate pruning process. Doing this yourself may cause more harm than good. **Improper pruning can end up scarring or even killing the tree.** That's why it's best to call a certified arborist.

An arborist will evaluate the health of the tree, note needed treatments or changes in chemical

nutrients, and make trimming or pruning suggestions. You can always call us for recommendations in your area.

If you don't want to use an arborist, follow these three guidelines:

- Prune first for safety, next for health, and finally for aesthetics.
- Never prune trees that are touching or near utility lines.
- Do not remove more than 1/4 of the living crown of a tree at one time. If necessary to remove more, do it over successive years.



Aeration + Overseeding = A Thicker, Healthier Lawn

Does your lawn have thinning or bare patches? Then summer has taken a toll. **Fescue** is a cool-season grass and excessive, sustained heat can damage your lawn.

The good news is that fall aeration and overseeding from Arbor-Nomics can restore your lawn's rich, healthy appearance. Aeration provides a porous environment that lets air and water reach the root structure of your lawn. Overseeding replaces lost grasses, as **Fescue** suffers heat damage during the summer and tends to thin out over time.

What aeration does for your lawn:

- Removes plugs of soil to allow air to penetrate into the soil and reach the root structure of the lawn
- Reduces soil compaction, improving both water and fertilizer intake by the soil
- Improves the root structure of turf grasses
- Improves resistance to stress caused by heat or drought
- Improves resiliency and cushioning, making for a thicker, healthier lawn

What overseeding does for your lawn:

- Fills in bare patches
- Sows seed over existing grass to create a thicker, rich lawn

Combined with overseeding, aeration helps the root structure of a lawn grow deeper, enabling the lawn to maximize its growth potential. Let your lawn breathe easy this fall with aeration and overseeding services from Arbor-Nomics!

Call us at **329.4151** to schedule your aeration and overseeding today.

Application #5

What we did to your lawn today:

1. For warm-season grasses, we applied a pre-emergent to prevent grassy weeds from germinating in the springtime and a broadleaf weed control to get rid of broadleaf weeds. You should see those weeds die within two weeks of the treatment. If you don't, email or call the office for a free retreat.
2. **Fescue** lawns received a granular starter fertilizer. This is high in phosphorus, which enhances the germination of seeds applied in overseeding. **Fescue** should be overseeded in September or October. Please call us for a quote on aeration and overseeding.
3. **Gold** customers received a **FREE** Perimeter Pest Control application.
4. **Platinum** customers receive a treatment/visit every month so this is application #9 and #10 for them. They received a fungicide to prevent fungi, an application of Perimeter Pest Control and a nutsedge/grassy weed application as needed.

What we did to your trees and shrubs today:

(ONLY For Gold & Platinum Customers)

1. We applied an insecticide to help prevent lace bugs, aphids, and caterpillars from settling into your trees and shrubs and a miticide to battle spider mites.
2. A fungicide was applied to control diseases like powdery mildew and leaf spot.

What you need to do until our next visit

1. During fall, all lawns should have once inch of water per week from rain or irrigation. If it doesn't rain, check with your local water authority regarding watering regulations. The best watering time is early morning. Do not water in the afternoon or evening.
2. When mowing, do not remove more than 1/3 of the grass blades at each cutting. For optimal appearance, **Fescue** lawns should be mowed every 5-6 days, **Bermuda** every 2-5 days (depending upon the type of **Bermuda** grass) and **Zoysia** every 5-8 days. 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.
3. Keep an eye out for brown patch fungus.
4. Routine trimming will help your shrubs grow better.

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.

Arbor-Organics

We have recently switched to an organic fertilizer that has been tested for several months before being applied to your yard.



This fertilizer is made up of humic acid, a natural bio-stimulator that benefits almost anything that grows, including turf, trees, shrubs, bushes, beds, gardens and even indoor plants. Humic acid is the most concentrated organic material available and enriches problem soils like those in the Nashville area with a high clay concentration. The humic acid in our fertilizer is the result of geological processes over the ages that have broken down and transformed vegetation and other organic matter into a highly concentrated form.

The benefits of using humic acid are numerous. It increases the microbial activity in the soil, making it an excellent root stimulator, and it makes the nutrients already in your soil more readily available to your grass and other plants. Plus it acts as a natural aerator, helps maintain a balanced soil pH level, and even helps control salt levels. All of this happens underground, out of your view. Here's what you'll notice above ground:

- 1 A richer, healthier color for your lawn and other green plants
- 2 Reduced fertilizer requirements
- 3 Increased drought tolerance
- 4 Prevention of dry spots



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

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AREA MANAGER

Joel Holcomb, ext 1127

cell: 615-336-2114

joel@arbor-nomics.com

What did
the beaver
say to the
tree?

It's been nice
gnawing you!



Bare in Mind CONTINUED

After you cross the Golden Gate Bridge, you can head on up to wine country, which offers surprisingly different weather for being only 1 ½ hours north of San Francisco. Get out the shorts and polo shirts! This is really beautiful country, with acres and acres of trees, rolling vineyards, and big gorgeous homes. Our first stop was a tour of the Beringer Winery. We were taken back into long, hand-dug tunnels and given glasses of different wines to enjoy. While slowly getting drunk, we were educated as to how winemaking started in Napa Valley.



Napa, California

Jacob Beringer came over from Germany in 1869 and became Cellar Foreman for Charles Krug, one of the first commercial winemakers in Napa Valley. Jacob's brother, Frederick, joined him in 1875, and, for \$14,500, they

bought the adjoining farm and started their own winery. They had their first crush in 1876, which yielded the equivalent of 18,000 cases, and laborers began digging 1,000 linear feet of tunnels, where the wine would be aged.

The Beringers went on to do quite well, even making it through Prohibition and the Great Depression by selling "sacramental wines" under a license allowing wines to be made for religious purposes. In celebration of the end of Prohibition, in 1934, Beringer started to offer public tours — the first winery to do so — and kicked it off with a big festival. The winery became a historical landmark in 1967, and, in 2001, it celebrated its 125th anniversary. It is the oldest continuously operating winery in Napa Valley.

Our daytrip also included a stop at the Benzinger Family Winery, which is smaller than Beringer and produces higher-end, pricier wines. We then had dinner in a nice, cozy Italian restaurant in Sonoma, which is a lovely small town. I would go back to wine country in a heartbeat — it's beautiful and a lot warmer than San Francisco!

Weather aside, San Francisco does have great sights, like Pier 39 and its incredible street performers, and Fisherman's Wharf and its fantastic sourdough bakeries, which I talked about last time. Another place I highly recommend is the Cable Car Museum — it is incredibly interesting. You can view the 510 horse-power electric motors and see the cables actually running. Grip men get the cars moving by tightening the grip under the cars. There are four sets of cables and the grip men must know when to let the cars coast (as when going over other cables) and when to speed them up and slow them down. Each car weighs 10 tons, and the grip men must have tremendous upper body strength. Two grip "men" have actually been women. Wow! Wouldn't you love to have been hugged by them?



Here's an interesting sidebar:

As we were waiting downtown to board a cable car, we saw two guys panhandling. One had the standard sign that read, "Need

Money for Food." On the other guy's sign, there were a couple dollar signs followed by a dash and the words, "For Weed." Whoa! At least he's honest.



After a week freezing in San Francisco, we headed up to our daughter's house in Monterey. We were all happy to see one another, and a couple of days later, we all loaded into the family SUV and headed down California's Highway One, on our way to the William Randolph Hearst Castle. I mention SUV because you should only do the highway in a sports car — something small and agile. Seeing the long drop down to the ocean from the edge of the narrow road can scare you to death. A famous plastic surgeon to the stars, who was texting while driving, went over the edge and died on the rocks below. While we were touring the Hearst Castle, my son-in-law, George, traded the SUV in for a more suitable ride for the trip home.

The Hearst Castle was very impressive, and in my opinion, very over the top, even compared with the Biltmore. Our tour guide told us that if we thought this was "over the top," we should see the home he built in Mexico. For Hearst, the home we were visiting was just a summer cottage. Hearst hosted some great parties here, according to our guide, and it was fun to sit beside the incredible pool and imagine being there with all the Hollywood stars who have visited over the years.



Hearst Castle, California

I also started wondering about the tourists who have been here and asked the guides to share some the dumbest questions visitors have asked. There was a tourist who asked the guide why they built the home so far away from the Visitors Center. Another who asked when the noon tour is and, after getting his response, followed-up with, "Is that Southern California time?" Another visitor wanted to know if they put chains on the tour bus tires in the winter. And here's my favorite one: A visitor asked, "What's that big lake out there?" The tour guide's answer was precious: "That is Lake Hearst, Ma'am, and it is paved on the bottom!" Of course, the "lake," which provides a spectacular view from the castle, is the Pacific Ocean. Let's hope it was a very calm day when that woman asked the question.

Our final jaunts included Carmel and Muir Woods. Carmel is a famous little town that has real charm and high prices (you have to pay just to ride around Pebble Beach which is in Carmel). We went to a great restaurant where the cook and the owners played a big mandolin-like instrument and sang. It was a small place but we haven't enjoyed a meal like that in years. As for Muir Woods, I found that to be a disappointment. The brochures picture these huge redwoods that you can drive through. After we got there, we learned that the tree you could drive through died, and it was in Southern California anyway. So, the next time we go back, maybe we will fly into LAX and go visit those redwoods. And enjoy some warmer weather!