

## Business solutions

The Integra Group recently unveiled two new software products at the GIE Show. BOSS LM PRO is designed especially for small to medium landscape firms intent on keeping things simple and overhead low. Based on BOSS LM Enterprise, the software is the foundation for entrepreneurs with a vision for profitable, managed growth. In addition, BOSS LM Mobile is a ruggedized, vehicle-mounted unit for automated field operations management. [BossLM.com](http://BossLM.com) or 866/596-5971



## On schedule

Magnatag's magnetic whiteboard 31-Day Crew Scheduling Board helps plan work schedules and show them 24/7 to employees. The heat-fused printed magnetic whiteboard system is available in four sizes to accommodate four to 16 crews for up to four months. It includes magnetic cardholders to show job locations and specifications. Magnet circles in 10 colors are included for your own special job detail codes. Magnetic month and date sets and write-on tools make it easy to show what's happening. [Magnatag.com](http://Magnatag.com) or 800/624-4154

## Get smart

After the SMRT-Y (pronounced "smart why") Soil Moisture Sensor Kit is installed, its digital sensor measures absolute soil moisture levels every 10 minutes and relays that information back to the SMRT-Y controller interface. When soil moisture levels are above a pre-determined threshold, the controller interface interrupts the irrigation schedule that's been programmed into the system's timer. If the sensor recognizes dry soil conditions, the system's next watering cycle will proceed as originally scheduled. This closed-loop feedback process means that actual plant and turf conditions at the roots are being communicated back to the controller for a truly accurate snapshot of a landscape's moisture needs. [RainBird.com](http://RainBird.com) or 800/RAINBIRD

## More power

The Husqvarna 576XP features a redesigned cylinder and crankcase that, at 14.5 lbs and 5.7 hp, is one-half pound lighter than previous models and offers more horsepower. Like other models in Husqvarna's professional line of chain saws, it features the X-TORQ engine that provides high power to weight ratio, 60 percent lower emissions and 20 percent lower fuel consumption. It also features Air Injection for longer air filter life and LowVib anti-vibration technology for improved ergonomics. [Husqvarna.com](http://Husqvarna.com) or 800/HUSKY-62



PRODUCT SPOTLIGHT  
CHAINSAWS



PRODUCT SPOTLIGHT  
WOOD GRINDERS

## Tackles any job

The TM-70 pneumatic blower from Express Blower Inc. spreads a wide array of materials, including mulch, compost, soil blends, wood chips and aggregates. The fully self-contained, steel-framed aluminum box features a 275-hp, turbo-diesel, Tier 3 compliant Caterpillar C-7 engine. For greater flexibility, the unit is designed to work with a variety of tractor configurations. Options include a supplemental injection system to uniformly apply mixes. [ExpressBlower.com](http://ExpressBlower.com) or 800/285-7227



## A winning trifecta

The new L45 tractor-loader-backhoe (TLB) operates like

three machines in one, combining a strong loader and backhoe with three-point implement capabilities. Powered by a 45-hp Kubota diesel engine and new HST Plus Transmission, it boasts a 10-ft. digging depth, a high-performance inching valve and a standard hydraulic thumb bracket. The L45 features standard backhoe crawling mode, providing the ability to move at "creep" speed — ultimately saving time when repositioning while trenching. [Kubota.com](http://Kubota.com) or 888/4-KUBOTA

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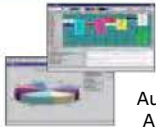
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**PRODUCT SPOTLIGHT**  
WOOD GRINDERS

## Hydraulically operated

Designed for tractors of 35 hp or more, the new S.H.M. Model WC 5500 premium chipper is available to fit both Category I and Category II 3-point hitches. To ensure smooth, easy feeding, the hopper opening measures 28 sq. in., and the chip opening measures 5.5x8 in. The chip chute can be rotated 360 degrees for accurate placement of chipped material. Other features include double-sided knives, standard chip anvil, top discharge chip chute and powdercoat finish.

[SwampyHollow.com](http://SwampyHollow.com) or 877/827-2447

## Winter green

Turf Revolution's new Time Sav'r topdressing is pelletized, dehydrated compost from leaf and yard trimmings. It's easy to apply with a fertilizer spreader, and contains just 10% water (vs. regular compost, which can be up to 50%). The low-odor topdressing is easy to spread, and does not contain manure or animal byproducts. It increases soil water-holding capacity, resulting in increased drought tolerance and increased irrigation efficiency. It also increases soil nutrient holding capacity, maximizing plant nutrient uptake. [TurfRevolution.com](http://TurfRevolution.com) or 800/823-6937



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## Let's give thanks for gifts disguised as challenges

**S**ometimes, Thanksgiving comes a little late. That's what my wife, Bridgid, and I learned after our second child was born on Dec. 27, 1995. Bridgid and I know all children are gifts from above, but it took us a while to *fully* appreciate just how special a gift our James Martin Whitford (aka Jamie) is.

For starters, Jamie is named after my father. Dad died at age 61 in 1989. I was 23, in the Navy and dating Bridgid. I used to regret that I never shared with Dad how serious Bridgid and I were — that the day after we first kissed, while lying in the grass with my head on Bridgid's tummy, I told her, "One day, our kids will be in here." I now know that Dad knew more than I thought.

Dad had his share of work and worries. A polio-survivor-turned-doctor, Dad raised 10 children with Mom, and helped put all of us through Catholic grade schools and high schools, as well as college. God called Dad home just days after my kid sister Moe, the last of us 10, left home to attend The Ohio State University.

Knowing Dad's spirit is alive and kicking in Jamie has been a great source of strength over the past 14 years. I don't doubt for a minute Dad's spirit helps Jamie be as bright and gentle as he is. Jamie, in turn, gives Dad's spirit (and all of us blessed to know Jamie) a glorious taste of a worry-free, love-filled life on Earth.

It was absolutely paralyzing and heart wrenching when the nurse, holding Jamie, first told us: "You have a beautiful baby boy, with lovely red hair. ... We have a strong suspicion he has Down syndrome."

We didn't even know this kid, and in a single moment he had turned our lives upside-down.

"We'll treat and love him just like we would any other," Bridgid and I reassured each other

Our son Jamie takes after his recently departed godfather, "Uncle Jim," — laughing, loving and living large.



during the wee hours of those first nights at the hospital, silently questioning what else the future would hold. Little did we know it would be Jamie who would teach us how to laugh, love and live large.

When we come home from work, a beaming Jamie rushes to us with open arms. Every day, it's like we're returning from a week-long business trip. In an instant, his huge hugs can wipe away any sadness or fear, and replace it with pure love.

Jamie is one of the wittiest kids we know. His teachers and our family and friends — and incident after incident (some of which I'll share next month) — confirm this. When combined with his contagious built-in laugh track, it's no wonder we go to bed with bellyaches most nights.

Just as important, Jamie's not afraid to cry. As a result, I'm slightly more open to occasionally suffering from leaky eyes. It took a special kid to teach this veteran that bottling up feelings doesn't make me more of a man.

I can't help but reflect on the many life-changing lessons Jamie has taught our family and so many others. During this time of year especially, let's look around our homes and workplaces and be grateful for other great gifts disguised as challenges.

Happy Thanksgiving, my friends!





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