

# The Gazette

FEBRUARY 2019  
VOLUME 12 ISSUE 2



## AQUATIC SCIENCE ADVENTURE CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS

Applications Due: March 26, 2019  
[www.bseacd.org/scholarships](http://www.bseacd.org/scholarships)

Know a science-minded student who is looking for adventure this summer? Try Aquatic Science Adventure Camp at Texas State! The Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer Conservation District (BSEACD) in partnership with our permittees offers scholarships to help send motivated students for a week of water-related fun: SCUBA diving, rafting, caving, hiking, science and more!

**Scholarship Amount:** either \$599 or \$349, depending

**Application Deadline:** Tuesday, March 26, 2019 (before 5:00 pm)

The applications and essays for the 2019 Camp Scholarship program for the Aquatic Science Adventure Camp will be due Tuesday, March 26, 2019. This year's program is expected to provide \$599 scholarships to the week-long, overnight Aquatic Science Adventure Camp (Note: Parent responsible for providing \$150 camp deposit fee, which will be needed to hold the child's spot.) and \$349 scholarships to the 5-Day Aquatic Science Adventure Camp (Note: All \$349 paid for by BSEACD.) Interested students must submit an application and a 1-page essay/artwork entitled "Why I want to attend the Aquatic Science Adventure Camp!"

Scholarship winner selections will be merit-based; only completed applications with essays/artwork will be eligible.

**Details & Application:** <https://bseacd.org/education/scholarships/#camp>

## IMPORTANT NUMBERS

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Fire.....	911
Ambulance .....	911
Sheriff – Non-Emergency .....	512-974-0845

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Clayton.....	512-841-9200
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Mills .....	512-841-2400
Patton .....	512-414-1780
Middle	
Bailey.....	512-414-4990
Small.....	512-841-6700
Gorzycki .....	512-841-8600
High School	
Austin .....	512-414-2505
Bowie.....	512-414-5247

### UTILITIES

Water/Wastewater	
City of Austin.....	512-972-0101
City of Austin (billing) .....	512-494-9400
Emergency .....	512-972-1000
Texas State Gas	
Customer Service .....	1-800-700-2443
Gas related emergency.....	1-800-959-5325
Pedernales Electric Cooperative	
New service, billing .....	512-219-2602
Problems .....	512-219-2628
ATT/SBC Telephone	
New Service .....	1-800-288-2020
Repair .....	1-800-246-8464
Billing .....	1-800-288-2020
Allied Waste .....	512-247-5647
Time Warner Cable.....	512-485-5555

### OTHER NUMBERS

Oak Hill Postal Station.....	1-800-275-8777
City of Austin	
Dead Animal Collection.....	512-494-9400
Abandoned/Disabled Vehicles .....	512-974-8119
Stop Sign Missing/Damaged .....	512-974-2000
Street Light Outage (report pole#).....	512-505-7617

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## Recipe from the Kitchen

Hello, everyone. Chef Marty here with a fantastic dressing or marinade (works best with shrimp in my opinion) recipe that many of you got to sample during last month's Grape Stomper's Wine Dinner. By popular demand, I will now share it with you all! Enjoy...

**Yield: appx 2 cups**

- 2 tablespoon lime zest
- ¼ cup lime juice
- ¼ cup brown sugar, packed
- ¼ cup ginger, peeled and grated
- ½ cup green onion, chopped, white parts and some green
- 1 cup cilantro leaves, packed
- 1 tsp nutmeg, fresh grated
- ¼ cup honey
- 1 teaspoon balsamic vinegar
- 1 teaspoon Tabasco
- ¼ cup olive oil
- 6 ancho chiles, seeded and cut into strips

1. Place the lime zest and juice, brown sugar, ginger, green onions, cilantro, nutmeg, honey, vinegar, and Tabasco in a food processor or blender and process until smooth.

2. With the machine still running, slowly pour in the olive oil through the feed tube in a steady stream. Turn off the machine and stir in the ancho chiles. Transfer dressing into a tightly covered container and refrigerate. Will keep for up to 5 days.



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## Prevent Oak Wilt – Don't Prune Oaks Feb 1st – June 30th

Information provided by Travis County Transportation & Natural Resources

Oak wilt has claimed the lives of thousands of trees in Central Texas and beyond. Majestic oaks play a large role in this region's beauty and identity; it would be hard to imagine the Hill Country without them. They are an iconic part of many local businesses and neighborhoods, providing shade, beauty, and higher property values. Following simple preventive measures can go a long way towards stopping the spread of this destructive disease.

From February through June, avoid all pruning or cutting of oaks – this is the high season for oak wilt transmission. Any wounds that occur from construction, vehicles, wind, etc., should be painted as soon as they're discovered – ideally within ½ hour of being cut – with commercial tree wound dressing or latex paint. That includes freshly cut stumps and surface roots.

Pruning is least risky during the coldest winter days and extended hot periods in mid to late summer. Any time you prune though, the Texas Forest Service recommends painting all wounds and sanitizing pruning equipment between trees using denatured methyl alcohol (shellac thinner), isopropyl alcohol, or a general purpose household disinfectant such as Lysol, Listerine or Pine-Sol. Household bleach is not recommended.

Red oaks, including Spanish (now Buckley) oak, Shumard oak and blackjack oak, are very susceptible to oak wilt and play a key role in the disease's transmission. Oak wilt is caused by the fungus *Ceratocystis fagacearum*, which spreads its spores from "fungal mats" that form under the tree's bark. These mats have a sweet, fruity smell that attracts insects, especially the sap-sucking nitidulid beetle. After feeding and breeding on the fungal mats, these beetles fly away covered in fungal spores. As they visit other oaks, they spread the fungus through open wounds in the bark. The nitidulid beetle is only about the size of a pinhead, but is capable of flying as far as a mile away. While red oaks are the most susceptible to oak wilt, all oaks can become infected.



Fungal mats usually form on standing trees, but can also develop on logs, stumps and fresh firewood cut from infected oaks. Make sure to remove and either burn or bury infected oaks to prevent mats from forming, and never store unseasoned wood from infected trees near healthy oaks.

The second way oak wilt can be transmitted is through the roots. Live oaks tend to grow together in dense mottes with interconnected roots, so the fungus can be transmitted easily among them. Oak wilt is occasionally transmitted through red oak roots as well, but the movement is slower and occurs over shorter distances than with live oaks. Root transmission can be prevented by cutting trenches four feet deep between infected and healthy trees, but by far the best option is to prevent infection in the first place.

So make sure NOT to prune oaks between February 1 and July 1, and ALWAYS paint wounds on oaks no matter what time of year it is. For more information on preventing and treating oak wilt, please visit [texasoakwilt.org](http://texasoakwilt.org), the website of The Oak Wilt Information Partnership, a project of the Texas A&M Forest Service, the Forest Health Protection branch of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service and the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center in Austin.



### When "That will never happen to me" happens.

**Lee Ann LaBorde, Agent**  
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[leeann@leeannlaborde.net](mailto:leeann@leeannlaborde.net)

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## Acupuncture

Acupuncture and Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) are safe, effective and drug-free options for the treatment of most non-emergency medical conditions. Whether you're new to acupuncture or have years of experience, acupuncture can help your general health.

### **What is acupuncture?**

Acupuncture is a form of treatment involving the use of very fine filiform needles that are inserted into certain specific points of the body. This stimulates the body to increase circulation and activate the body's own natural healing process. Acupuncture can be used to treat a wide range of conditions and illnesses and is a wonderful option when western medication does not work or is not tolerated.

### **What to expect?**

Acupuncturists often use additional techniques, such as tui-na, cupping and moxibustion, in conjunction with acupuncture. Tui-na is a form of Chinese manipulative therapy, consisting of massage, acupressure and other forms of body manipulation. It works by applying pressure to acupoints, meridians and muscles or nerves to remove blockages that prevent free flow of Qi (energy) through the body. Cupping involves the use of glass globes placed on the body to create a suction effect. The vacuum effect that draws up the skin is believed to open up the skin's pores to stimulate the blood flow to the muscles, balance and realign the flow of Qi. Cupping may result in small, circular bruises in the area where the cups were applied, but these bruises are usually painless and disappear within a few days after the treatment. You may have seen these cupping marks on the back of the Chinese Olympic swimmer Wang Qun at the Beijing Olympics in 2008! Finally, moxibustion is a traditional therapy that involves the burning of moxa made from dried mugwort, a soft and wooly herb, to penetrate to a deeper level of the

body. Moxibustion has been used throughout Asia for thousands of years; in fact, the actual Chinese character for acupuncture, translated literally, means "acupuncture-moxibustion".

### **What about herbal medicine?**

Chinese herbal medicine refers to the use of a plant's seeds, berries, roots, leaves, bark or flowers for medicinal purposes. Traditionally, this involves formulating a mixture of various herbs to create a formula based on a patient's specific needs. These herbs can be taken in the form of herbal tea after boiling the herbs in hot water to extract the active ingredients. Although herbal medicine is still widely used and available, formulations in the form of tablets or capsules are more convenient and have become more popular these days.

### **What conditions can be treated?**

Acupuncture and Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) is most commonly used to treat pain caused by various illnesses such as arthritis, bursitis, fibromyalgia and PMS. It can be very effective for treating migraine, back pain, neck pain, frozen shoulder and sciatica. Acupuncture can also achieve good results when treating stress related problems such as insomnia, anxiety and depression. It is an effective way to treat substance abuse, reduce substance dependencies (e.g. pain killers) or help you to quit smoking or reduce weight. Acupuncture may also be used as an adjunct to physical rehabilitation or surgical intervention to hasten functional recovery. Talk to your licensed Acupuncturist about what acupuncture and TCM can do for you. Please refer to the Classical Ads of this newsletter for our detailed information or visit [www.amaranthacupuncture.com](http://www.amaranthacupuncture.com).

*By: Yunguang Yang (Lily), Licensed Acupuncturist & Herbalist, MAOM, Dipl. O.M. (NCCAOM)*





## NATURE WATCH

### CHORUS OF THE CRANES

by Jim and Lynne Weber



*Adult Sandhill Crane*

A sure sign that spring is on the way is the sound of loud, rolling, rattling calls of migrating Sandhill Cranes (*Antigone canadensis*) as they fly overhead. High above, their V formation is sometimes barely visible due to their travel at up to 12,000 feet in elevation. Large flocks of these cranes can travel up to 500 miles in one day, destined for their breeding grounds in the northern US states and into Alaska and Canada.

Sandhill cranes are large, tall birds with slate gray feather often tinged with a rusty wash, crimson caps, long necks and legs, and a short tail covered in a drooping feather 'bustle.' Adults grow to be 4 feet tall with almost 80-inch wingspans. While often described as gangly, they are known for their graceful and energetic dancing displays, where they stretch their wings, pump their heads, and bow and leap to attract a mate. Sandhill cranes mate for life, which can be as long as two or three decades, and they stay with their mates year-round. They defend themselves from aerial predators by jumping and kicking, and from land predators by hissing with wings open and performing stabbing motions with their pointed bills.

While sandhill cranes breed and forage in open prairies, grasslands, and wetlands, they prefer places with standing water. They generally begin arriving in Texas in November, and spend their days feeding in irrigated croplands and wetlands, and roosting on shallow lakes or rivers at night. By early February, these birds are ready to start their journey north to their breeding grounds.

The sandhill cranes that winter in Texas have often traveled 3,000 miles or more, and their return journey north is fueled by their omnivorous diet of seeds, grains, berries, tubers, amphibians, insects, and small rodents. Congregating at both fall and spring migration and at winter sites, groups of these birds can number into the thousands.

The unique tone of the sandhill crane's call is a product of their anatomy. Their long tracheas or windpipes coil into their sternum and help to produce sounds with a lower pitch and rich harmonics, which is often amplified by their habit of traveling in numbers. While it is this distinct rattling, croaking sound that accompanies their journeys, these cranes can also communicate by making moaning, hissing, purring, snoring, and trilling sounds.

As markers of seasonal change, sandhill cranes are among the most ancient of the world's birds. A crane fossil, identical to the structure to the modern sandhill crane, was discovered in Nebraska and estimated to be several million years old. Watching large flocks of these birds gather at night or take flight at dawn, is a wondrous sight. Hearing the chorus of the cranes as they migrate overhead tells us that spring is on the way!

Send your nature-related questions to [naturewatch@austin.rr.com](mailto:naturewatch@austin.rr.com) and we'll do our best to answer them. If you enjoy reading these articles, check out our books, *Nature Watch Austin*, *Nature Watch Big Bend*, and *Native Host Plants for Texas Butterflies* (all published by Texas A&M University Press), and our blog at [naturewatchaustin.blogspot.com](http://naturewatchaustin.blogspot.com).

To view the Nature Watch article go to [Peelinc.com](http://Peelinc.com) and click on Jester Warbler February 2019.



*Flying Sandhill Cranes*

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## Tennis Tips

By USPTA/PTR Master Professional Fernando Velasco

### "The Serve"



In previous newsletters, I offered tips on how to hit a forehand groundstroke, a two-handed backhand, one-handed backhand, forehand volley, and the two handed backhand volley. In this issue, I will give you instructions on how to execute the serve, considered as the most important stroke, since the player has complete control of the game at this time. In these pictures, Adolfo Gonzalez, one of the tennis pros at the Grey Rock Tennis Club, demonstrates the proper form and technique for a right-handed player. For a left-handed player, the instructions will be the opposite hands.

**Step 1: Ready Position:** The body is sideways with the right hand holding the end of the racket in a forehand grip position and the left hand is holding the ball under the throat of the racket. The left arm is slightly straight and the ball is held with the thumb, index finger and middle finger. This allows for a consistent toss without using the wrist and/or elbow. Feet are a shoulder width apart and the body is in equal balance. For beginners, it is okay to change the grip slightly toward the forehand grip. As the player gets more advanced, the continental grip will be a better one to give more spin on the ball.

**Step 2: Back Swing:** The left arm comes down and the right arm follows it. It is vital to slow down the motions to allow for both of the arms to have good balance in the front and behind the body. Notice that the hand is in the process of tossing the ball in front of the body and the left wrist is bent down. It is imperative to have a good consistent toss since it will dictate the success or failure of the serve.

**Step 3: Point of contact:** Once the player is ready to hit the ball, the right arm will force the racket toward the point of contact, while the left hand will come down toward the body. This allows for the "snap" of the wrist to accelerate and bring the ball down. Notice that the point of contact is slightly higher than then center of the racket. Eyes are still focused on the point of the contact and will be ready to look down as soon as the ball leaves the frame. The right hip is extended to allow the body to extend up.

**Step 4: Follow Through:** The racket speed will extend to the left side of the body. The right foot is coming forward and is pointing toward the net. The trunk is straight and eyes are focused on the direction of the ball. At this point the player will take the split step and will jump either behind the base line to rally with the opponent or will move toward the net to serve and volley.

Look for in the next Newsletter: *The Half Volley*



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## Flour Beetles

There are two types of flour beetles that may be encountered in the home- red and confused. These beetles are small (about 1/8" in length), reddish-brown to brown in color with a somewhat flattened body. Adults can be long-lived and survive up to 3 years. To tell the difference between the two, you would need to look closely at the tip of the antennae; red flour beetles have a distinct 3-segmented club while confused flour beetles have a gradually formed 4-segmented club. Fortunately, you don't really need to get that detailed in identification to manage them as they feed on similar foods and are often found in the same areas.

Flour beetles feed on grain dust and milled grains, but can also feed on undamaged grains. In homes they may be found in cereals, flour, pasta, dried beans, chocolate, nuts, herbs, spices, crackers, dried pet food, dried flowers and cake mix. With large populations of the insects, they may cause a foul taste and odor to infested products due to a secretion from their scent glands.

Red flour beetles are able to fly while confused flour beetles cannot, so it is possible for them to move to different areas of the house. If you are having a problem with flour beetles, but cannot locate the source in your pantry, check other areas of the home such as where pet food is stored or areas with dried flowers or potpourri. Sometimes people see flour beetles during or after they have had a rodent infestation because the beetles can eat grain that may be in rodent baits or eat food from rodent nests where food was stored.

Management tips:

- Inspect all food items and get rid of anything infested. If you

do not want to throw away infested food, you can either put in in the freezer for a week or heat in the oven at 200 degrees for 2-3 hours to kill off insects.

- Clean all pantry areas, making sure to get any grain dust out of cracks and crevices. Use a cleaning solution after all debris is removed. Seal any cracks where grain dust may accumulate with a sealant product.
- Do not buy damaged or expired items from the grocery store.
- Use products promptly. If you go away for a period of time (a week or more), store items in the freezer.

For more information or help with identification, contact Wizzie Brown, Texas AgriLife Extension Service Program Specialist at 512.854.9600. Check out my blog at [www.urban-ipm.blogspot.com](http://www.urban-ipm.blogspot.com)

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## H O M E S

### 2019 CHECKLIST TO GET YOUR HOME SOLD!

#### ✓ **Call Ashley Austin Homes at 512.217.6103**

Ashley Stucki is the top producing agent in Southwest Austin, here's a few reasons why you need to call her when you're ready to buy or sell!

✓ **EXPERIENCE** - Do you want an agent or friend who only sells a few homes a year or the agent who has sold more homes in Southwest Austin than any other agent year after year.

✓ **SKILLED AT PRICING** - Pricing is more than looking at comps and what your neighbors' house sold for. Ashley is the top producing agent, she'll know immediately if your home is over/under priced. Too low and you miss out on more money, too high and it sits on the market for months. Ashley will make sure your home is priced right!

✓ **MASTER NEGOTIATOR** - Emotions run high when buying/selling a home. The simplest request could ruin a deal that puts your house back on the market causing you to miss out on your dream house.

✓ **INTERIOR/EXTERIOR EXPERT** - Curb appeal & staging a home make an enormous difference. Ashley will ensure your home is ready to sell!

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Hello Southwest Austin! John Squires with Keller Williams Realty and the Squires Team would like to thank you for another great year in real estate. Whether you own a Scott Felder, Newmark, David Weekley, J.W. Smith, A. J. Felder, N.P.C. home, etc., etc., John knows your home's value. There are actually well over 30 different builders in the Southwest that have come and gone since 1975. The current market is picking up quickly, as we have had a rapid increase in calls and visitors to our open houses on weekends. People have filed their taxes and are realizing their financial gains for the year and assessing the possibilities of moving or perhaps picking up lease properties as investments in the area. I always encourage my clients to hold on to their previous homes and lease them out if at all possible when moving to their next home. Interest rates have bumped up a little for owner-occupancy and investor loans. About 4.75%~ owner-occupant and 5.25%~ investor. All rates are credit driven and percentage of down payment. Still **GREAT** rates! The Squires Team takes their fiduciary responsibility to their clients very seriously and strives to ensure your home is marketed and sold for the highest value the market will bear. Give us a shout for a no-obligation market analysis on your valuable Southwest Austin property or to show you any homes in Austin. **(512) 970-1970** Thank you!



**John Squires' sell phone is (512) 970-1970.**

**“JUST SOLD!”**

John's listing at 5036 Bluestar. Listed at **\$419,000**. Nice in Wildflower Park subdivision of Circle C. : )



**“JUST SOLD!”** John's listing at 7118 Magenta Lane is a gorgeous, Plantation Home at 3592~ sq. ft. Listed at **\$567,000**.

**“JUST SOLD!”** 5020

Tiger Lily is John's brand new listing that he placed under contract in 7 days. Listed at **\$419,000**.



**“JUST SOLD!!”** John's buyer just purchased this gorgeous lot at 3.27 acres on 1826 and Highway 45 in a deep cul-de-sac behind JD's market. Listed at **\$364,900**. John will help his client build a 5000~ square foot, custom, Texas Hill-Country contemporary Nalle home over the next year. John can also help you find land and build your dream home too! It's a fun process and you design what you want.





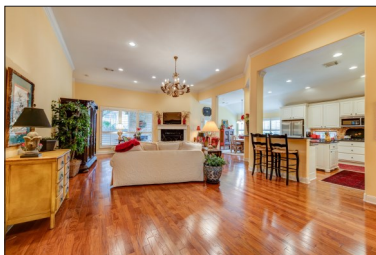
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Market slowing down? John Squires and the Squires Team having been selling at least 1 house per week all year long and the market hasn't slowed a bit. If you're considering placing your home on the market for sale, please give us a chance to earn your business. Selling these homes in the Southwest for top dollar takes a lot of work, marketing and knowing the sub-markets better than any other broker. To list your house with John, buy a house or just chat about the market, please give him a call for an easy, no-obligation appointment 7 days or nights per week.



**(512) 970-1970**

Professionally listed, professionally staged, professionally marketed and professionally **"Sold"** in 2 days by John Squires before Christmas. This home was professionally target-marketed and sold by John.



**"CONTRACT PENDING"** 11421 Archstone—John's new listing is a stunning Fedrick Harris Winchester Model Home Plan with gleaming wood floors, quartz countertops, custom finishes and décor throughout. Beautiful lot with outdoor fireplace, beaded ceilings, outdoor kitchen and wrought iron fencing. To find out more about this home, call John. Offered at **\$535,000**.

Below are 1-story and 2-story home sold statistics in the Southwest Austin area for the year 2018. These also include all the new-built homes that were on the MLS, so the price per foot may not be relevant to all homes represented in this study. An accurate market study would have to be done on your property to find the true market value range for your specific property. These are general data averages in the marketplace.

1-story **"Active"** homes on market averages. Low price \$365,000. High price \$515,000. **11** total homes on market now. Average price per foot \$228.17. Average days on market 76.

1-story **"Contract Pending"** homes on market averages. Low price is \$379,500. High price is \$535,000. **5** total homes under contract right now. Average price per foot \$204.17. DOM is 53.

1-story **"Sold"** homes on market averages. Low price \$355,000. High price \$745,000. **121** total homes sold in 2018. Average price per foot \$203.67. Average days on market 38.

2-story **"Active"** homes on market averages. Low price is \$379,500. High price is \$814,220. **26** total homes on market now. Average price per foot \$188.73. Average days on market 96.

2-story **"Contract Pending"** homes on market averages. Low price \$419,000. High price \$687,645. **15** total homes under contract right now. Avg. price per foot \$186.75. Days on market is 60.

2-story **"Sold"** homes on market averages. Low price \$349,500. High price \$1,090,170. **236** total homes sold in 2018. Average price per foot \$174.41. Days on market 41.

**#1** realtor in Southwest Austin history with approximately **655~** homes **"SOLD!"** to date.. Over **1065~** homes sold in the greater Austin area. **#1** agent-sellers and buyers served in Southwest Austin according to Austin Board of Realtors statistics.

**"Top 50"** agent in central Texas **8** times according to Austin Business Journal.

Only **1** number to call and John Squires answers his phone and you will never be handed off to an assistant. Call John's direct 'sell' phone at **(512) 970-1970**.

