



MARCH 2019
VOLUME 12 ISSUE 3

Scholarship Amount: \$2,500

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

The Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer Conservation District hosts a college scholarship essay contest dedicated as a memorial scholarship honoring one of Austin's most influential environmental planners, Kent Butler. Dr. Butler specialized in bringing science and policy together. He encouraged open conversation, collaboration, and participation from all perspectives. The Kent S. Butler Groundwater Stewardship Scholarship Essay Contest increases the awareness of groundwater issues by rewarding high school students for high quality research and writing. The \$2,500 scholarship can be applied toward tuition for any college, community college, or training institution. A panel of independent judges reviews all essays and score them based on content, accuracy of information, originality, grammar, quality of research, and style. The judges represent a cross-section of skills

and expertise.

Essays must generally discuss groundwater issues, which may include but are not limited to non-point source pollution, pollution prevention, water conservation, groundwater management or hydrogeology. While essays must focus on groundwater issues, applicants do not have to be planning a career path in a water-related field.

The scholarship contest is open to high school juniors, seniors, and immediate graduates. Students must reside in one of the eight school districts overlapping the District boundary. These eight independent school districts are: Austin, Del Valle, Dripping Springs, Eanes, Hays Consolidated, Lockhart, San Marcos Consolidated, and Wimberley.

Find out more at www.bseacd.org/scholarships



KENT S. BUTLER MEMORIAL GROUNDWATER STEWARDSHIP COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP

Amount: \$2,500

Application and Essay Due: March 26, 2019

www.bseacd.org/scholarships

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

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

SCHOOLS

Elementary	
Clayton.....	512-841-9200
Kiker.....	512-414-2584
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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The New Story Festival and the Compassionate Austin Co-op!

Info at compassionateaustin.org

Questions? Contact compassionateaustin@gmail.com



You are invited to the New Story Festival, a new annual gathering for community, creativity, and the common good. The Festival is March 29-31, 2019 at Huston-Tillotson University. This is the "signature festival" of Compassionate Austin

(an inclusive Austin movement to create a more compassionate city).

We are launching a new collective initiative, the **Compassionate Austin Co-op** and will host the inaugural Offers & Needs Market at the Festival on March 31st from 5:00-6:30 pm! Join the Co-op today! Join a diverse collective of organizations and individuals across our

community who commit to enacting the City Council's **Compassionate Austin Resolution**, practicing compassionate action on behalf of Others, Self, and the Earth.

We welcome businesses, schools & educational entities, civic organizations, faith-based groups, advocates, artists, musicians, news representatives (TV, radio,

newspapers, etc.), design-thinkers, innovators, healers, family, friends, neighbors, etc.... (basically any and everyone who is committed to compassionate action on behalf of others, self, and the Earth). We invite you to attend the Festival and, of course, to join the **Compassionate Austin Co-op** and participate in the Offers & Needs Market.

Co-op Members receive both public recognition & tangible benefits:

- **Free pass to the New Story Festival**, the signature festival of Compassionate Austin.
- **Invitation to the Offers & Needs Market**, an innovative way to connect and collaborate with likeminded organizations.
- Recognition on compassionateaustin.org and at the New Story Festival.
- **Half-off on exhibitor fees** at the New Story Festival.
- **Discounted rates** on the *Compassionate Integrity Training* group workshops.

****There is no cost to join the Co-op or attend the Offers & Needs Market.**

How to Join the Co-op!

- Step 1:** Complete the online membership form found on the "Compassionate Austin Co-op" page at compassionateaustin.org.
- Step 2:** Download and display the Co-op badge on your website, social media, and/or establishment.
- Step 3:** Participate in the Co-op's Offers & Needs Market at least once a year.



Participate in the Co-op's Offers & Needs Market!

An Offers & Needs Market is a 90-minute guided process for participants to identify and exchange knowledge, skills, and resources.

The Market combines community asset-mapping and sharing-economy principles, to enhance your own work exponentially through collaboration with others!

Whether for free, barter, or a set rate, participants might offer or need things like:

- Professional skills or services
- Consulting in various areas of expertise
- Tools, vehicles, food/drink, meeting space
- Volunteers or financial support
- **Anything else they are able to share!**

There is no cost for Co-op Members to participate.

The first Offers & Needs Market will be held at the New Story Festival at Huston-Tillotson University on Sunday, March 31, 5:00-6:30 pm.

The New Story Festival is a Festival where we all belong. Join the Co-op and Offers & Needs Market where we share, connect, and support each other! We look forward to seeing you there! Thanks so much!



Aeration Now Can Help Your Spring and Summer Irrigation



In order to prepare your lawn for a healthy spring growing season, you should employ basic lawn care practices at this time of year, which includes aerating your yard. It is important that nutrients reach the soil beneath your grass, and aeration can help you get that done.

Aeration involves making small holes in the soil to allow air, water and nutrients to get to the grass roots.

This helps the roots grow deeper and produce a stronger, more vibrant lawn.

Aerating helps alleviate soil compaction. Compacted soils have too many solid particles in a space, which prevents proper circulation of air, water and nutrients within the soil. Excess lawn thatch or heavy organic debris buried under the grass surface can also starve the roots from these essential elements.

So when is the right time to get this aeration done? These next six to eight weeks leading up to the spring season, when grass begins to grow again, is a good time to aerate.

The two main aeration tools are the spike aerator and a plug aerator. The spike aerator poke holes in the ground with a solid piece of metal. Plug aerators remove a core or plug of grass and soil from the lawn. Most landscaping companies and horticulturists recommend the use of the plug aerator. The machines can be rented or you can have a lawn care service aerate for you. After aerating, it's always a good idea to apply about a half-inch of compost over the aerated yard. The compost fills in the holes left by the plug aerator and brings organic materials into the root zone.

If you have noticed that your turfgrass isn't looking its best or that water has difficulty penetrating through the soil surface, it may be time to aerate your lawn. Lawns with clay soils that get a lot of foot traffic typically require aeration more often as they become compacted over time. Here's a great tip to check to see if your yard needs to be aerated.

Using a shovel, dig a square-foot section of grass about six inches deep and take a look at it. If the grass roots don't extend further than two inches deep into the soil, your lawn would benefit from aeration.

If you plan to aerate your own yard, here are a few helpful tips to get the job done.

- Before you get started, make sure the soil is moist enough.

There's nothing more frustrating than trying to aerate soil that is bone dry. Aerating the day after a rain shower or watering your lawn the day before is advised.

- Most aeration machines cover only a small percentage of soil surface per pass, so make multiple passes over the most compacted areas. Save resources (and your energy) by leaving unaffected areas alone.

- The soil plugs can be left on the ground after aeration and allowed to decompose. Or, you can rake them into piles to throw in the compost bin. However, this isn't necessary as it should take about two to four weeks for the soil cores to break down naturally. Sprinkle compost (sand or peat moss can be used instead of compost) over the lawn to fill in the holes.

- An aeration myth is that if you apply a pre-emergent herbicide on your lawn in the spring, aerating your lawn will destroy the herbicide "barrier." This is not true — research shows that aeration will not affect crabgrass control or weed prevention.

After aerating, it's important to continue appropriate lawn care practices.

Aerating will help you save water over the spring and summer seasons. Instead of running off or only penetrating a few inches, water will be better absorbed in an aerated yard. That makes your entire landscape and your water bill happier.

Did you know...

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, outdoor water use varies greatly depending upon geographic location. In dry climates such as that in the Trinity Glen Rose District, a household's outdoor water use can be as high as 60 percent. Some experts estimate that as much as 50% of that irrigation water is wasted due to inefficient watering techniques, wind and evaporation.



Still on the Fence About Hosting an Exchange Student?

You don't have any kids? Are you a single parent? Same sex couple? An empty nester? This is not a problem, we place our students in all kinds of families!

You're not rich? Neither am I! Your exchange student comes with their own spending money and health insurance. All you provide is room/board and three meals a day. Oh and TLC... but that's free.

Live in the middle of no where? Small town? Not a big deal. Some kids prefer to get away from the hustle and bustle of big cities. The exchange students also do pretty well in small schools, as they usually get to be the center of attention and make friends rather quickly. Our students also get chances to travel to New York, Washington DC, Hawaii and California...so they can get their fill of the city life and return back to the peaceful sounds of nature.

Do you consider yourself a boring person? More than likely this is not true, and you should quit being so hard on yourself. Your student will make friends. Your student will meet other

exchange students. Your student will attend activities offered by our program. Your student will get involved in sports and school clubs. Your purpose is not to entertain them. But you might find that you bring a little adventure to each others lives.

Kids are too young? Great! Lots of students love young kids, and your kids will love them. It's beneficial to introduce your kids to new cultures at a very young age. You're preparing them to accept people no matter what the religion, color of their skin, or language they speak. That my friend, is good parenting.

Don't hold back! This is a great experience for both parties. You get the opportunity to change a child's life. You get the satisfaction of seeing them grow, even after they leave your home into becoming a doctor, a lawyer, a diplomat, artist, teacher... the list goes on. And you contributed to that success! And the best part of it all, is you gain another family member for life. We need people like you to give these kids a chance.

STS Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization whose mission is to place exchange students in our area. If you are interest in hosting, please contact me at 832-455-7881 or at vicki.stsfoundation@yahoo.com. I'll be happy to answer any question you might have and get you started on hosting your very own student!



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Power for Parkinson's "Musical Collage"

Thursday, April 4, 2019

@ 6:30-9:30PM

Austin Central Library,
710 West Cesar Chavez Street,
Austin, TX

\$125 per person

Heavy apps and drinks will be served

The 4th Annual Musical Collage benefits locally founded nonprofit, Power For Parkinson's.

This unique event features 8 local musicians/bands of varied genres performing one arresting work after another. Music lovers will be captivated by surprising shifts between three different stages to create the "Collage." Each performer has a connection to the disease and plays to honor those affected by Parkinson's Disease.



This event is an opportunity for music lovers, friends, and those with a Parkinson's connection to come together and support Power for Parkinson's efforts to provide free exercise, dance, singing, and social activities to our local Parkinson's community as well as globally through a home video series.

More info and tickets:

<https://www.powerforparkinsons.org/musical-collage>

Questions?

info@powerforparkinsons.org

Or call phone number: 512-464-1277 for more information.



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NATURE WATCH

TREE SERPENTS

by Jim and Lynne Weber



One of the most beautiful and harmless snakes in Texas is the aptly named Rough Greensnake (*Ophiodrys aestivus*). Its genus is derived from the Greek ophios meaning ‘serpent’, and drys meaning ‘tree.’ It has a 22 to 32 inch long and slender bright green body, which fades to yellow or yellow-green on the sides near its abdomen. Common to the eastern two-thirds of Texas, this snake is also colloquially called grass snake, green tree snake, and vine snake, but it gets its most recognized common name from its dorsal or topside scales, which are rough or ‘keeled’, having a ridge down the center rather than being smooth.

Primarily arboreal, the Rough Greensnake is found in open deciduous forest, pastures, and suburban gardens, most frequently those adjoining a watercourse such as a creek, stream, lake, river, or upland ravine. It climbs into bushes, shrubs, and trees, favoring those with horizontal rather than vertical growth, both for protection and to forage for food. It hunts crickets, grasshoppers, and spiders, as well as caterpillars of butterflies and moths. Rough Greensnakes are diurnal, and they sleep at night coiled up on branches of vegetation. Active most months of the year except for December through February, they take refuge in the cooler months hiding under rocks, logs, or debris.

One of the most curious facts about this snake, and others in this genus, is that they turn blue shortly after death. Yellow pigment combines with blue pigment to give the snake its vibrant green color during life, but when it dies, the yellow pigment breaks down quickly and only the blue pigment remains. Rough Greensnakes may be confused with Smooth Greensnakes (*O. vernalis*), but the latter, while similar in color, is shorter in length, has smooth dorsal scales, and occurs only as a relict population along the Gulf Coast of Texas.

While Rough Greensnakes become active as early as March, they mate in June and July, with females laying clutches of eggs in the second half of summer, typically in a depression under a flat rock. Incubation is short – only 4 to 24 days – since embryonic

development begins while the eggs are still in the female’s body. These snakes can be most active in August or September, when the young emerge and are foraging for food, often in grassy lawns. Be alert for these snakes when mowing grass at this time of year, as they are beautiful, harmless, and beneficial creatures!

*Send your nature-related questions to 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.*



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"COMING SOON!" 9441 El Rey in Granada Oaks Estates, right behind Circle C. John will be bringing this gorgeous new listing on 1~ manicured, private acre with in-ground pool to market on approximately 3/15/19 with an open house that weekend. This custom sandstone home has 3646~ sq. ft. in the main home and an additional 1200~ sq ft. in the guest house/media room with full bath, central air and an outdoor fireplace. The guest house also features an air conditioned, professional workshop, storage room and small garage for lawn tractors and tool shop. The main home lives like a large 1-story, with 2 bedrooms, 1 bath and large game room upstairs. The rest of the living space is downstairs including a large study and open kitchen/family room combination. **Low tax rate at 1.95% with no City of Austin taxes!** The pool is also ready for a party. Call John or text at 512 970-1970. Listed for a proper sale at **\$899,000.!** ← I know, great price!



John Squires' sell phone is (512) 970-1970. Call for a no-obligation appointment with John to find out your home's value in today's marketplace.

"JUST LISTED!" John's new listing at 11012 Savannah Court is an **extremely rare opportunity** to own a 1-story home with a big 3-car garage on a cul-de-sac, with a large, almost 4/10's of an ACRE, private back yard. This is one of the largest lots in Circle C Ranch with a 1-story home and a 3-car garage. It's just a quick walk to Kiker Elementary and the neighborhood pool too! The kitchen and home have been upgraded and updated. Offered at **\$539,000**. Call John to see it at 512 970-1970.

SquiresTeam.com



KW KELLER WILLIAMS REALTY



7220 John Blocker is **"JUST LISTED!"** John just brought this beautiful little David Weekley to market and it is perfect for a 1st-time buyer or retiree. FANTASTIC location. Wood floors and remodeled kitchen! Call John to see. **\$359,000.**

6505 Walebridge Lane is **"COMING SOON!"** John will bring this stunning model-home plan to market sometime in mid-March. 4 beds, 2 full baths with a big back yard. Priced in the low **\$400,000.'s.**



11400 Hollister Lane is **"JUST LISTED!"**. This is a gorgeous Fedrick Harris 2-story with 4-5 bedrooms, 3.5 baths a game room, media room and soaring ceilings. The back yard was professionally designed and landscaped for ultimate privacy with an outdoor fireplace and grill. In the gated golf course subdivision of Sommerset Estates. Offered at **\$564,500.** Call for more info.



#1 realtor in Southwest Austin history with approximately **660~** homes sold to date.. Over **1070~** homes sold in the Austin area. **#1 agent 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.**

Knowing the Southwest Austin marketplace takes years and years of experience and comes from selling in the same area/neighborhoods of Southwest Austin for over 40 years. The Squires Team/family has been living in and selling the Southwest Austin area since 1977. Knowing the Austin real estate market and sub-markets of the different areas of Southwest Austin is John Squires' expertise. Below is an example of which broker knows the market the best. Both of these homes are the exact same plan (Newmark Winchester Plan). John sold **11421 Archstone** in **3 days** on market just before Christmas and it was listed at **\$535,000.** John professionally staged and target-marketed the home to prospects he thought would likely buy the home and it sold immediately. Meanwhile, **7208 Magenta Lane** had been with two different brokers and after **189 days** on the market it was reduced to **\$479,000.** and it finally sold. Price-per-foot has many variables, but John sold the exact same floor plan as his competitor, in 3 days, for approximately **~\$55,000.~** more which went directly in his seller's pocket. That's the results-driven experience you will receive from working with the Squires Team, the #1 Southwest Austin experts. Call John and he can do the same for you!



7208 Magenta Lane— Leading Competitor



11421 Archstone— John's listing.



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