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BABY SQUIRREL SEASON: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

By Cheryl Conley, TWRC Wildlife Center



And so it begins. Baby season 2020 and it all begins with baby squirrels. There are a number of reasons why baby squirrels get separated from mom. Homeowners cut down trees that have nests, high winds can blow nests down or can knock babies out of the nest or sometimes they just fall out. Whatever the reason, you can help.

The first thing you want to do is make sure the baby is safe and warm. Put it in

a box or other small container with a soft towel or t-shirt. You can microwave a sock filled with rice for one minute and place it in the box with the baby or set 1/2 of the box on top of a heating pad set to low. **DO NOT TRY TO FEED IT.** If you do not see any blood on the baby and there are no ants crawling on it, you can try to reunite it with mom. A squirrel's real mom is the best mom.

1. Place the box with the baby squirrel in it near where you found the baby. You can also attach string or twine to the box and securely hang it from a low branch. Just remember to keep an eye on it from a distance so it's safe from dogs, cats and other predators.

2. Getting the baby to call for its mom can help. Sometimes gently picking up the baby will cause it to call her. You can also try holding one foot and applying gentle pressure. **DO NOT SQUEEZE HARD.** This is a tiny, fragile baby.

3. If it's raining lightly, cover half the box and put the baby on the dry half. If it's pouring, keep the baby inside until the rain lets up. Remember to **KEEP IT WARM.**

4. Be patient. It can take up to four hours for mom to come and get her little one. If she doesn't, you'll need the help of a rehabilitator. Bring the baby to us. If it's after hours, keep the baby in a quiet, dark room and keep it warm until we open. Do not attempt to feed it.

If you notice injuries, keep the baby safe and warm in a dark room until you can get it to us. Do not handle it.



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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If you want more information, contact Liz Jensen at 512-301-6966 or lizleej@gmail.com or Peter Berardino (The King of SWING) at 512-695-2334 or peterberardino@gmail.com.



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Indianmeal Moths



Probably the most encountered pantry pest by homeowners is the Indianmeal moth. These moths can be found in pet food, birdseed, cereals, dried fruit, nuts, powdered milk, candy, and more. Food can become infested while in fields, warehouses, or stores and

then brought into the home with infested products.

Indianmeal moth adults are small with grayish wings tipped in copper. Larvae are creamy-yellow to yellowish-green to pinkish in color with a dark brown head. Larvae tend to feed on the top of infested items and may produce silk that binds the food together. When larvae are preparing to pupate, they leave the item where they were feeding and crawl to corners or edges of walls, shelves, containers, or other items to spin a silken cocoon.

To eliminate a pantry pest problem, the first step is to locate and remove all infested items. Begin with oldest food items, usually in the back of the pantry, and inspect everything, including unopened food items since these may also be a source. When you find an infested item, do not stop your inspection, multiple items can be infested. Not all pantry pest infestations come from the pantry. Check rooms for items such as dried, decorative peppers, dried flowers, potpourri, natural supplements, make-up, or rice heating packs.

Infested items can be thrown away or treated with heat or cold. If you don't want to throw away food, either place infested food in a zip-top plastic bag and place it in the freezer for about 5-7 days or spread infested food in a thin layer on a baking sheet and bake at 250 degrees for 4-6 hours to kill any insects. Once all insects are dead, you can sift the food or pick out the insects. Another option would be to leave the insects in the food and get a little more protein with your meal!

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

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THE RECIPE BOX

From: The Mayo Clinic Diet

FRESH PUTTANESCA WITH BROWN RICE

This recipe is a little labor intensive with all of the chopping, but well worth the effort. It may also be served over toasted garlic bread.

- 4 c. plum tomatoes
- 1 T. olive oil
- 4 whole Kalamata olives, pitted ¼ c. fresh basil
- 4 whole green olives, pitted
- 1 T. parsley
- 1 ½ T. capers
- 1/8 t. red pepper flakes
- 1 T. garlic, minced
- 3 c. brown rice, cooked

1. In a large bowl, combine the tomatoes, olives, capers, garlic and oil.
2. Add basil, parsley and red pepper flakes, stirring to combine.
3. Serve over hot cooked rice or toasted garlic bread.



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STS Foundation accepts all types of host families – from single parents, newly marrieds, empty nesters and same sex couples. In order to host, you would need to meet the following qualifications:

- Host must be 25 years or older
- Pass a background check
- Provide food for 3 meals daily
- Ensure reliable transportation to and from school (bus is ok)
- A bed for your student
- A safe and loving home

STS Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization that places foreign exchange students with American host families. For more information about hosting, please contact me at 832-455-7881 PM me or email at vicki.stsfoundation@yahoo.com.



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Lettuce Recycle!

by Dena Houston

HILARIOUS RECYCLING!

Recycling can be confusing and frustrating but it can also be hilarious and give us all a good laugh. Some people have really used their imaginations to take recycling to a wonderful “laugh producing” level.



SHOWER HEAD NEED REPLACING?



NEED A NEW BOAT?



HOW ABOUT A CIRCUIT BOARD TOILET?



GAS CAN GUITAR HOPE THE MUSIC ISN'T TOO HOT!

Over the past four years of writing Lettuce Recycle, I have gotten some wonderful questions. I welcome these questions and always learn something new from each of them. Below is a “cheat sheet” for recycling. It doesn’t address all recycling questions but it helps provide a basic understanding of what can and cannot go into the blue curbside bin. I hope this helps.

RECYCLING CHEAT SHEET FOR THE BLUE BIN

- Nothing smaller than a credit card.
- No mixed materials (no plastic soap pump with metal spring, no candy wrappers, no orange juice cartons, no paper coffee cups).
- No contaminated paper products (no wet paper (even if dried out), no pizza boxes, no food product on paper).
- Nothing that can wrap around sorting machinery or that poses a danger at the recycling facility (no plastic bags, wire coat hangers,

rope, garden hoses, hypodermic needles, or aerosol cans with anything in them). Empty aerosol cans DO go into the blue bin.

- Lid rules – All glass jars need to have their lids removed. Keep all plastic lids on plastic bottles and containers. All separate lids smaller than a credit card go into the trash. All separate lids larger than a credit card go into the blue bin.

NEIGHBOR RESPONSES TO “WHAT’S IN YOUR TRASH CAN”

I received some wonderful responses to my January article in Lettuce Recycle, “What’s in Your Trash Can”. Here they are:

- Plastics without the numbered triangular symbol need to go into the trash can. Austin accepts plastics numbered 1-7 in the blue curbside bin. Although plastics numbered 1 and 2 are more readily recycled, our recycling facility (MRF) has a mill buyer for plastics 3-7.
- Here is a reuse idea for guitar and other stringed instrument strings. One reader suggested the website below to recycle these strings. As a reminder, these strings cannot go into the blue bin. They wrap around the sorting equipment at the recycling facility. <https://www.secondstringsproject.org/>
- Plastic utensils need to go into the trash can. Our local MRF used to take these, but they are too small to be properly sorted. Instead, you might use “BPI-certified compostable” cutlery that you can place into your green compost bin.
- Instead of dryer sheets (which go into the trash can), use dryer balls that can be used over and over again.
- Paper coffee cups are a huge recycling problem. Ask for a regular mug at your favorite coffee shop or, if you are “on the go”, use a reusable mug. Some coffee shops give a small discount for bringing in your own mug.
- Partially filled aerosol cans are accepted at the Recycle & Reuse Drop-Off Center and do not have to go into the trash can.

AUSTIN CREATIVE REUSE CENTER IS MOVING

On March 4, 2020, this wonderful non-profit will be moving to 2005 Wheless Lane, just north of the Mueller development. Fans of this popular reuse organization are thrilled to see it grow into more space for donations, shopping, volunteering, community activities, and educational programming. Here is their website for more information:

<https://www.austincreativereuse.org/>

QUESTIONS FROM OUR READERS:

ARE PHOTOGRAPHS RECYCLABLE IN THE BLUE BINS? Old photos are not recyclable because of the chemicals used in the photographic process. Newer digital photos are recyclable, much like magazines. To tell the difference, tear the photo. If it tears in layers, rather than cleanly ripping apart, you have an “old school” photo and need to put it into your trash can.

PLEASE REMEMBER – WHEN IN DOUBT, THROW IT OUT!!!

Here is a very informative City of Austin recycling website: <http://www.austintexas.gov/what-do-i-do>.

Stay tuned for future tips that will include creative ways to recycle or reuse. If you have any questions or recycling ideas, please send them to: recycling@hpwbana.org.



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John Squires' new listing is **"JUST LISTED!"** in HIGHLY SOUGHT AFTER Lewis Mountain Ranch. (Just behind Circle C across 1826, acreage property) Exquisite Country-French architecture & design. Stately street presence on 2+ acres, fully fenced with electric gates and private lot with over 100 trees. Over \$400k invested in custom improvements including Thermador kitchen remodel, hand-scraped antique walnut wood flooring, updated laundry & baths, etc.! Multiple living areas, surround sound in family and media rooms, large bedrooms, office & HUGE, gorgeous pool. Master suite complete with sitting area, workout room, dual/separate vanities, two walk-in closets & private deck. Private guest bedroom with full bath and separate entrance! This residence has been immaculately cared for. The home also has a new 600~ foot well that services all of your landscaping! The home does have city water for the main house. This is the most sought-after acreage subdivision in South-west Austin with a 2.00%~ tax rate! Not in City of Austin, so no city taxes! Give John a call for more details on this amazing opportunity. You'll never leave! Call John for more details and price.



Call John Squires' real estate 'sell' phone at **512 970-1970** at any time or text for a quick response.



7017 Vicenza—John is helping his clients with this amazing new Lennar home, constantly keeping them updated on the building and construction timelines to insure a quality and timely-built home. There are 28 lots left. Allow John to help you too!



10807 Redmond Road is "SOLD!!" in 3 days. John just listed this absolutely stunning David Weekly model home remodel and received multiple offers on it. Approx. 3696 sq. ft. and was offered at **\$675,000.** John professionally staged the home for his sellers at no cost to them and it made the property look unbelievable! Call John for a no-obligation, *highest-value* market analysis on your home. He'll stage yours too!



10900 Bexley Lane is "SOLD!!" in 4 days! John brought this amazing Highland home to market, right behind Kiker and received multiple offers on it. Approx. 2992 sq. ft. and offered at **\$529,000.**



11501 Alberta Drive John has placed this wonderful David Weekly 1-story **"UNDER CONTRACT"**. Approx. 3230 sq. ft. 4 bedrooms, 3 full baths and 4-car garage. John staged at no cost to his sellers. **\$619,000.**



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