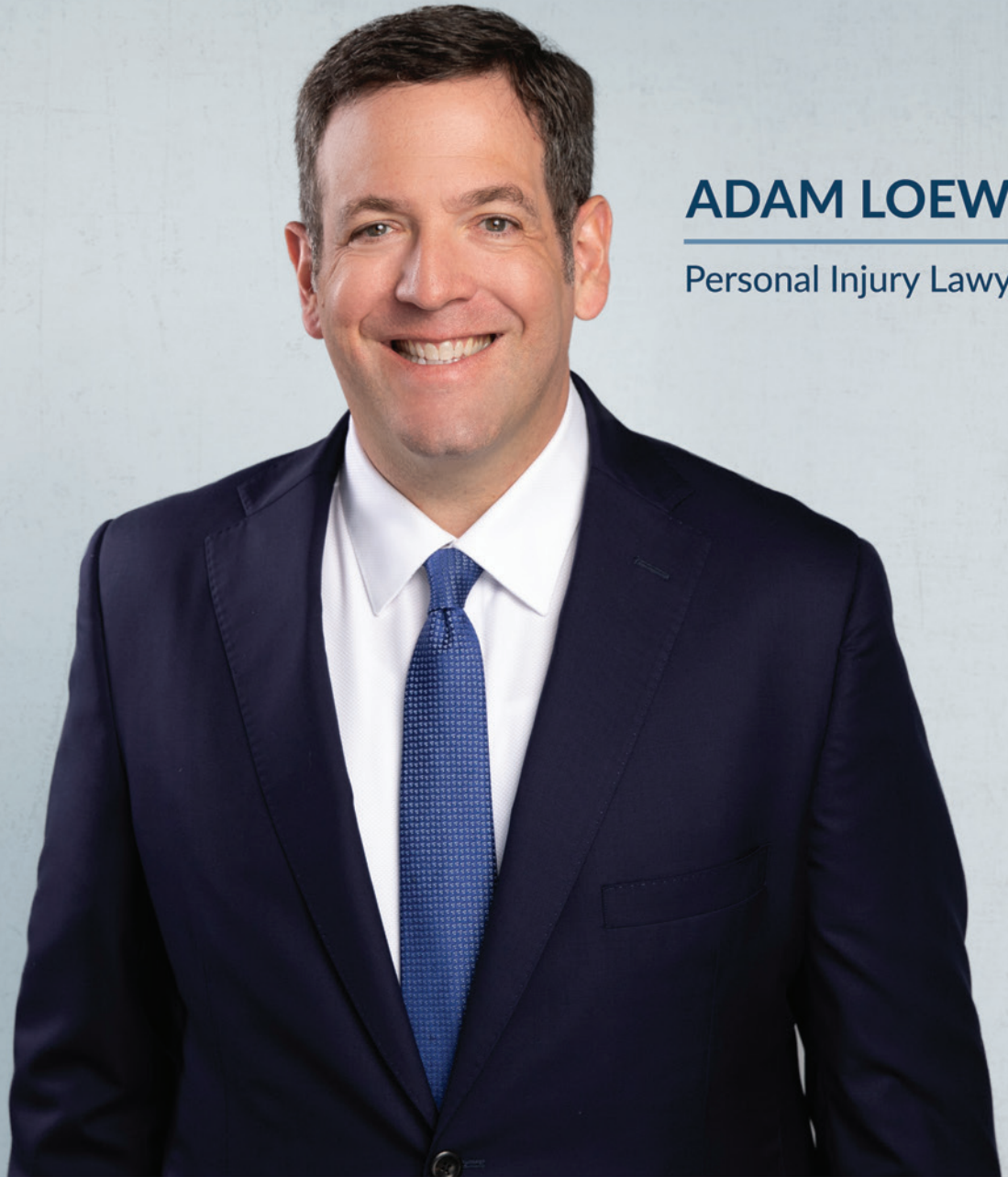






Bicycle Accidents | Boating Accidents | Car Accidents | Dog Bites | Drunk Driving Accidents  
Injuries to Children | Motorcycle Accidents | Slip and Falls | Truck Accidents | Wrongful Death



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# 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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## MEXICAN HONEY WASPS



The Mexican honey wasp, *Brachygastra mellifica*, is a neotropical wasp that can be found in North and South America. Within North America, it can be found in Arizona and Texas.

Honey wasps are small, about 1/4 – 1/3 of an inch. These social wasps have teardrop-shaped abdomens striped in yellow and black, rusty wings, and a dark head and thorax. Like other wasps, female honey wasps are capable of stinging and will do so to protect the colony or if they are provoked.

Mexican honey wasps create a small, about 18 inches in size, basketball to football shaped nest out of a paper-like material. These nests are typically located in trees or shrubs, often higher up where they won't be disturbed. Nests can be home to 3,000-18,000 wasps. Unlike honey bees, Mexican honey wasps can have multiple queens in each colony. Clusters of colonies can be common in some areas and nests last about 3 years before they are abandoned.

These wasps are pollinators and collect nectar and pollen to feed larvae in the colony. Adult wasps feed on fluids and, sometimes, exoskeletons of other insects, especially Asian citrus psyllids when they are available.

If you need to manage these wasps, then you should contact a professional that has proper protective equipment, such as a bee suit.

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)

This work is supported by Crops Protection and Pest Management Competitive Grants Program [grant no. 2017-70006-27188 /project accession no. 1013905] from the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture.

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## NATURE WATCH

### GONE TO SEED

by Jim and Lynne Weber



*Flame acanthus seed*

Often used as an informal figure of speech meaning to deteriorate or go downhill, 'gone to seed' can have a negative connotation. But each seed contains a new beginning: a tiny plant just waiting for the right conditions such as water, warmth, and a good location, to germinate and grow. Seeds and seed heads form fascinating shapes, varying sizes, and intricate patterns, often adorning the fall and winter landscape.

Plants have many ways of dispersing their seeds, and most have evolved over millions of years. While many of the methods are tried and true, certain seeds have developed in very particular ways to take advantage of such methods, and some plants only release their seeds in response to specific triggers.

Wind helps seeds float or flutter away, often aided by seed structures such as thin wing extensions or long, feathery tails like those on the endemic Scarlet Clematis (*Clematis texensis*). Texas Bluebonnets (*Lupinus* sp.) employ the expulsion or explosion method, where the small, pebble-like seeds are forcibly expelled when the dried pods twist open in the warm sun. Similarly, Flame Acanthus (*Anisacanthus quadrifidus* var. *wrightii*) has hood-shaped capsules enclosing seeds attached to a hooked stalk, and ejects the seed from the capsule when it dries and breaks open.

Gravity plays a part in many plants seed dispersals, where weighty seeds fall off the plant and roll to a new location. The best example of this are the round, heavy fruits that simply fall off a plant when ripe, such as those on Mexican Plum (*Prunus*

mexicana) or Texas Persimmon (*Diospyros texana*). If the fruits have a tough outer shell, they may travel some distance from the parent plant, and if they have a soft skin, they may break open where they fall and scatter the seed or seeds within.

Some plants produce very light seeds, seeds with buoyant fluff, or seeds with air trapped in them, so they can float away from the parent plant that grows in or around water, like Common Buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*) or Black Willow (*Salix nigra*) or Eastern Cottonwood (*Populus deltoides*). Others employ the assistance of animals, which can come in the form of seed or fruit eating (where the seed can pass undigested through the animal), seed caching or burying, or seed transportation. Common examples of seed and fruit eating include Cedar Waxwings and American Robins consuming juniper and yaupon berries, and seed burying is a common practice of both ground and tree squirrels, who eat and cache acorns. Often unbeknownst to the animal, some seeds can be covered with tiny hooks or spines that catch on a passing animal's fur, eventually transported to and rubbed off in another location.

This fall and winter, let the seeds linger, at least until early spring. Not only do they provide much needed food for wildlife, but leaving them allows for some beautiful and mysterious patterns in your winter landscape, and the promise of renewing the cycle of life that begins again each spring!

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).



*Scarlet clematis seed*



by Dena Houston

### IS THIS MY RECYCLING WEEK???

In these crazy times of “working at home” and “interesting school schedules”, it is often challenging to remember if a particular week is your **RECYCLING WEEK**, let alone what day it is. Because I am a recycling block leader, my neighbors often look at the cans at my curb to see if it is a recycling week. Therefore, there is a great deal of pressure on me to “get it right”. My secret is that every week at 11 AM, the day before trash pick-up day, I get a friendly reminder from the City notifying me of what will be picked up the next day. Here is the website to use so you too can get this helpful reminder: <https://www.austintexas.gov/page/my-collection-schedule>. Just enter your address, click “Search”, and then click “Get a reminder!”. The website will then prompt you what to do.

#### HARD PLASTICS

Austin Resource Recovery recycles hard plastics. Some hard plastics do not have a recycling symbol but are recyclable. All metal must be removed from any hard plastic. Hard plastics can go into the blue recycling bin provided the lid can close. Below are examples of hard plastics that can be recycled:

- Cat carriers – all metal removed
- Laundry baskets
- Dish pans
- Buckets (including cat litter buckets) – metal handle removed

Hard plastic items that cannot fit into the blue bin can go to the Recycle & Reuse Drop-Off Center. These items include the following:

- Plastic lawn chairs
- Plastic kiddie swimming pools
- Large toys like plastic playground equipment

Special note: PVC pipe cannot be placed in the blue recycling bin. It is however, accepted at the Habitat for Humanity Restore.

#### QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS:

##### HOW DO I RECYCLE POST-IT NOTES?

These can go into your blue curbside recycling bin (as long as they are at least the size of a credit card).

##### I HAVE A BUNCH OF 3-RING BINDERS. WHAT DO I DO WITH THEM?

The Austin Creative Reuse Center will usually take them. Please call ahead to make sure they have room for them. Here is their website: <https://www.austincreativeuse.org/>. These would also be great to donate to a local charity.

##### WHAT DO I DO WITH MY SHREDDED PAPER?

Shredded paper cannot go into your blue recycling bin, even if it is in a paper bag. These bags tend to come apart and leave a mess of shredded paper in their wake. Please put shredded paper into your green compost cart. Be sure it is in a paper bag or compostable bag. Please do not include shredded plastic credit cards in your compost.

Here is a very informative City of Austin recycling website that offers help in finding out how to recycle specific items: <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 me at this address: [recycling@hpwbana.org](mailto:recycling@hpwbana.org).

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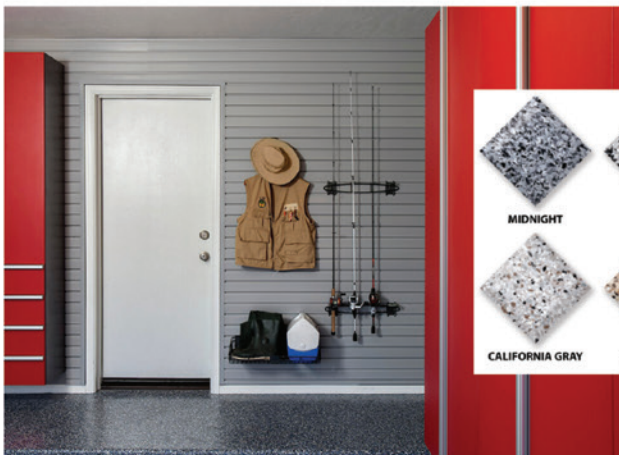
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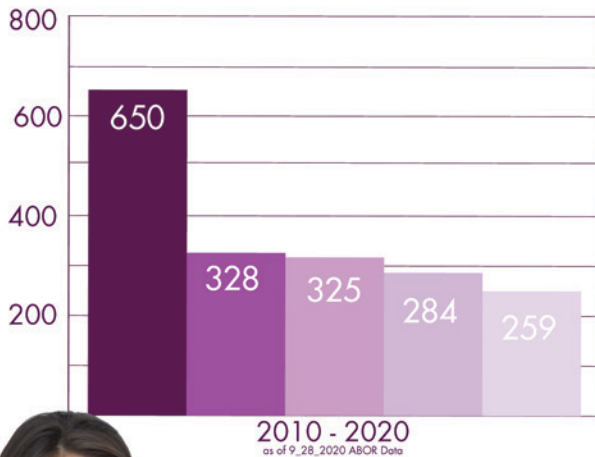
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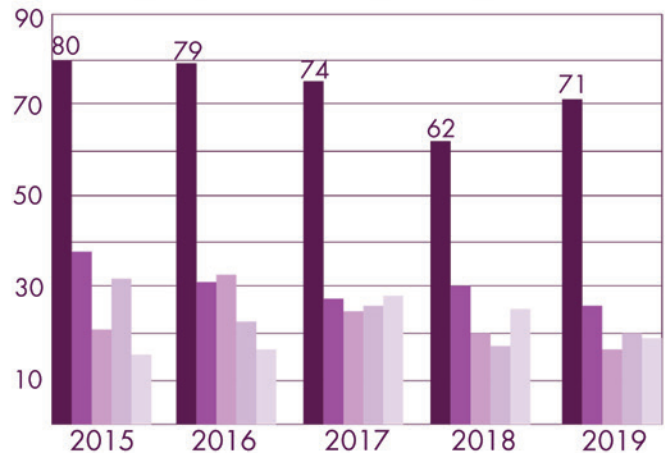
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The number of homes I've personally represented for my neighbors in Southwest Austin compared to the next closest agents, results. Notice the AAH difference?



Listed below is the number of homes I've represented for my sellers & buyers in Southwest Austin since 2015, compared to the other known agents you'll see advertising in our neighborhood.



## MY NEIGHBORS

deserve the best. No other agent comes close to buying & selling as many homes in Southwest Austin, year after year, than me. Backed by years of proven experience in this market, I continue to buy & sell more homes for my neighbors & friends than any other agent in the area, including agents in some of the largest national brokerages fighting to be the best. 2020 is on pace to be no different, even with anticipated shifts in the Austin market.



# SquiresTeam.com



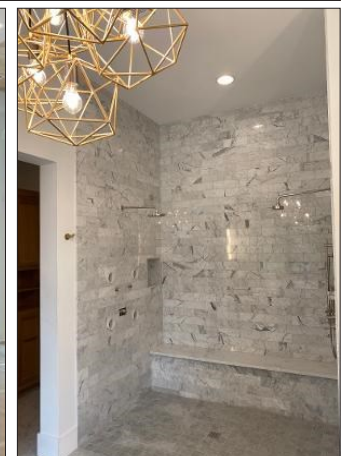
**kw** KELLER WILLIAMS.  
REALTY

Hey Southwest Austin, the market is extremely active right now, as buyers are making a mass-exodus to the suburbs and surrounding hill country from the downtown area and other large cities in Texas. Yes, many of our latest clients have moved from cities like Dallas and Houston to be closer to their adult children living in southwest Austin. Of course, we still have the usual migration of friendly newcomers moving from out-of-state also. If you would like to speak with John Squires to list your home for sale or help you in the purchase/build of your next home, please call/text him directly at **(512) 970-1970**.



Below is a home like no other that you have ever seen. This hill country custom was built “light years” ahead of any other property I’ve been in. The entire home has full automation, fully disappearing sliding glass doors to the outside, 11.2 “experience” surround sound, white oak hardwood floors and ceilings and commercial HVAC. The professional chef’s kitchen features waterfall quartz, pencil-beam LED lighting and custom lighting that matches throughout the home. Water faucets are inside the exterior walls. Outside misters and bug repellent is all automatic, as you lounge in your custom pool with LED lighted fountains squirting to your favorite dance music. If you would like John to find you a little piece of land to build your dream home on, just give him a ring and he can do the same for you! These photos were taken at 95%~ completion. Approx. \$1.95M.

Call John Squires’ real estate ‘sell’ phone at **(512) 970-1970** at any time or text for a quick response. Thanks!



11111 Readvill Lane in **Circle C Ranch** is John’s new listing that went under contract and **“Sold!”** with multiple offers over the weekend. John had this home professionally staged at his expense, lawn manicured, professionally painted (touched up) and brought to market. John entertained 4 offers and sold the home for approx. \$25,000. over list price. Properly listed, properly staged, properly marketed, professionally sold! Give John an opportunity to do the same for you.



# SquiresTeam.com

# kw KELLER WILLIAMS REALTY

**11111 Readville Lane** in Circle C Ranch is **"Contract Pending"** John listed and brought this stunning Doyle Wilson custom home to the market and it received multiple offers. This RARE floor plan was Doyle Wilson's attempt at a split-level plan and although people loved it, the slab was too complicated and expensive, thus they canceled it after a few lucky buyers were able to obtain the homes already built. The home features 3 or 4 large bedrooms, separate office, game room and a HUGE master suite with completely renovated bathroom. The kitchen has been updated and the back yard is a manicured park. Multiple decks, fire pit, flora fauna and a private hot tub round out this hidden gem within walking distance to Kiker Elementary. Call John for more information. Listed at **\$559,900.**



Thinking of moving closer to the city and paying **LESS** taxes? Look no further than **1015 Sunflower Trail!** This gorgeous opportunity was just listed by John and is perfect for those wishing for a easy-going lifestyle in Sunset Valley. This 3230 sq. ft. home features 3 large bedrooms, 3 full baths a game room loft (easy 4th bed) and a huge master suite. This area is Sunset Valley and not the City of Austin, thus your tax rate is 1.7%! This property is located close to entertainment, Central Market, shopping, hi-tech corridors and downtown is less than 10 minutes away. Call John for more information on this incredible home. Listed to sell at **\$589,000.**



**6813 Hansa Loop** in Circle C Ranch is **"Sold!"** John was approached by a private party to sell their rent home on the Circle C 'silent market', whereas qualified buyers were contacted to preview the property and bid on it, if desired. It was an investment property purchased with a short-term tenant intact with the lease conveying. Sold in the low **\$500's**. John has used the silent market over many years when listings require special showing conditions and it has been quite useful during Covid-19. Call John with any questions on how it may be implemented on selling your property.



Call **John Squires** at **(512) 970-1970** to list your house for sale and/or buy another.

The Squires Team have the top-selling agents in Southwest Austin and Circle C Ranch home sales over the last 23 years. John Squires has sold over 600 homes in Circle C Ranch alone and knows the ever-changing values, areas and marketplace.

**There's only 1 number to call and John answers his phone!** Move-up/down plans, flexible commissions offered. Call for a free, no-obligation market assessment on your valuable home. Only John works directly with all his clients and you will never be handed off to an assistant or another agent. 7 days or nights per week by appointment.

**(512) 970-1970.**

