



**Barton Springs
Edwards Aquifer**
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

MEDIA COMMUNICATION

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Aquifer District Announces Its 2009 Groundwater Stewardship Award Winners

October 14, 2009 – With the aquifer in District-declared drought for over 16 months, the Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer Conservation District's Board of Directors at its last meeting was especially pleased to celebrate exemplary efforts to conserve and protect the groundwater resources of the District. The District congratulates the following recipients of this year's awards:

Permittee of the Year: *Jack Hays High School*

Jack Hays High School has made significant efforts to reduce water use and proactively communicate to keep the District informed of major projects. They have a perfect compliance history during the 16 months of District-declared drought with an average pumpage 57% below the required targets.

Water Quality Protection: *American Youthworks, Environmental Corps—Park Smith*

The American Youthworks, Environmental Corps was nominated for their work to preserve and protect the Barton Creek watershed. In the past year they coordinated with 150 volunteers to remove invasive species, improve trail systems and reduce erosion, and restore native vegetation in many of the City of Austin's Water Quality Protection Lands.

Research: *Salamander Conservation Center, City of Austin Watershed Protection and Review Department—Laurie Dries, Ph.D. and Dee Ann Chamberlain*

Dr. Dries was nominated for her work in conservation biology with regard to the Barton Springs Salamander and Barton Springs habitat restoration. Ms. Chamberlain was nominated for her work in managing the Barton Springs Salamander captive breeding program and documenting the life cycle. Together, Dr. Dries and Ms. Chamberlain have helped preserve the habitat and viability of the endangered Barton Springs salamander population.

Water Conservation: *Slaughter Creek Acres Water Supply—Glen Larkin and Mike Dorsey*

The Slaughter Creek Acres Water Supply System has followed and enforced all User Drought Contingency Plan requirements and has maintained pumpage well below the 30% mandatory reductions during Critical Drought Stage. Resident involvement in community meetings regarding their water supply and per capita water use under 70 gallons per person per day show concern and understanding of the issues facing the Edwards Aquifer during the current drought.

Education: *KXAN TV Weather Team—Jim Spencer and Natalie Stoll*

The KXAN Weather Team, led by Jim Spencer and assisted by Natalie Stoll, has provided exceptional coverage of the Barton Springs segment of the Edwards Aquifer. Weather reports consistently relate precipitation events to aquifer recharge and drought status. The KXAN Weather Team educates viewers of the significance of Barton Springs discharge, one of the primary drought stage triggers for the Barton Springs segment of the Edwards Aquifer, in their water levels reports.

The District will recognize this year's winners at the Groundwater Stewardship Awards luncheon on Friday, November 6, 2009. The Bowie High School Culinary Arts program will host the luncheon. Each year, the District presents these stewardship awards to deserving individuals, organizations, companies or agencies that have excelled in efforts to preserve, protect, and conserve groundwater resources.

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