

2004 Conservation Awards

On August 27, 2004, the District held a luncheon at Ruby Ranch to honor the recipients of this year's Conservation Awards. Since 1992, the District has presented these awards to individuals, organizations, companies and/or agencies that have invested considerable effort towards the protection and conservation of water resources in the Barton Springs segment of the Edwards Aquifer. This year the District received a record number of nominations in the five categories: Water Conservation, Water Quality Protection, Education, Research, and Innovation.

The recipient of this year's Water Quality Protection award is Donna Tiemann. Ms. Tiemann works with numerous organizations including the Austin Chapter of the Sierra Club, Austin Community Coalition for Responsible Development, and Save Barton Creek Association to protect the Edwards Aquifer and Barton Springs. She also helps to lead opposition to big box development over the recharge zone through her work with AustinAction.org and the NOAquiferBigBox Coalition. Her efforts inspire many individuals in neighborhoods over the recharge zone to learn more about water quality issues.

The District has two winners in the Education category. The first is the Splash! Into the Edwards Aquifer exhibit. Opened in 1998, the Splash! exhibit educates over 100,000 people every year. The free interactive exhibit is located at the Barton Springs Pool where people come in contact firsthand with the aquifer and its famous discharge point. In addition, the exhibit is used as a learning resource for visiting schools, teacher education, and professional development.

The second recipient is Mr. Richard Heinichen and Tank Town. Richard Heinichen is an author of Rainwater Harvesting for the Mechanically Challenged and is committed to educating the public about water conservation through rainwater harvesting (<http://www.rainwatercollection.com/>).



From left to right: Raymond Slade, Dr. Robert Mace, Nico Hauwert, and BS/EACD Vice President, Jack Goodman

This year's conservation award in Research goes to the Groundwater Modeling Advisory Team (GMAT).

Members of the GMAT provide critical guidance, direction, and review to the Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer District's groundwater modeling and sustainable yield evaluation initiative. The voluntary efforts of these state and local experts directly lead to an increased understanding of the

science that will be used by policy-makers for the management of the Barton Springs segment of the Edwards Aquifer. The members of the GMAT are Rene Barker (USGS retired), Nico Hauwert (City of Austin), David Johns (City of Austin), Dr. Robert Mace (TWDB), Raymond Slade (USGS retired), Dr. Bridget Scanlon (BEG), Dr. Jack Sharp (UT), and Eric Strom (USGS).

The Innovation category also has two recipients this year. The first is Junie Marie Plummer. Ms. Plummer is recognized for her committed and steadfast efforts to locate, negotiate, and close land purchases that best protect the aquifer and water quality. She works with countless individuals, landowners, elected officials, and staff to help protect over 17,000 acres of land in the Austin area.

The second winner is the Barton Hills Neighborhood Association.

The BHNA is a model for other homeowner and neighborhood associations through their varied approaches to protecting the aquifer. Several BHNA members actively participate in regional water quality planning and work with city officials on issues of special concern. Also, the association is committed to educating its members about water quality and water conservation with guest speakers, quarterly newsletter articles, and a homeowner handbook explaining how to live lightly over the aquifer. In addition to education, the association sponsors service projects including creek cleanups, trail maintenance, and exotic species removal (<http://www.main.org/bhna/>).

The District would like to thank everyone who helped with the event including Big Red Sun for their generous donation of floral centerpieces, Austin-tatious Catering, and Ruby Ranch. Again, congratulations to all this year's nominees for their commitment to the protection and conservation of water resources in the Barton Springs segment of the Edwards Aquifer.



2004 Conservation Recipients (from left to right): BS/EACD Vice President, Jack Goodman; BS/EACD Director of Precinct 2, David Carpenter; Nancy McClintock accepting for Junie Plummer; Nico Hauwert; Dr. Jack Sharp; Glee Ingram; Derek Stuart; Dr. Robert Mace; Donna Tiemann; Raymond Slade; Margaret Russell; and BS/EACD Secretary, Craig Smith.