

# BSEACD

Barton Springs/ Edwards Aquifer  
Conservation District



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## **Aquifer District Announces Its 2006 Conservation Award Winners**

(AUSTIN) The Barton Springs / Edwards Aquifer Conservation District remains in Critical Stage Drought and many concerned citizens are taking extraordinary steps to conserve in various ways. The District will recognize some exemplary steps at the 2006 Conservation Awards luncheon on November 3, 2006. The Bowie High School Culinary Arts program will host the luncheon. Each year, the District presents these conservation awards to deserving individuals, organizations, companies or agencies that have excelled in efforts to protect and conserve water resources in the Barton Springs segment of the Edwards Aquifer.

At its October 12, 2006 Board Meeting, the District's Board of Directors selected this year's winners from a record number of submissions. BSEACD congratulates the following recipients of this year's awards:

### **Water Conservation by a Aquifer End-User: *Millberg Certified Organic Farm***

Tim Millberg, owner of Millberg Certified Organic Farm, has dry-land farmed outside of Kyle for seventeen years without needing to pump from the aquifer. He has developed a series of trenches (2 miles), ponds, and cisterns to capture and hold rainwater, ponds to control runoff, and carries out water saving activities like mulching, terracing, and composting.

### **Water Conservation by a Builder/ Developer and the 2006 Innovation Award: *The Circle C Fire/ EMS Station Design Team/ Alan Barr, Architect***

Alan Barr, Stewardship, Inc., Urban Design Group, and Winterowd Associates, Inc. designed the new Circle C fire station with a 17,000-gallon rainwater harvesting system, native and drought tolerant plants, and exceptional green building techniques that earned it a LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Silver Rating. Only 8.7% of the site has impervious cover and the stormwater treatment design exceeds the EPA's Best Management Practices requirements by removing 95% of the Total Suspended Solids and 98% of the Total Phosphorus.

*(Page 1 of 2)*

**Water Conservation: Water Supplier or Permittee: *St. Andrew's Episcopal School***

St. Andrew's Episcopal School and landscape contractor Richard Fidal of Texascapes, Inc. installed drought-resistant plant material, efficient watering systems, and hands-on management procedures to minimize water use on the 75-acre campus.

**Education: *LCRA's Water Conservation Group***

The Lower Colorado River Authority's Hill Country Landscape Option program is helping people all over Central Texas make water-wise and native plant choices. Through its print materials, website, and workshops, LCRA offers informative guidance to developers, builders, master gardeners, master naturalists, and new residents in the contributing zone of the Barton Springs segment. In addition to spreading these materials to over 1000 people last year, LCRA has placed demonstration gardens in two new developments and is working with 7 developments to adopt some or all of their recommended landscaping guidelines.

**Research: *Suzanne Pierce***

Suzanne Pierce has prepared a groundwater decision support system (GWDSS) for the Barton Springs segment of the Edwards Aquifer as part of her dissertation work in the Jackson School of Geosciences at The University of Texas at Austin. The GWDSS incorporates the Barton Springs Groundwater Availability Model (GAM), a PowerSim version of the GAM, an optimization program, and a graphical user interface to provide easy access by users. The GWDSS will provide a common tool for groundwater scientists, aquifer policy makers, and various stakeholders as they formulate and evaluate policies regarding the use of the aquifer and determine its sustainable yield under alternate conditions.

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