



Barton Springs University 2016

Wednesday, September 28th, Barton Springs

Speakers and Activity Guides

Keynote Speakers

Noon Keynote : “Get Eel Austin!: The Whole Truth About the Weirdest Fish in Town”



Dean Hendrickson, Ph.D. , Curator of Ichthyology, University of Texas at Austin, Department of Integrative Biology (Texas Natural History Collections)

Dean earned his Ph.D. at Arizona State University. Before moving to Austin and U.T. in the 1990s, Dean served as the Native Fish Biologist for the State of Arizona. Currently, Dr. Hendrickson works on the Fishes of Texas project, including research on American eels in Texas streams, with an emphasis on connecting science to conservation and sustainability.

Evening Keynote: “How do we do it? : Protecting Our Home Waters as Population Doubles”



Andrew Sansom, Executive Director, Meadows Center for Water and the Environment, Texas State University – San Marcos

Andrew Sansom is a former Executive Director of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Executive Director of the Texas Nature Conservancy, and founder of The Parks and Wildlife Foundation of Texas. Under his leadership at the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Mr. Sansom spearheaded several important programs, including creating the Parks and Wildlife Foundation of Texas; opening two state-of-the-art hatcheries that also serve as research laboratories, educational centers and aquariums; creating new programs to promote awareness of conservation issues in large urban areas; and slashing the backlog of deferred maintenance in the Texas State Parks System. Mr. Sansom also is a past recipient of the Chevron Conservation Award, The Chuck Yeager Award from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, The Pugsley Medal from the National Park Foundation, the Seton Award from the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, the 2005 Harvey Weil Professional Conservationist Award, The Nature Conservancy Lifetime Achievement Award, the Houston Audubon Society President’s Award, and the Sierra Club Evelyn R. Edens Award for Rivers Protection.

Session and Activities Presenters



Nathan Bendik, M.S., Austin Watershed Protection Department

Nathan Bendik works for the City of Austin, Texas on monitoring and conservation of the City’s three endemic Eurycea salamanders. Originally from Pennsylvania, he completed his B.S. in Biology at the Pennsylvania State University (2002) and then received an M.S. in Biology at the University of Texas at Arlington (2006). His primary research interests include ecology, natural history, and evolution of central Texas spring and cave salamanders.



Tim Bonner, Ph.D., Professor, Department of Biology, Texas State University

Tim is a stream ecologist specializing in fishes but also publishing on freshwater sponges, macroinvertebrates, and salamanders and serves as a professor in the biology department at Texas State University. His research involves spring systems throughout the Edwards Plateau and Trans Pecos regions. His work supports the concept of spring systems as evolutionary refugia, meaning that the spring systems of the Edwards Plateau are important for past, current, and future aquatic species origins and diversification.



Britin Bostick, B.E.D., M.S.C.R.P., M.P.Aff., Stewardship Strategies

Britin Bostick is a 6th generation Texan who grew up on the western edge of the Hill Country. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Environmental Design from Texas A&M University and master's degrees in both Community and Regional Planning and Public Affairs from UT Austin. While in graduate school she coauthored the report "Toward a Regional Plan for the Texas Hill Country," and is still engaged in research and writing on that topic and other similar topics through her firm Stewardship Strategies.



Bill Bunch, J.D., Executive Director, Save Our Springs Alliance

A native of San Antonio and Arlington, Bill left Texas to earn a bachelor's degree in biology from the University of Colorado at Boulder and a law degree from Boalt Hall School of Law at the University of California at Berkeley. Bill returned to Texas to practice environmental law in Austin and was part of the group that drafted and successfully petitioned for the Save Our Springs Ordinance in 1992. Bill has been executive director of SOS since 2000.



Justin Camp, Barton Springs Edwards Aquifer Conservation District

Born and raised in Austin, Justin grew up exploring local Little Bear and Bear Creek as his own backyard. Justin joined the Barton Springs Edwards Aquifer Conservation District team in early 2015 after graduating from Texas State University with a B.S. in Physical Geography, minor in Geology, and working for seven years with the City of Austin's Watershed Protection Department. He is an avid caver, exploring and mapping the underground in Texas and Mexico.



Kelly Davis, J.D., Staff Attorney, Save Our Springs Alliance

A native of Austin, Texas, Kelly earned a degree in Social and Environmental Justice from Warren Wilson College and a J.D. from the UT School of Law. She clerked for the Honorable Robert L. Pitman and the Honorable William Wayne Justice at U.S. District Court for the Western District of Texas and held teaching positions at Georgetown University and the University of Denver. At SOS, her work has focused on endangered species and transportation issues in the Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer recharge zone.



Laurie Dries, Ph.D., Conservation Biologist

Laurie Dries is an Evolutionary and Behavioral Ecologist with undergraduate and graduate degrees from UT Austin. Laurie worked for the City of Austin from 2003 to 2013 studying and managing habitats and endangered salamanders of Barton Springs and has received several awards for this work including the Edwards Aquifer Groundwater Stewardship Award, the Outstanding Science Award from Save Barton Creek Association, and the Distinguished Service Award from the City of Austin.



John Dupnik, P.G., General Manager, Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer Conservation District

John received a B.S. in Environmental Studies from Texas State University in 1995 and a Masters from the Jackson School of Geosciences at UT Austin in 2012 where his research and thesis focused on Texas groundwater management. Before joining the District in 2005 his professional experience included 9 years in State government with the TCEQ's Water Quality Section and the TDRL's Water Well Drillers Licensing Program.



Caitlin Gabor, Ph.D., Professor, Department of Biology, Texas State University

Caitlin Gabor is a behavioral ecologist who dabbles in stress physiology. She is a professor in the Biology Department at Texas State University, and her lab has been working with Central Texas Salamanders for 15 years. Her lab examines predator-prey dynamics and the effects of introduced predators in the federally threatened and endangered aquatic salamanders *Eurycea nana*, *E. tonkawae*, and *E. sosorum*. Her lab also examines stress response of these salamanders to other anthropogenic factors.



Robin Gary, M.A., Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer Conservation District

Robin is Senior Public Information and Education Coordinator at the Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer Conservation District. She received a Master's degree from the University of Texas at Austin Department of Geography and the Environment where her research focused on human-environment interaction in karst landscapes. Before joining the District, she worked as a geographer for the U.S. Geological Survey Texas Water Science Center doing data management, spatial analysis, and GIS. She is a SCUBA diver, an avid locavore, an enthusiastic caver, and a budding gardener.



Nico Hauwert, Ph.D., P.G., Austin Watershed Protection Department

Nico serves as Senior Environmental Scientist for the City of Austin Watershed Protection Department and as Adjunct Professor in Geology at Concordia University. From 1993 to 2000 he conducted research on the Barton Springs Segment for the Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer Conservation District. Currently, he reviews proposed development projects and supervises a team of cave specialists to conduct scientific studies, restore impacted caves, and facilitate public access to wild caves.



Sara Heilman, M.S., Austin Watershed Protection Department

Sara Heilman is a conservation program coordinator for the City of Austin's Watershed Protection Department and has been working in outdoor education for over 15 years. Sara coordinates Hydrofiles, a water quality education program for Austin area high schools with field investigations including caving into the Edwards Aquifer and monitoring local creeks. She holds a master's degree in environmental science from Texas A&M University- Corpus Christi and enjoys trail running, gardening, and spending time with family.



Chris Herrington, P.E., Austin Watershed Protection Department

Chris Herrington has a background in biology and environmental engineering and has worked on water quality related issues for the City of Austin since 1996. He manages the City of Austin Water Resource Evaluation Section, a multi-disciplinary group of scientists and engineers who study and protect Austin's surface and ground water resources including the Edwards Aquifer and Barton Springs.



Brian Hunt, P.G., Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer Conservation District

Brian is a 5th generation Austinite and graduated from UT Austin with a B.S. (1996) and M.Sc. (2000) in geological sciences. Brian has worked for the past fifteen years with the Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer Conservation District and is currently a Senior Hydrogeologist and a Professional Geoscientist in the State of Texas. Brian loves the outdoors and geology, spending much of his free time in the Texas Hill Country and on semi-annual trips to Big Bend with his family. Brian enjoys working on his Hill Country cabin and playing soccer.



David A. Johns, PG, City of Austin/WPD

David has Bachelors and Master's degrees in geology. He has worked for the City of Austin for over 27 years on water resource protection, water quality investigations and land conservation happily focusing much of his energy on projects related to Barton Springs.



Ken Kramer, Ph.D., Volunteer Water Resources Chair and Legislative Advisor for the Lone Star Chapter of the Sierra Club

Dr. Kramer retired in July 2012 after over 23 years as the first Director of the Lone Star Chapter and a previous seven years as the Chapter's contract lobbyist, representing the Sierra Club at the Texas Legislature and Texas state agencies. He received his Ph.D. in Political Science in 1979 from Rice University, where his dissertation focused on the implementation of federal air and water pollution control policy in Texas. Dr. Kramer currently serves on the state's Water Conservation Advisory Council, the Trinity and San Jacinto Rivers and Galveston Bay Environmental Flows Stakeholder Committee, the board of the Texas Water Foundation, and the Advisory Council for the Environmental Science Institute at The University of Texas at Austin.



Jean Krejca, Ph.D., Founder, Zara Environmental

Jean Krejca is a subterranean species specialist at Zara Environmental. Her area of expertise is in biogeography, the study of factors that influence geographic distribution of species. As a consultant she helps inventory new sites and helps ensure that development occurs responsibly. On the weekends she is out exploring caves and other natural areas.



Sharlene Leurig, MCP, Project Director, Texas Environmental Flows Initiative, Meadows Center for Water and the Environment, Texas State University

Sharlene Leurig is Project Director of the Texas Environmental Flows Initiative, which purchases water for the environment in Texas. She produced Our Desired Future, a multimedia project which asks how future generations of Texans are served by today's groundwater planning, and wrote the Economic Value of Water chapter for the current edition of the State Bar of Texas's Essentials of Texas Water Resources. She holds a BA in Physics and English from Washington

University in St. Louis and a Master in City Planning from MIT.



Christy Muse, Director of External Relations, Shield Ranch

From 2005 to 2016 Christy served as Executive Director of the Hill Country Alliance. She traveled extensively throughout the Hill Country hosting gatherings of interested stakeholders, speaking at community meetings, participating in educational programs and meeting with landowners and residents alike. She worked to weave a network of smart, action oriented people who care about this special region. In her new position at Shield Ranch, Christy will continue to work for conserving the Hill Country, with emphasis on the Barton Creek watershed.



Johnathan Ogren, Community and Regional Planning Dept. at UT and Founder of Siglo Group

Jonathan Ogren reviewed and analyzed the geographic and time-series data, and developed the finished maps and charts for the atlas. He teaches in the Community and Regional Planning Department at the University of Texas, and is the founder and principal of Siglo Group, a firm that helps clients integrate natural systems into land planning and design. Mr. Ogren earned a B.A. in biology and a M.A. in environmental science and conservation planning from the University of Texas at Austin. He specializes in environmental assessment, regional analysis, conservation planning, cartography, and land use feasibility studies, and he teaches college courses in geographic information systems and cartography.



Gary Perez, Custodian of the Native American Church Land Trust

Presenter Gary Perez is the custodian of the Native American Church Land Trust in Mirando City Texas. His geographic/rock art research has been feature on Huffington Post Live, NBC Learn pre - Columbian studies and awarded a grant by Texas Humanities. His presentation will show how analogies made by the painters of the rock art of the lower Pecos saw themselves as being on the earth as well as in the sky, a belief still practiced today.



Sylvia Pope, P.G., Austin Watershed Protection Department

Ms. Pope's work as a hydrogeologist includes groundwater monitoring and evaluation, assessing the environmental impacts of development and infrastructure projects, and assisting with ongoing studies of the Edwards Aquifer. She spearheaded the effort to streamline void mitigation on construction projects, resulting in the City of Austin's Void and Water Flow Mitigation Rule. She obtained a M.S. degree in Community and Regional Planning specializing in water resources management from UT Austin and a B.S. in Geosciences from Purdue University.



Brigid Shea, Travis County Commissioner, Precinct 2

Brigid came to Austin in 1988 to start the Texas chapter of Clean Water Action. She served on the Austin city council 1993-1996 and championed consumer, electoral and environmental reforms. Shea is the co-founder of SOS, Austin's historic law to save Barton Springs, has been an advisor to LCRA, Seton, the City of Austin, etc. and her work with a client recently won the TCEQ Environmental Excellence award. She was elected Travis County Commissioner for Precinct 2 in 2014.



Raymond Slade, P.H., US Geological Survey (retired) and Austin Community College

Raymond Slade, Jr. served as a Hydrologist for 33 years with the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) in Texas until he retired about 12 years ago. He has authored more than 120 reports concerning Texas water resources, with topics including the Edwards aquifer, floods, droughts, rural and urban hydrology, and water quality of surface and ground water. Since his retirement from the USGS he has been an Adjunct Professor at Austin

Community College and has been a self-employed Consulting Hydrologist.



David Todd, Executive Director of the Conservation History Association of Texas

David was responsible for the data collection, text, drawings and draft maps used in The Texas Landscape Project: Nature and People. He is the founder and executive director of the Conservation History Association of Texas, a small, Austin-based non-profit dedicated to environmental education. Mr. Todd has an A.B. in architecture and urban planning from Princeton University, an M.S. in environmental science from Rice University, and a J.D. from Emory University. He has worked as an attorney on environmental cases, a donor for conservation causes, a cattle rancher, and as a co-editor of the oral history compilation, The Texas Legacy Project: Stories of Courage and Conservation (Texas A&M University Press 2010).



Jennifer Walker, Sierra Club Lone Star Chapter

Jennifer is the Water Resources Coordinator for the Sierra Club Lone Star Chapter. Jennifer works on the Texas Living Waters Project, state and regional water planning, water conservation, and bay and estuary protection issues. She was a member of the Austin Water Resource Planning Task Force appointed by City Council to examine short-term drought response and long-term water supply. Ms. Walker has a BS in Ecology, Evolution, and Conservation Biology from the

University of Texas at Austin.



Dianne Wassenich, Program Director, San Marcos River Foundation

Dianne Wassenich worked for SMRF 17 years as clerical staff, before being hired as its first staff member in 2002. Her duties include managing the many projects SMRF works on, grant writing and organizing events. She grew up on the Gulf Coast, and attended Rice University and University of Houston. In her years of working for SMRF, Dianne has served on many regional, statewide, and local stakeholder groups. Currently she represents the public in a seat on Region L Water Planning Group, is Vice-chair of the Bay Basin Stakeholder for the Guadalupe basin, and is also on the Steering Committees of the Edwards Aquifer Habitat Conservation Plan,

Upper San Marcos Watershed Initiative, and Plum Creek Watershed Program.