

DEE ANN CHAMBERLAIN

City of Austin Watershed Protection
Department Environmental Scientist
1996-Present



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Overall, in working closely with these salamanders for over 20 years, both in captivity and in the wild, I have had the opportunity to see their value, uniqueness, beauty and amazing abilities and have tried to use this information to inspire others to protect them, their habitat, and the Barton Springs segment of the Edwards Aquifer which feeds the springs.”

From as young as I can remember, I've always loved animals and have felt that the diversity of animals is one of the most amazing and valuable aspects of our planet and lives. Consequently, I've always been interested in conservation.

I became interested in protecting Barton Creek when I started taking my dog for walks there in the early 1990s. A few years after that, I started taking a scientific interest as I volunteered with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to help survey for salamanders at Eliza Spring in Zilker Park. I then started working for City of Austin's Watershed Protection Department in 1996, and since then, I've had many opportunities to work on conservation projects related to Barton Springs and Barton Creek.

I helped develop and write the 1998 Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) for the endangered Barton Springs Salamander (*Eurycea sosorum*) designed to protect the species and habitat at the springs while keeping Barton Springs Pool open as a public swimming facility. I also participated in the implementation of the HCP, including salamander surveys at the springs in Zilker Park. It was observations during these surveys in 1998 that led me to the discovery that there was a second species of salamander found in Barton Springs - a primarily aquifer-dweller that we named the Austin Blind Salamander, *Eurycea waterlooensis*, after Waterloo, the original name of Austin. This species was later put on the endangered species list and is also a focus of COA's current conservation efforts and HCP, which is designed to protect both species at the springs. Also in 1998, I initiated the salamander breeding program, initially focused on the Barton Springs Salamander and later expanded to include the Austin Blind Salamander. The purpose of the program is to maintain a population of each species in captivity that could be used to produce a genetically diverse population for reintroduction into the wild in the event that the species is extirpated from the springs in Zilker Park.

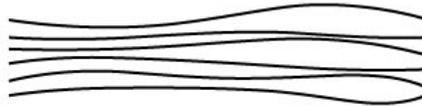
DEE ANN CHAMBERLAIN CONT'D



Austin Blind Salamander

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BARTON CREEK



TIME STREAM