I came to work for the City's Balcones Canyonlands Preserve in 2004. I was pretty green. René Barrera and John Cook took me under their wing to show me all the wonderful treasures of the greenbelt and wilderness area. I just thought the crown jewel was the Creek for swimming and hangin' out. I came to find out there are so many other riches: Golden-cheeked warblers, endemic plants and the many other plants and wildlife in the Creek and surrounding habitats.

In the years since, I have color-banded warblers for research, removed exotic plants, contained multiple oak wilt infections, monitored the populations of a rare plant, the Bracted Twistflower. I have been very fortunate to see all there is to offer in addition to the Creek itself. Many thanks to René and John for teaching me to see the intricacies of this special place and fostering my love for it. I now reflect how lucky I am to have been a part of Barton Creek's story.